

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Office of the Vice-President, Academic

Memorandum**To:** Senate**From:** David Gagan 
Vice-President, Academic**Re:** Contribution to First-Year Level
Teaching by Tenure-Stream Faculty**Date:** January 19, 1998

In response to Senators' questions regarding our low ranking in *Maclean's* weighting of this performance indicator, I can report the following:

1. Methodology

- (a) *Maclean's* bases its first year course instruction statistic on who teaches the "primary meet" associated with each course. For example, in a lecture course with labs or tutorials, it is the lecturer who is counted. In a laboratory course with neither lectures or tutorials, it is the lab instructor who is counted.
- (b) *Maclean's* definitions (and our practices) exclude our Lecturers and Laboratory Instructors from the calculation, in spite of our confidence in and reliance on their instructional expertise and experience.

2. Performance by Faculty

- (a) Over all, 37% (77/208) of Simon Frasers 100-level "primary meets" in 96-3 were taught by tenure-stream faculty members (34 Professors, 26 Associate Professors, 15 Assistant Professors, 2 Limited Term Assistant Professors).
- (b) In the Faculty of Applied Sciences the proportion was 37%
In the Faculty of Arts the proportion was 35%.
In the Faculty of Science the proportion was 43%.
- (c) If SFU was allowed to count "primary meets" taught by its Lecturers and Laboratory Instructors, the proportion of 1996/97 first year courses taught by instructors *continuously employed* by SFU would have been 60% (125/208). The comparative proportions by Faculty are: Applied Science, 90%; Arts, 54%; Science, 67%. (Note: Business Administration and Education do not teach 100-level courses).

3. Conclusion

- (a) SFU should continue to press *Maclean's* to adopt a more realistic measure of instructional expertise and experience than the test (tenure) that it currently applies.
- (b) We must nevertheless ask ourselves whether or not it is in keeping with SFU's image of itself (academic mission, student recruitment, commitment to undergraduate education) that in a given academic year fewer than 15% of our tenure-stream faculty complement is engaged in first-year instruction.