

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

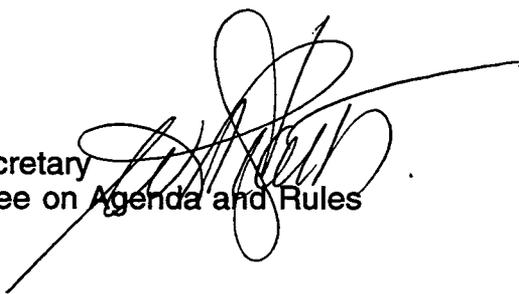
Memorandum

To: Senate

From: W. R. Heath, Secretary
Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules

Date: March 30, 1994

Subject: Proposal to implement charges for Computing Service



At the request of SCAR, the proposal to implement charges for Computing service was reviewed by the Senate Committee on Academic Planning. The response from SCAP to SCAR is attached herewith for the information of Senate.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Office of the Vice-President, Academic

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules
From: J.M. Munro, Chair, Senate Committee on Academic Planning
Subject: Proposal to implement charges for Computing Service
Date: March 14, 1994

In November 1993, SCAR referred the proposal to implement charges for computing service to SCAP for review. At its meetings of 26 January and 9 March, 1994 SCAP considered the proposal, and the attached memorandum has been approved by SCAP.

J.M. Munro

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC
MEMORANDUM**

To: Dr. J.M. Munro, Chair
Senate Committee on Academic Planning

From: Judith Osborne 
Associate V-P Academic

Re: Proposal to implement charges for
Computing Service

Date: March 7, 1994

Simon Fraser University is one of the few universities in Canada which does not charge for the use of its computing resources. Faculty, staff and students have thus been encouraged to acquire and enhance their computing skills. Unrestricted use, however, has not always resulted in responsible and efficient use of what is a valuable and costly resource. In particular, the demand for disk space and off-campus dial-up access seems infinite. For example, a study of modem use conducted in April 1993 found that it was not unusual for some users to be logged on to the system for anywhere between 3 to 7 hours a day.

In the current climate of shrinking budgets, some controls on the use of central computing resources, particularly those with a significant marginal cost, must be considered. Indeed, some units within the university already charge for locally controlled computing services such as access to assignment labs. The only feasible alternative to the fee-for-service model would be a rationing of services - x amount per person - but this seems too draconian and inflexible.

Principle # 1: User chargeback should be used to encourage the responsible use of computing.

This proposal aims to strike a balance between encouraging all members of the university community to make optimal use of our computing resources and discouraging excessive use. Accordingly, it is designed to enable the vast majority of individuals on campus to meet their computing needs free of charge. It is proposed to impose modest charges for those services which have high marginal costs, such as dial-up access, disk storage, assignment labs and computing tutorials. Charges have been in place for printing for some time. It is not proposed to charge for compute cycles and similar infrastructure services for which economies of scale can be realized.

Principle # 2: Students, staff and faculty should receive sufficient access to computing free of charge such that they can use electronic mail, access on-line information and store data to the extent necessary for their job or for their studies.

Disk Space Students will be provided with 500k of disk space, free of charge. This stores approximately 250 pages of text. No charges will be made for short-term (i.e. less than

one week) overruns of this allocation. Faculty and staff will be allocated 1 Meg of disk space. Beyond that, all users may purchase additional space at a cost below that charged at other universities.

Modem Access Faculty and staff will have 5 minutes of modem time per connection at no cost. This would generally permit them to down-load e-mail without incurring any charges. Students, faculty and staff would continue to have free access to the system from on-campus where modem routing is not required. The revenue generated from modem users would be used to increase the number of modem lines to satisfy user demand and improve the level of service.

Assignment Lab Fees It is proposed to initiate a \$5 charge for an hour a week for 13 weeks. That is, if a student requires 3 hours a week for the fall semester, she will pay \$15. Assignment lab seats which are empty because of "no-shows" will be available free on a drop-in basis. ACS will also work with course instructors to ensure that students are not required to pay for unnecessary assignment lab fees i.e. that the labs are not "overbooked" by instructors. Some departments/faculties already charge their students an assignment lab fee. Under the current proposal, they will only be able to do so for departmental and faculty labs, not for ACS facilities.

The charging system will be made as simple as possible in order to minimize the cost of administering the system. Users would buy the additional services they require in advance to avoid billing costs. ACS is working with Financial Services to implement a "Smart Card" system for collecting user fees. If this is not feasible, ACS will institute its own method of collecting fees through credit and debit cards, which would cost about \$30,000.

If approved, the charges will be gradually phased in between May and December, 1994.

Schedule A

Basic Account No charge

- Unix Account
- Access to General Unix Server (Fraser)
- 500K Unix Disk Space Quota
- Eudora E-Mail Access
- NuPop E-Mail Access
- Library Access
- CWIS Access
- Netnews Access
- Parti Access
- Wordstation Access
- Drop-in Lab Access
- Internet Access

Staff Account No Charge

- Basic Account with 1 Meg Disk Space Quota
- 5 minutes of modem time per connection

Faculty Account No Charge

- Basic Account with 1 Meg Disk Space Quota
- Access to Unix Research Servers (Beaufort, Monashee & Selkirk)
- Access to Unix Instructional Servers (Kits & Malibu)
- 5 minutes of modem time per connection

Assignment Lab Account \$5/1 Lab Hour a week for a Semester

- Adds Assignment Lab Access to Basic Account

Instructional Account \$10/Semester

- Requires the authorization of a Departmental Signing Authority
- Adds Access to Unix Research Servers (Beaufort, Monashee & Selkirk)
- Adds Access to Unix Instructional Servers (Kits & Malibu)

Additional Service Charges

Disk Quotas	\$.15/Megabyte/Month
Modem Charges (2400 Baud)	\$.01/Minute
Modem Charges (High Speed)	\$.015/Minute
Manual Account Setup	\$25/Account
File Restores	\$10(1st File + \$.50/File
Tutorials	\$5/Seat Hour

Schedule B

Revenue Estimates

The following are the projected revenues generated by computing accounts, lab fees, disk quota charges, and modem charges.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Semester</u>	<u>Annual</u>
Assignment Lab Accounts	5,810 Seat Hours	\$29,000	\$87,000
Instructional Accounts	200 Undergrads	2,000	6,000
Research Accounts	100 Graduates	1,000	3,000
Disk Charges	Undergrads	800	2,400
	Graduates	550	1,650
	Staff	550	1,650
	Faculty	550	1,650
Modem Charges	2400 Baud	<u>8,000</u>	<u>24,000</u>
Total		\$42,450	\$127,350

c: Dr. J.O. Stubbs