

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.78-114

MEMORANDUM

To..... SENATE

From..... SENATE UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS BOARD
(SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PLANNING)

Subject..... PROPOSAL FOR NEW ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
FOR B.C. SECONDARY SCHOOL GRADUATES

Date..... OCTOBER 20, 1978

- MOTION I "That in addition to presenting Algebra 11 (which is currently a requirement for admission), B.C. Secondary School applicants be required to present a Science 11 (i.e. physical or life science) or a Language 11."
- MOTION II "That B.C. Secondary School students be required to present four academic 12-level subjects (including English 12) for admission."
- MOTION III "That, normally, applicants must present an overall average of C+, or 2.5, on the four academic 12-level subjects (including English 12). Applicants whose overall average on the four academic 12-level subjects is between C and C+ will be considered for admission by the Senate Undergraduate Admissions Board."
- MOTION IV "That students be allowed to select their academic 12-level subjects from the Arts and Science list as approved by the Ministry of Education."
- MOTION V "That the preceding admission requirements be effective commencing with June 1981 B.C. Secondary School Graduates. Admission of applicants graduating previously will be based on the admission requirements in effect the year of graduation."
- Note: Applicants who, because of administrative difficulties in their schools, cannot present the courses as required, may be excused the specific deficiency on petition by the Principal of the school concerned.
- MOTION VI "For applicants graduating in 1980, that, normally, they must present an overall average of C+, or 2.5 on the three (3) academic 12-level subjects (including English 12)."

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate

From: Senate Committee on Academic
Planning/Senate Undergraduate
Admissions Board

Subject: Senate Paper S-78-114

Date

INTRODUCTION

At the September Senate meeting, there was presented for informal discussion a SUAB paper involving a series of motions relating to proposed new admission requirements for B.C. Secondary School graduates, on the understanding that there would be discussion at SCAP and with SUAB before final recommendations came forward to Senate for action. The intent of this memorandum is to set forth the subsequent discussions, considerations and actions which have produced this final set of recommendations.

COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS

Following the September Senate meeting, the Senate Committee on Academic Planning, at its meeting on September 13, considered, with SUAB representatives in attendance, SUAB's recommendations for new B.C. Secondary School admission requirements and, following extensive discussions, took straw votes on each of them. A second meeting of SCAP on September 27 was held for the purpose of finalizing that Committee's views on the SUAB recommendations. SCAP's recommendations were then conveyed to SUAB and accepted by that body basically without change but with updating of the final SUAB paper. The document now before Senate has the approval of both SUAB and SCAP.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS

The consideration by SCAP of the SUAB recommendations focused on two major issues: the question of accessibility and the effect on Simon Fraser future enrolments and future size.

On the issue of accessibility, several concerns were expressed. First, an increase in the minimum GPA entrance requirement could result in the loss of potentially good students whose high school performance does not reflect their capability to perform good undergraduate and graduate work. Second, a requirement that secondary school applicants present for admission both a Grade 11 physical or life science and French 11 (or a foreign language 11) would impose a very substantial course load, with restriction on electives, particularly on those students pursuing a science orientation. Third, the recommendation to require both a Grade 11 physical or life science course and French 11 (or a foreign language 11) was at variance with that adopted at U. Vic. where an either/or situation will prevail, but would have been consistent with that at U.B.C. In response to the latter two

concerns, SUAB is now recommending that B.C. Secondary School applicants be required to present either Science 11 or Language 11.

To give direction to the secondary schools of the Province, it is desirable that B.C. Secondary School applicants be restricted in the courses which they may use for university admission to those on the Arts and Science list approved by the Ministry of Education. This is done at both U.B.C. and U. Vic. The initial SUAB recommendation encompassed more languages than those on the list since any native language would have been acceptable in lieu of French 11. The revised SUAB motion takes this into consideration by restricting the languages to those on the Minister's approved list.

For a substantial number of students the statistical evidence clearly indicates that secondary school G.P.A. is not an accurate reflection of their possible scholastic achievement in university. SUAB has therefore established procedures for automatic consideration of B.C. Secondary School students whose admission grade point average falls between C and C+. These procedures do not constitute a formal recommendation but are intended solely to indicate how SUAB intends to review these applicants. Parenthetically, it should be noted that if Recommendation III is approved by Senate, a subsequent motion will be required to modify the terms of reference for SUAB since its charge at present relates solely to policy consideration.

Regarding future enrolments and overall size of the University, statistical data previously presented to members of Senate showed that approximately 28% of new S.F.U. students per year are admitted on the basis of B.C. Grade 12. Of this percentage, 1/2 or 14% are admitted directly from a B.C. Secondary School. It is thus anticipated that the impact on total student enrolment of the new admission requirements will be marginal.

Further rationale for each of the SUAB recommendations is contained in the attached report. At this time, no revisions to the requirements for admission of those students entering S.F.U. on a basis other than B.C. Grade 12 are anticipated.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To..... H.M. EVANS

SECRETARY OF SENATE

Subject..... SUAB 80 (REVISED) - PROPOSAL FOR NEW
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR B.C.
SECONDARY SCHOOL GRADUATES

From SENATE UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS BOARD

Date 12TH OCTOBER, 1978

The Senate Undergraduate Admissions Board at its meeting of Wednesday, October 11, 1978, approved SUAB 80 (REVISED). This new paper incorporates many of the items which were discussed at Senate in September, 1978, and subsequently at SCAP and SUAB.

SUAB 80 (REVISED) is being forwarded to Senate for approval.

Encl.

ACM:bc

cc: Dr. J. Chase, Secretary, SCAP
All Members of SUAB

MEMORANDUM

To	H.M. EVANS SECRETARY OF SENATE	From	ALAN C. McMILLAN, SECRETARY SENATE UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS BOARD
Subject	SUAB 80 (S.78-90): PROPOSED NEW ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS	Date	21ST SEPTEMBER, 1978

The Senate Undergraduate Admissions Board at a meeting held on Tuesday, September 19th, unanimously approved a motion to withdraw Recommendation VI from the paper on Proposed New Admission Requirements (SUAB 80/S.78-90).

This decision was reached as a result of there being no clear evidence that a student obtaining a grade of "P" in English 12 would benefit from English 010. It was also felt that a much clearer understanding of the literacy problems is required before any appropriate recommendations can be made. It is, therefore, anticipated that the work of the English Literacy Sub-Committee and the English Placement Test studies will lead to a future recommendation in this area.

ACM:bc



cc: Dr. P. Jewett, President
Dr. E.J. Wells, A/Chairman, SUAB

Registrar's Note: The reference above is to Recommendation VI of the paper, SUAB 80, considered informally at the September 1978 meeting of Senate. The recommendation is not part of the present SUAB 80.

SUAB 80 REVISED
11TH OCTOBER, 1978

PROPOSAL FOR NEW ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR B.C. SECONDARY
SCHOOL GRADUATES

INTRODUCTION

By September, 1981, the University of British Columbia and the University of Victoria will have phased in various changes in their admission requirements. (See Appendix I). The Admission, Transfer and Academic Standing policies of Simon Fraser University are based on the Ellis Report which was accepted by Senate in 1970. No major changes have been made since that date and the Senate Undergraduate Admissions Board has been doing a review of our admission policies keeping in mind the following considerations:--

1. There must be some assurance that students entering Simon Fraser University from secondary schools are prepared for studies at university level. Along with this will go the assurance to faculty that they may expect a given level of preparation from the students they are teaching.

This expectation must be reconciled with the considerable body of evidence that some students

who have not done well in secondary school, particularly in the final years, are capable of doing very good undergraduate and graduate work.

The Committee did not wish to exclude all such students from direct access to a university education.

2. A second problem which SUAB faced was to indicate to our colleagues, to other universities and most particularly to students in the secondary schools through their counsellors, that the admission requirements for the British Columbia universities are comparable, in spite of some seeming, but not real, differences. This approach has been labelled as a 'public relations approach' on the one hand, and, on the other, as being an 'unnecessary justification' for what is being recommended.
3. The course requirements which are being suggested must be ones which the student can satisfy without too much difficulty from the list of courses approved by the Ministry of Education for secondary schools. (See Appendix II). It is recognized, however, that some of the smaller, or more isolated secondary schools, may not be able to provide the whole range of courses listed by the Ministry of Education. SUAB will consider such problems as they arise.

4. Both the University of British Columbia and the University of Victoria allow students to select their courses from the Arts and Science list approved by the Ministry of Education. Although SUAB is making a similar recommendation, it is with the understanding that if there is any question as to the status of a course which is being added to the list, that that course may be reviewed for Senate by SUAB. There are three new courses which SUAB will be considering. They include Western Civilisation 12, Geometry 12 and Probability and Statistics 12.
5. SUAB was very much aware of the difference between admitting students to a particular faculty as is done at the University of British Columbia, and admitting them to the University as at Simon Fraser. In the latter instance, the admission requirements must be flexible enough to allow a student to change from one faculty, or discipline, to another after having been admitted to the University.
6. A current policy which was developed in the Ellis Report established that "the University has a particular responsibility to applicants from the Province of British Columbia." The SUAB supports the continuation of this policy and discussed the effect of the proposed admission requirements on this existing policy. The Board felt that it

was possible to implement an admissions average of C+ for B.C. Secondary School graduates, without a concurrent change in the standards for applicants from outside the Province, and partially maintain the Ellis Report provisions by having the SUAB review the B.C. Secondary School applicants in the C to C+ range. Accordingly, no change is recommended in the C+ (65%) level of secondary school qualifications of students from schools outside of British Columbia.

CURRENT SFU ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Currently students are admitted from B.C. Secondary Schools provided they have achieved graduation on the Combined, or Selected Studies Programme, with standing in Algebra 11, English 12, and two additional academic 12-level subjects selected from: English Literature 12, Geography 12, History 12, Geology 12, Language(s) 12, Algebra 12, Science(s) 12. On English 12 and the two additional 12-level subjects, a minimum overall average of 2.0, or C, is required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In December of 1977, the SUAB struck a sub-committee to investigate revisions to the admission requirements. The sub-committee met on four occasions before making

a recommendation to the full committee. The SUAB has discussed the proposal for revisions to the existing admission requirements at several meetings, including a combined SUAB/SCAP meeting. The results of these discussions are contained in the following recommendations:--

RECOMMENDATION I

That in addition to presenting Algebra 11 (which is currently a requirement for admission), B.C. Secondary School applicants be required to present a Science 11 (ie: physical or life science) or a Language 11.

RECOMMENDATION II

That B.C. Secondary School students be required to present four academic 12-level subjects (including English 12) for admission.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATIONS I AND II

It is the desire of the Committee to encourage students to have a stronger and broader academic background than at present. The recommendations to include a Science 11 or a Language 11 and an additional academic 12, are seen as fulfilling these objectives.

The sub-committee studied the academic background of a sample group of current SFU students and these data indicate that many students entering SFU already possess one or more of these Grade 11 requirements. Of a sample group (142) admitted to SFU, 76% held standing in Biology 11 and 68% held standing in French 11. The percentage who entered with standing in the other sciences were Chemistry 11 (73%) and Physics 11 (54%). More recent data is available. See Appendix IV.

RECOMMENDATION III

That, normally, applicants must present an overall average of C+, or 2.5, on the four academic 12-level subjects (including English 12). Applicants whose overall average on the four academic 12-level subjects is between C and C+ will be considered for admission by the Senate Undergraduate Admissions Board.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION III

The Committee wishes to ensure that the academic environment at Simon Fraser University is attractive to the bright secondary school graduates. Although there is no desire to attempt to emulate our sister institutions in the Province,

we do not wish to become the residual institution, either in appearance, or in reality. Recommendation III raises our average for admission to the same level as both the University of B.C. and the University of Victoria, although the courses used for calculation will continue to differ among the three institutions. In the case of Simon Fraser University, those applicants whose average is 2.5, or higher, on English 12 and the three academic 12 subjects chosen from the Arts and Science list will be guaranteed admission.

The provision to allow the SUAB to review and admit deserving individuals whose averages are between C and C+ will also be consistent with the other universities, and with data of SFU student performance. (See Appendix III). The provision to consider the student in the C to C+ range will serve two purposes:--

- a) It will allow a transitional period for the new requirements.
- b) It will ensure that the University does not exclude students who show academic promise, although they do not have a C+ average.

PROPOSED PROCEDURES FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

The general criteria to be used by SUAB when reviewing those applicants in the 2.0 to 2.49 range (on four academic 12-level subjects) will be:--

RANGE I: 2.25 to 2.49 (B.C. Secondary School
grade point average)

Applicants with an average in this range will be reviewed closely by the Senate Undergraduate Admissions Board. The Board will consider such factors as:--

- i) the applicant's overall high school performance;
- ii) the applicant's trend in grades;
- iii) extenuating circumstances;
- iv) supporting information from the applicant's school;
- v) availability of courses to fulfill the specific admission requirements.

RANGE II: 2.0 to 2.24 (B.C. Secondary School
grade point average)

It is anticipated that very few students in this range will be granted admission by the Board. Possible exceptions may include applicants who were ill and were unable to write final examinations (or wrote and received low grades or aegrotat standing) and for whom there is clear evidence that the individual is at least a C+

student. In such cases, the Board will request the appropriate supporting documentation.

The procedure will have all applicants in the C to C+ category (ie: RANGES I & II) reviewed by the SUAB. Those applicants who, after full scrutiny, are not granted admission by the Senate Undergraduate Admissions Board will have recourse through the Senate Appeals Board only if they are able to present additional information (which was not available at the time of the SUAB decision) which is relevant and consistent with the criteria used by the SUAB. It is anticipated that there will be very few cases placed before SAB, as the colleges are seen as the alternative to unsuccessful applicants. The SAB will be required to report to SUAB on all appeals for admission by B.C. Grade XII applicants and in the event there appears to be inconsistency in the decisions of the two Boards, the Senate Undergraduate Admissions Board will prepare a report to Senate.

These guidelines for review of applicants between C and C+ will be made available to School Counsellors.

Applicants in the C to C+ range who are rejected on initial application will be informed that their application may be reconsidered by SUAB provided that additional documentation relating to items (iii), (iv) or (v) above is submitted.

The performance of students admitted in the C to C+ range will be monitored by SUAB.

RECOMMENDATION IV

That students be allowed to select their academic 12-level subjects from the Arts and Science list as approved by the Ministry of Education.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION IV

The courses contained in the Arts and Science list are considered by the Ministry to be preparation for college and university bound students. The courses from which we currently allow students to select their academic 12 subjects have not differed from the Arts and Science list until recently. The addition by the Ministry of three courses to the list has created the difference. The SUAB feels confident that the courses in the Arts and Science list are appropriate for university entrance. The Board has been made aware of the fact that some confusion has arisen at the secondary school level, because we do not currently allow students to select from all courses in the Arts and Science list, whereas the other two universities do recognize the full list.

RECOMMENDATION V

That the preceding admission requirements be effective commencing with June, 1981, B.C. Secondary School Graduates. Admission of applicants graduating previously will be based on the admission requirements in effect the year of graduation.

NOTE: Applicants who, because of administrative difficulties in their schools, cannot present the courses as required, may be excused the specific deficiency on petition by the Principal of the school concerned.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION V

It is felt that this period should allow students adequate time to select appropriate Grade 10 courses to meet the new requirements.

RECOMMENDATION VI

For applicants graduating in 1980, that, normally, they must present an overall average of C+, or 2.5 on the three (3) academic 12-level subjects (including English 12).

Applicants whose overall average on the three (3) academic 12-level subjects is between C and C+ may be considered for admission by the Senate Undergraduate Admissions Board based on the criteria outlined previously.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION VI

The increased grade level requirement is consistent with the new requirements being proposed for 1981 and should not create any hardship for students planning their secondary school programmes.