

S 250
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

Mr. H. M. Evans

From J. E. Sayre

Secretary of Senate

Subject "Unassigned Credit"

Date June 19, 1969

As I indicated in the Special Meeting of 16 June, I am concerned over the ambiguity and apparent hollowness of the term "unassigned credit"--the third of three classifications of transfer credit in the Ellis Report.

Under present circumstances, it simply is not clear how unassigned credit will be determined and whether or not it will count towards a student's degree.

May I quote from the 1968-69 Calendar:

"A minimum of 40 hours of the 120 hours required in the general degree program will be 'electives'. These electives may be any course in the University, subject to the group requirements of the Faculty."

It is the spirit of this position that I wish to extend to transfer credit and offer the following motion to that effect:

1. That the respective Faculties determine the maximum total number of transferable "general elective credits" and maximum general elective credits that may be granted in various areas of study.

For example: The Faculty of Arts may determine that the total maximum general elective credits will be 15 of which no more than 6 can be in Fine Arts, 9 in Ancient Languages, etc.

2. That the respective Faculties specifically indicate those courses, determined by the Academic Board to be of university level, that will be accepted as general elective credits.
3. That the respective Faculties periodically review and at all times make available to colleges, prospective students, etc., the list mentioned in #2.

4. That the Registrar, upon the admittance of a transfer student, designate on the student's SFU transcript those general elective credit courses transferred, followed by at least one of the following letters:
 - (A) to indicate that the Faculty of Arts accepts this course as general elective credit.
 - (S) to indicate that the Faculty of Science accepts this course as general elective credit.
 - (E) to indicate that the Faculty of Education accepts this course as general elective credit.
5. That the term "general elective credit" be substituted for "unassigned credit" throughout the Ellis Report and its passed amendments.
6. That points 2, 3, 4 apply only to transfer students from British Columbia but that the "spirit" of these points will be applied, as fairly and quickly as possible, to transfer students from out of province.

Arguments "Pro":

Prospective students and those who transfer to SFU are entitled to know if and where all the work they take prior to entry can be used towards a degree.

The procedure outlined above will give the regional colleges greater guidance in their academic course offerings. Regional colleges are, quite understandably, hesitant to offer imaginative courses, interdisciplinary courses, or courses not taught at SFU that may or may not be transferable to SFU. Knowledge of what courses are eligible to general elective credit will be very helpful to them.

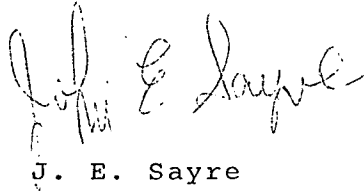
Ambiguities, such as "unassigned credit", cause confusion and frustration and cause administrative difficulty in interpretation.

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Arguments "Con":

Students who, after transfer, change Faculties may lose some of their previously assigned general elective credit. The bookkeeping procedure to keep track of such changes would be somewhat more complex than present practices.



J. E. Sayre

JES:mc

VI-3-3

D. Unassigned Credit - Paper S.250, J.Sayre

J.Sayre indicated that the paper was an attempt to clarify the meaning of "Unassigned Credit" as used in the Ellis Report. He indicated further that he wished to withdraw Item 4 on Page 2, and renumber Item 5 as 4, and Item 6 as 5, with reference in Item 6 then being to points 2 and 3.

Moved by J.Sayre, seconded by D.Sullivan,

"that Senate adopt Paper S.250 as modified."

It was suggested that Section 2 be altered so that courses will be accepted as general elective credits in the three Faculties, and M.Campbell proposed amendment to delete the last two lines in Section 1; all of Section 2 and the other parts of the paper where reference is made to Section 2, but these changes were not adopted.

Vote on the main motion was undertaken.

MOTION CARRIED

E. Academic Planning - Paper S.215, S.215a, S.215b, S.215c

Moved by K.Rieckhoff, seconded by S.Wassermann,

"that Senate adopt Paper S.215 in principle."

D.Sullivan enquired as to how the paper could be adopted in principle as apart from practice and made reference to the Paper S.215b which had been submitted from the Faculty of Arts as a preliminary paper. He indicated that the Faculty of Arts was of the opinion that more data was needed and review required.

Moved by M.Lebowitz, seconded by D.Sullivan,

"that Senate adjourn."

MOTION FAILED

4 in favour

8 opposed

K.Rieckhoff indicated that when the paper was first presented to Senate it had been argued that it should be placed before the Faculties, and that if the Faculty of Arts had not had sufficient discussion on the paper this was deplorable. He was of the opinion that departments or Faculty want final say on interdisciplinary problems and that this would not resolve the problems, but that Senate could attempt to do this by hearing proposals and agreeing to institution of programs.

M.Lebowitz requested that discussion on the paper be ruled out of order as the original conditions that comments be received from the Faculties had not been met, and noted the preliminary report of the Faculty of Arts.* The

* Verbatim comments appear in Appendix A, which is attached to these minutes.