

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Gen Ed

MEMORANDUM

Paper S-90

SM 8/1/68

SENATE

From..... GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Subject.....

Date..... November 28, 1967

At the June 5, 1967 Senate meeting the General Education Committee presented a preliminary general education proposal entitled University Network (paper S-13). At the instruction of Senate, the University Network proposal was forwarded to the three faculties for discussion and comment. These have been subsequently received from the three faculties, and the statement below represents a synthesis of the general comments:

1. Three faculties support, in principle, the University Network proposal. This is interpreted to mean that there is support for the concept of a general education program, as outlined in the Network proposal.
2. The administrative structure suggested by the General Education Committee in the preliminary proposal seemed to cause some concerns in each of the faculties. The notion of an administrative body to oversee general education programs was found unacceptable.
3. There was strong concern expressed about the financial support required for forthcoming general education programs. Many department heads indicated that if funds were available, the development of other programs, such as graduate programs, should take priority.

With faculty reactions in mind, the members of the General Education Committee now suggest that the Senate move on the following recommendations:

1. That the Senate accept, in principle, the mounting of a University General Education program.
2. That the amount of involvement in general education programs be determined by individual faculties.
3. That the task of administering the general education programs fall under the aegis of the new academic Vice-President of the university
 - 3.1 That until such time as the new vice-president takes office, the new general education program be administered by a 3-man committee, appointed by the Senate.

SM 8/1/68

S-90

Gen Ed

Senate

- 2 -

November 28, 1967

4. That large enrollment courses (described in paper S-13 as "window" courses) be mounted.
 - 4.1 That these courses be 3 semester-hour courses.
 - 4.2 That students enrolled in such courses receive grades on a Pass-Fail basis.
5. That seminars, workshops and other related activities be mounted.
 - 5.1 That these be derived from "window" courses whenever possible.
 - 5.2 That these be non-credit offerings.
6. That technical instruction courses be considered under the aegis of general education.
 - 6.1 That these may be required or recommended for individual students.
7. That non-prerequisite and/or interdisciplinary courses be mounted.
 - 7.1 That these may carry credit at the discretion of the individual department.
 - 7.2 That students taking these courses be graded on a pass/fail basis (if not part of their required Honors or Major program) if they so desire.
 - 7.3 That some of these courses be primarily for upper division students.
 - 7.4 That there be no prerequisites for interdisciplinary courses.

In moving support of the general education program, the committee would like to urge the following:

1. That immediate steps be taken to implement small portions of the program at the outset.
2. That portions of the program be implemented as early as the Spring '68 semester.
3. That the above recommendations be seen as a basis for the establishment of a general education program on this campus.
4. That a comprehensive Calendar entry describing the general education program not be written until such time as specific details are satisfactorily worked out.

SM 8/1/68

S-90

Gen Ed

Senate

- 3 -

November 28, 1967

Finally, the committee suggests that Senate examine and advise on the following questions, since no over-all consensus was found in the 3 faculties:

1. How many courses should be taken?
2. At what level should these courses be taken?
3. How many hours should be set aside each week free from regular (academic) lectures/tutorials/laboratories?

It is expected that with the presentation of these final recommendations, the General Education Committee will have discharged its present obligations to Senate.

Selma Wassermann

Selma Wassermann
Chairman

SW:ms

sm 8/1/68

S-90

Gen Ed

To: Senate

From: Registrar

28 November, 1967

Subject: Report of General Education Committee
dated November 28, 1967

The question of administrative difficulties invariably arises in discussion of proposals such as put forward by the Committee, so I would like to comment on these now.

1. Pass-Fail grading for internal use

This proposal does not present any insurmountable problems. The courses designated for Pass-Fail grades could be identified by using the numbers from 001 - 099 and while full credit would be given for the course, the grade received would not affect the semester grade point average or the cumulative grade point average.

If the grading system for a course was to be optional as is suggested in 7.2 of the Report, it would be assigned two numbers, one below the 99 level and one above. The students electing Pass-Fail grades would register in the former; those electing letter grades would register in the latter. This would merely be a book-keeping entry - in fact the students are "in" the same course.

Example

| <u>Course</u> | <u>Sem. Hrs.</u> | <u>Grade</u> | <u>Grade Points</u> |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Econ 100 | 3 | A | 12 |
| Engl 101 | 3 | B | 9 |
| Geog 101 | 3 | B | 9 |
| Psych 101 | 3 | C | 6 |
| Either Biol 086 | (3 | (P | (- |
| or Biol 186 | (3 | (A | (12 |

Biol 086 option

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Semester hours earned | 15 |
| Total Grade Points | 48 |
| Semester Grade Point Average | $\frac{48}{15} = 3.2$ |

Biol 186 option

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Semester hours earned | 15 |
| Total Grade Points | 36 |
| Semester Grade Point Average | $\frac{36}{15} = 3.0$ |

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SM 8/1/68

S-90

Gen Ed

-2-

2. Pass-Fail Grading for External Scholarships

The one difficulty which might be encountered is over B.C. Government Scholarships. At the present time students must secure at least 15 semester hours credit and a certain G.P.A. on the best 15 hours to be eligible; they must also register in 15 hours or more to hold the Scholarship. I believe the Department of Education would be willing to consider changing this to 12 semester hours plus 1 General Education Pass-Fail course with the G.P.A. struck on the best 12 semester hours of letter grade courses only. We would have no difficulty in adjusting our scholarship programs to accommodate this if the policy were changed.

3. Non-credit courses

The Committee has made no recommendations regarding grades for these courses, nor whether they should appear on the transcript. This matter should be clarified if the proposal is approved.

D.P. Robertson
D. P. Robertson
Registrar

DPR/md