

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

*Office of the Vice-President, Academic*

MEMORANDUM

**To:** Senate

**From:** J.M. Munro, Chair, Senate Committee on Academic Planning

**Subject:** Institute for Studies in Teacher Education

**Date:** January 18, 1994

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At its meeting on January 12, 1994, the Senate Committee on Academic Planning recommended the establishment of the Institute for Studies in Teacher Education.

**Motion:** "That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the establishment of the Institute for Studies in Teacher Education and the granting of a Charter to the Institute under the terms of Policy R.40.01."

*J.M. Munro*

**MEMORANDUM  
OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT, RESEARCH**

**TO:** Alison Watt  
Secretary, Senate Committee  
on Academic Planning (SCAP)

**FROM:** Bruce P. Clayman  
John M. Munro

**RE:** Institute for Studies in Teacher  
Education

**DATE:** 22 November 1993

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Attached is a proposal from Dr. Robin Barrow, Dean, Faculty of Education, for the formation of the Institute for Studies in Teacher Education.

The Governing Committee for Centres and Institutes recommends that the Institute be granted approval by SCAP. Once approved by SCAP, the proposal is to be forwarded to Senate, followed by submission to the Board of Governors.

Governing Committee:



Bruce P. Clayman  
Vice President, Research  
(Acting)



John M. Munro  
Vice President, Academic

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
DEAN OF EDUCATION**

**Memorandum**

**To:** Jock Munro, Vice-President, Academic  
Bruce Clayman, Vice-President, Research

**From:** Robin Barrow

**Subject:** Institute for Studies in Teacher Education

**Date:** 1993-10-26

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As you will see from the attached, the faculty put forward its proposal for an Institute for Studies in Teacher Education in late 1990. That proposal went as far as Vice-President (Dr. Leiss) but was then delayed as part of a general moratorium while the issue of institutes was examined.

We would like now to proceed with all due haste to establish the institute formally.



RB:nr  
Enclosure  
cc Marv Wideen



# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

## Faculty of Education

# Memo

**To:** Robin Barrow, Dean  
**From:** Marvin Wideen  
**Date:** September 15, 1993  
**Re:** A charter for the  
Institute for Studies in Teacher Education

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The Institute for Studies in Teacher Education was approved by a faculty vote in February 1990. The rationale for the Institute is described in the attached document and discussed further below. Since having established the Institute we have undertaken research studies, set up a data base of references in teacher education, conducted three conferences, established a symposium series, and undertaken numerous other initiatives aimed at achieving our objectives. For example, as a result of the activities by members of the Institute we are now part of a network of ten institutions in the United States and Canada whose purpose is to improve the delivery of teacher education programs. Three edited volumes on teacher education will soon be released.

The purpose of this memorandum is to seek a University charter for the institute.

I will address the requirements contained in R 40.01.

Purpose. The purpose of the institute is described under 'background and objectives' in the document that is attached. Our means to achieving those objectives are also contained in that document.

Provision for the appointment of director. Because I was asked by the former dean to set up the institute, I have acted as its unofficial director. I now propose that we formalize the procedure along similar lines followed in the appointment of other persons within the faculty. I would suggest that the Dean, after consultation with those working in the institute, propose the name of an individual for ratification.

Governance. The institute would fall under the direct authority of the Dean, as in Schedule A, Policies and Procedures R 40.01.

Obligation to conduct activities in accordance with University policies. It is the intention of those in the institute to conduct all activities in accord with policies of the University. This includes complying with the policies and procedures set forth in document R 40.01 as well as other policies of the university that may apply.

# A Proposal for an Institute for Studies in Teacher Education for the Faculty of Education.

November 1990

## Background and Objectives.

This proposal argues for establishing an INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN TEACHER EDUCATION in the Faculty of Education at Simon Fraser University. The general aim of such an institute will be to promote and carry out research in the area of teacher education. The rationale for establishing the institute rests primarily on a desire to promote research and to take advantage of the growing amount of research and resulting literature which already exists in the area. Furthermore, certain conditions and developments, both outside and within the institutions which prepare teachers, support its establishment as well.

Research into teacher education as a field of study has grown substantially during the past two decades. As evidence, we have seen CATE (Canadian Association of Teacher Education) develop under the general CSSE umbrella in Canada, and Division K added within the American Educational Research Association in the United States. Such organizations, dedicated to the promotion of research in the area and the distribution of its findings, have developed within other countries as well (Tisher & Wideen, 1990). These developments have led to a growing number of studies into teacher education which clearly identify it as an area of research. As an indication of this, the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (Houston, 1990) has recently compiled the Handbook for Research on Teacher Education which reviews several topics in the area.

This growing knowledge base opens several opportunities. First, it provides the basis for continued research. Not only have beginnings been made in several areas of teacher preparation, but the research has identified questions and productive lines of inquiry. Second, the research also provides a modest beginning at developing a better understanding of the complexities of teacher education, and sets out a number of findings that could become part of a curriculum for teacher preparation. Third, a shift has become evident in who conducts research in the area. At one time, those in universities undertook research and those in schools used the findings. That gap has narrowed in a number of cases, and we now see collaborative projects involving both school and university people. The proposed institute would seek to take advantage of such opportunities.

A number of contextual factors also support the establishment of an institute aimed at increasing the quality and quantity of research undertaken in areas pertaining directly to teacher education. The original mission behind establishing faculties of education involved preparing teachers. Despite that mission, many faculty members in education do not direct their research efforts at questions dealing with teacher preparation, or work directly with preparing teachers. A faculty member in a neighbouring institution, who recently described the teacher education program in his university, observed that over a ten year period teacher education in that faculty had drifted into the hands of graduate students and sessional appointments with virtually no tenure tract faculty involved. An institute such as the one proposed would signal our commitment to encourage research into the area central to the mission of our faculty and assist those working in teacher education to better connect their teaching and research.

The situation within the faculty at Simon Fraser also supports the formation of a research institute. Recently, the Executive of the faculty has taken a policy decision that

would encourage faculty and faculty associates working in the modules which make up the Professional Development Program to undertake research as part of their work in preparing teachers. However, many of those working in modular groups undertake that assignment for short periods of time and may come to that experience not having engaged in research into this area before. The proposed institute would provide support to those who run the modular groups to undertake research in the area.

The present situation in this province points to the need for those in faculties of education to better understand the issues and policy implications arising from an increased interest in the preparation of teachers on the part of policy makers and the general public. In this province, the College of Teachers, which have been given the power to certify teachers, has undertaken a review of teacher education. We can expect an ongoing interest by this group in teacher education in the province to continue after the review is complete. We can also expect that such organizations will be prepared to work with faculties of education in an ongoing examination of issues pertaining to teacher education preparation. Such developments, both in this province and elsewhere, require research into several areas such that we can maintain a full understanding of the issues and implications of proposed developments. The establishment of this institute would be one step in this direction.

Given this background, the proposed institute, aimed at promoting research in teacher education, will have the following objectives:

- (a) To nurture and coordinate at Simon Fraser a community of scholars dedicated to research in teacher education;
- (b) To work to establish a research agenda around questions in teacher education and the growing body of literature in the area;
- (c) To seek funding to support these research efforts;
- (d) To provide support to faculty and faculty associates within the modular groups who wish to undertake projects of inquiry as part of their work in the Professional Development Program;
- (e) To build collaborative links with groups both within and outside the faculty of education; and,
- (f) To report research findings in such a manner as to enhance the scholarly reputation of the participants and the university.

#### Achieving these objectives.

The plan for the institute involves three types of initiatives around technical, social and conceptual lines to achieve these objectives. Technically, we plan to establish secretarial support as well as a computer data base consisting of key papers and major works in teacher education. A small collection of selected key titles will be maintained for circulation.

Efforts will be made to build a community of scholars around the shared interests of research into teacher education, which becomes the social side of the institute. Membership in that community requires an interest in doing research into some aspect of teacher education and a willingness to participate in colloquia and lunch hour seminars.

The third initiative is a conceptual one. It involves working to maintain an ongoing research agenda which identifies, through occasional papers, the areas of research that appear most productive and the key questions which guide those areas. These three initiatives provide the basis for achieving the objectives set out in this proposal.

#### Governance.

Each year, the Director and two members from the institute will meet with the Dean and her/his representatives from the faculty to present a financial report and an outline of the activities and achievements for the past year.

#### References

Houston, W.R. (ed) (1990) Handbook of research on teacher education. New York: MacMillan.

Tisher, R.P. & Wideen, M.F., Eds. (1990). Research in teacher education: International perspectives. London: Falmer Press.

Submitted by: Wideen, Grimmett, Scott and MacKinnon

Internal Governance. The Director of the Institute will work closely with a steering committee which will include charter members as well as others who may be appointed to that committee from time to time. At least once each year, the director will report to a faculty forum for feedback and advise on projects and activities. That report will normally follow the annual report to the Dean, described in the attached document.

**Founding Members**

Dr. Marvin F. Wideen  
Dr. Peter Grimmett  
Dr. Judith Scott  
Dr. Allan MacKinnon



MW:nr  
Enclosure