

MEMORANDUM

To..... SENATE

From..... SENATE UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS BOARD

Subject..... INVALID TOEFL SCORES - SUAB 92

Date..... 11TH FEBRUARY, 1982

Action taken by the Senate Undergraduate Admissions Board at its meeting of February 11, 1982, gives rise to the following motion:-

MOTION:

"In the case of a student whose TOEFL score is declared invalid, or cancelled by the Educational Testing Service, that student will be required to withdraw or be withdrawn or be suspended from the University immediately. Provided other admission requirements have been fulfilled, the student would be readmitted only when he/she is able to provide a valid score sufficient to meet the requirements of the University."

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To..... SENATE UNDERGRADUATE

..... ADMISSIONS BOARD

Subject..... INVALID TOEFL SCORES - SUAB 92

From..... ALAN C. McMILLAN

..... SECRETARY, S.U.A.B.

Date..... 27TH JANUARY, 1982

BACKGROUND:

The admission policy for applicants whose native language is not English includes a Test of English as a Foreign Language, with a score of 570. The TOEFL test is administered by the Educational Testing Service. The Educational Testing Service is a non-profit organization committed to the development and administration of testing programs. The major purpose of the TOEFL is to evaluate the English proficiency of people whose native language is not English. In 1979-80, over 240,000 persons registered to take the test at more than 700 centres located in 135 countries.

PROBLEM:

During the past 8-10 months, ten out of approximately 350 scores of registered SFU students have been cancelled by the Educational Testing Service. Approximately 80 others are still under investigation. Questioned TOEFL scores are brought to the attention of the ETS Test Security Office in several ways. Enquiries may be made to ETS by an institution which cannot satisfactorily reconcile an apparent inconsistency between a candidate's test scores with current academic performance. Other candidates, or test centre supervisors may report a belief that misconduct has occurred at a test administration. Some discrepancies are also noted internally by ETS staff.

The cancellation of a TOEFL score invalidates a student's admission to the University, because the student no longer meets the admission requirements. This decision involves the external agency (ETS) and the student. Simon Fraser University accepts the scores and information provided and does not become involved in

matters that are properly between ETS and the student. Problem cases involving TOEFL cancellations by ETS are not classified as intellectual dishonesty unless there is some other clear evidence of such; they are problems of deficiency in standards. As a result, the newly adopted Statement on Intellectual Honesty and Academic Discipline does not address these cases.

Therefore, it is necessary for the Senate Undergraduate Admissions Board to recommend to Senate a policy for dealing with Simon Fraser University students whose TOEFL scores are cancelled.

RECOMMENDATION:

The TOEFL score is required of almost all applicants whose native language is not English. Very few cases of exceptional circumstances exist. The majority of our students satisfy the admission requirements with legitimate scores and documentation. In an effort to deal with the foregoing problem and ensure the equitability and credibility of our admission standards, the Senate Undergraduate Admission Board recommends to Senate that:--

" In the case of a student whose TOEFL score is declared invalid, or cancelled by the Educational Testing Service, that student will be suspended from the University immediately. Provided other admission requirements have been fulfilled, the student would be readmitted only when he/she is able to provide a valid score sufficient to meet the requirements to the University. "

If, in the process of the cancellation of a TOEFL score, it is clearly established by this University that intellectual dishonesty exists, then academic discipline will be considered under the "Statement on Intellectual Honesty."

FURTHER INFORMATION:

In the process of cancelling a TOEFL score, the Educational Testing Service first notifies the student

and explains the options available. Those options include a retest under special supervision, authorization by the student to cancel the score, or the opportunity to provide additional substantive information relevant to the cancelled score. If the student does not choose any of the above options, or does not respond to the notification within a given period of time, the cancelled score will be reported to designated institutions. No reference is made to the reason for the cancellation.

ACM:bc