



OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC

8888 University Drive,
Burnaby, BC
Canada V5A 1S6TEL: 778.782.4636
FAX: 778.782.5876avpcio@sfu.ca
www.sfu.ca/vpacademic**MEMORANDUM**

ATTENTION	Senate	DATE	February 3, 2017
FROM	Wade Parkhouse, Acting Chair Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies	PAGES	1/1
RE:	SFU Co-operative Education Program Changes (SCUS 17-05)		

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wade Parkhouse', is written over the 'PAGES' field of the memorandum header.

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of February 2, 2017, gives rise to the following recommendation:

Motion:

That Senate approve the change to the SFU Co-operative Education program decreasing from four (4) to three (3) work terms for four year undergraduate academic degree programs in order to receive a Co-operative Education Designation, effective Fall 2017.

To: SFU Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies
From: SFU Co-operative Education
Muriel Klemetski, Director: Work Integrated Learning
Date: Original Submission; December 22, 2016
Updated January 26, 2017

The SFU Co-operative Education Program proposes a change to the minimum number of work terms required for Co-operative Education Program completion and degree designation.

Proposal for ALL Undergraduate Co-op Programs:

*The SFU Co-operative Education Program proposes that the number of successfully completed work terms be decreased from **four (4)** to **three (3)** work terms for four year undergraduate academic degree programs in order to receive a **Co-operative Education Designation** on the degree parchment effective Fall 2017 convocation. Calendar changes would be made for start of Fall 2017 semester.*

Rationale:

Currently the SFU Co-operative Education Program requires the completion of four (4) work terms to obtain a Co-op Designation on their undergraduate degree parchment. This has been in effect since the early 1970s at SFU. As of Fall 2016 there are over 9000 students from all 8 faculties, including 77 undergraduate and 19 graduate programs, who participate in the SFU Co-op Program.

The national co-operative education accrediting body, Canadian Association for Co-operative Education (CAFCE), recently had CAFCE by-law changes that were approved November 2015. The CAFCE by-law changes allow for the SFU Co-op Program to change the minimum number of work terms to obtain a Co-op Designation from four (4) to three (3) work terms for four year undergraduate academic degree programs. All SFU undergraduate degree programs qualify within this category.

The proposed reduction in work terms meet the CAFCE accreditation standards and will provide the opportunity for more students to receive official recognition for program completion while having met the national minimum requirements. Many SFU Co-op students have been completing three (3) work terms as compared to four (4) work terms and did not meet the requirements to receive a Co-operative Education Designation. We anticipate that students who are near degree completion and who have completed only two (2) work terms will be incentivized to complete a third work term to complete their co-op program.

Over the past two years upon graduation 733 co-op students completed two (2) work terms, 907 completed three (3) work terms and 645 completed four (4) work terms. The proposed change will allow a greater number of students to obtain official recognition for program completion and encourage students to complete a third work term.

Consultations:

Consultations with Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UCC) groups or discussions regarding this proposal were conducted across the Faculties during Fall 2016 with the following groups:

SFU Deans Meeting: On June 2016, Ali Dastmalchian raised this proposal as a discussion item and there was full support at this table to making the change at the undergraduate area. SFU Co-op was encouraged to submit for formal review ASAP.

Business UCC meeting: Sept. 22, 2016

Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology UCC Sept. 23, 2016

Computing Science UCC Sept. 29, 2016

Faculty of Environment UCC Oct. 5, 2016

Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology UCC Oct. 6, 2016

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences UCC Oct. 13, 2016 proposal submitted for UCC review
January 26, 2017 In Person with Chair

Mechatronic Systems Engineering UCC Oct. 17, 2016

Faculty of Health Science UCC, Oct. 28, 2016

Faculty of Science UCC, Nov. 10, 2016

Faculty of Education UCC January 2017 via email

The responses from the UCC groups that were attended by in person have indicated their support and/or approval for the proposed change.

Impact of Changes:

We anticipate that there will be an increased number of students who will participate in the Co-op Program and allow for more students to be officially recognized for program completion. The increase in student participation will allow more SFU students to gain discipline-specific work experience and knowledge in their area of study through the Co-op Program. The change will also allow students to complete their co-op program requirements within a shorter time period.

Resource Implications:

Increased co-op student applications and co-op work terms will generate increased revenue for the institution. For the 2017/18 fiscal a zero net change is expected as if the proposal is approved the impact would occur after the effective date – likely Fall 2018. For 2018/19 budget an increase to the Co-op budget line item is anticipated. The Co-op Program would request that a proportion of the increased revenue be directed to the Co-op Program to add staff capacity to meet the student demand and new job development activities. Partnerships with both the provincial and federal governments are in progress, along with national industry associations.

Reaction from students and quality of student experience:

Students enrolled in the Co-op Program:

- participate in co-op preparatory curriculum
- conduct job searches for work terms
- complete employer interviews
- accumulate twelve months or more of discipline specific work terms
- develop learning objectives, submit mid-term and final work term evaluations
- write work term reports

Each work term is listed on their transcript and a Pass/Fail grade is given. Providing student recognition for co-op program completion will add to their sense of satisfaction and overall experience with SFU.

Other institutions:

All CAFCE accredited co-op programs across Canada design their programs to meet the nationally accredited standards and criteria. There are 37 institutions across Canada that are nationally accredited. Both UBC and UVIC Co-op Programs are nationally accredited and follow the national guidelines. This change will allow us to remain competitive with all other BC and Canadian Co-op Programs.

Submitted by:

Muriel Klemetski

Director of Work Integrated Learning:

Co-operative Education

klemetsk@sfu.ca

778-782-2181