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SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
THINKING OF THE WORLD



ARUCC - Partnering for Student Success: we're in this together

A Collaborative Approach to Helping Students in Distress

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June 2010

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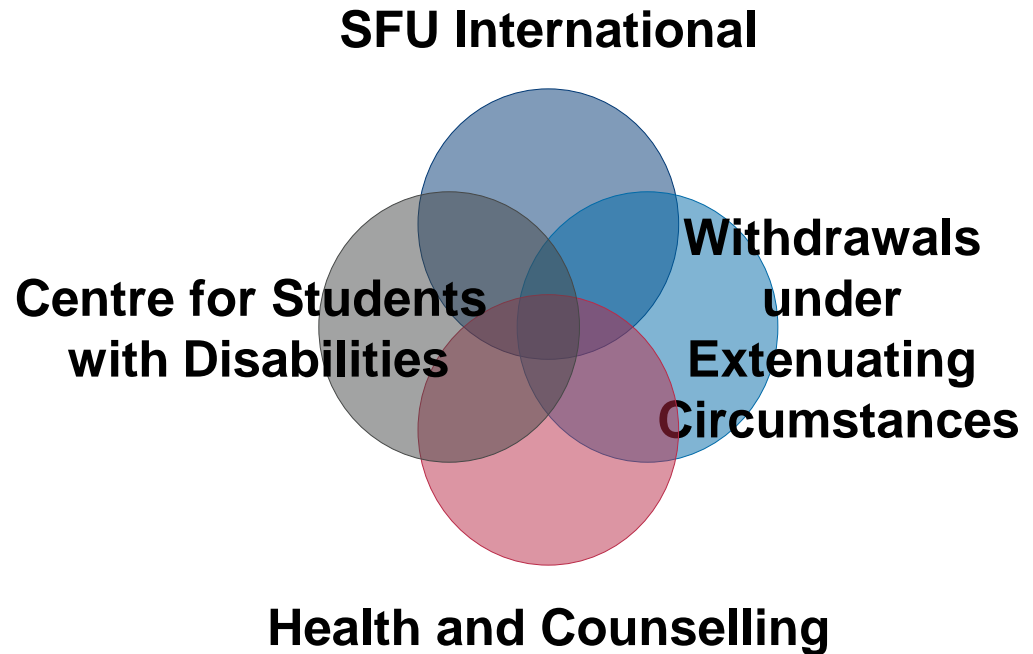
Questions to Consider

- What schools are represented?
- What departments are you from?
- What would you like to learn from this presentation?

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Introduction

- Why us?
- Who are we?



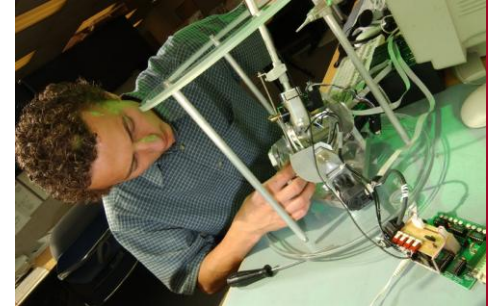
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Values

- Why do we do this?
 - Inform students
 - Student academic success
 - Retention and graduation
 - Effective learning skills
 - We care

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Who is a Student with a Disability?

- diagnosed with impairments by appropriate professional;
- permanent or temporary and likely to continue;
- significantly interferes with educational pursuits; AND
- experiences functional restrictions or limitations in their ability to perform the range of life's activities; AND
- may experience attitudinal and/or environmental barriers that hamper their full and self-directed participation in life.

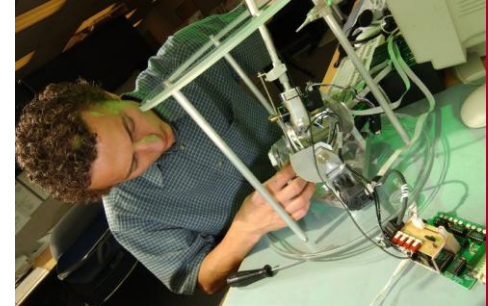
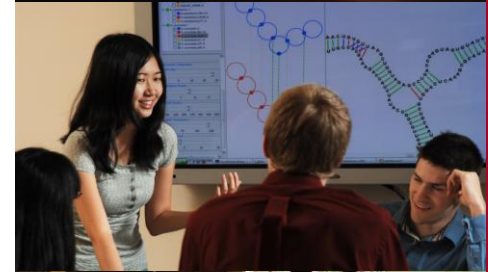
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What About Privacy Issues?

- Acknowledge:
 - your limitations and boundaries
 - the various sources of student support (SLC, HCS, CSD) that have expertise
- Download primary responsibility to CSD
- Consult anonymously
- Refer to any acceptable entry point in system

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SFU Counselling Services



Psychiatrist, Physicians, Physiotherapy, Health Promotion

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What Do We Offer?

- Counselling services to student:
 - Issues range from serious mental health concerns to stress, relationship, family, sexuality
 - Case management – linking students to appropriate resources on/off campus
 - Documentation (where appropriate) and info on WE process
 - Therapy groups and workshops
 - Critical incident stress debriefings and or classroom visits
 - Consultation for parents
 - Consultation / debriefing for staff
 - SOS (Suicide Gatekeeper) training



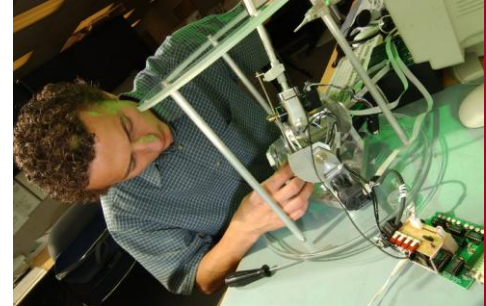
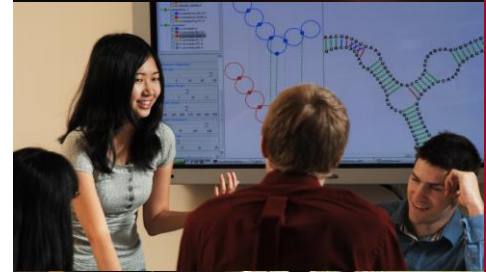
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How can we help?

- Provide medical or counselling support
- Ongoing medical or counselling to resolve issues
- Refer to community agencies
- Act as a point of contact for community health providers
- Provide consultation on mental health and medical issues for other services

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International Student Services



Advising, Mentorship Program, Workshops & Events

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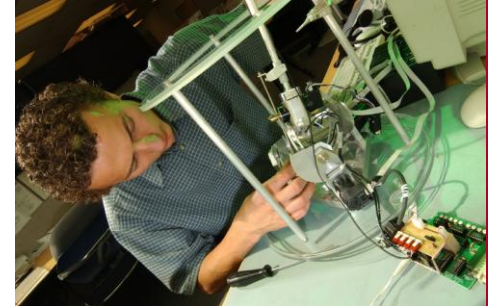
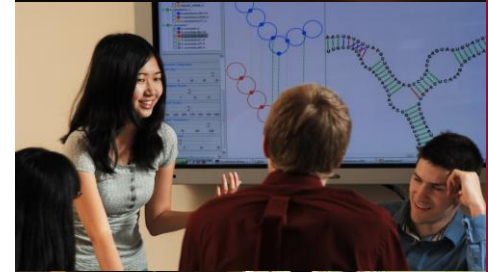
What Do We Offer?

- International Orientation
 - International Mentorship Program
 - International Student Handbook
 - Advising on study/work permits, health insurance, employment, personal, cultural and academic transition
 - Workshops & Social events
 - Student Support Programs
 - Referrals to on & off campus resources & service providers
-
- <http://students.sfu.ca/internationalstudentservices/>
 - email: intl_advising@sfu.ca
 - phone: 778-782-4232



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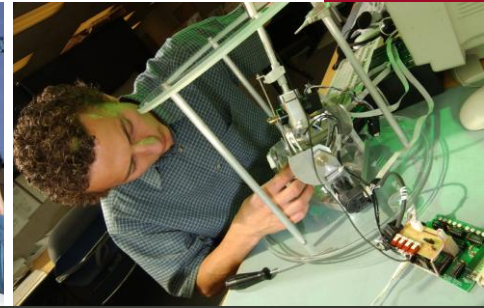
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Withdrawals Under Extenuating Circumstances (WE)

- During weeks 5-12 of the semester, a student may apply for permission to drop a course under Extenuating Circumstances (WE). These are defined in the SFU Calendar as “unusual circumstances beyond a student’s control which make it impossible for the course to be completed”.
- It is not possible to lay down clear rules specifying precisely how WE applications will be assessed because the reasons for such requests are so varied.
- Some guidelines have been in place to help students determine whether they are eligible under medical, employment, compassionate, or other.



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Examples of Withdrawals

- Death in the family
- Car accident
- Medical
- Employment
- Compassionate
- Other (eg. Incarceration)

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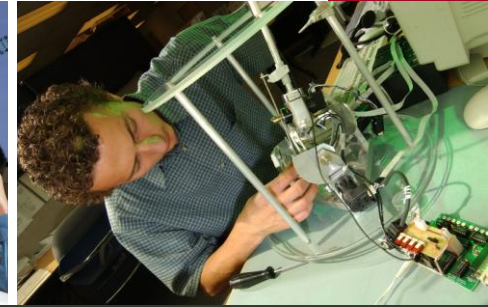
Withdrawals Under Extenuating Circumstances

Pros:

- Overall improvement of handling cases
- Timely & centralized decision
- Fair standards held and designed to help all applicants
- Speak to one person and connect with Student Services
- One-stop service
- Decisions made by one trained person
- Consistency in decisions made

Cons:

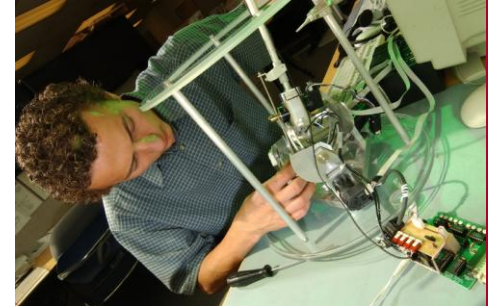
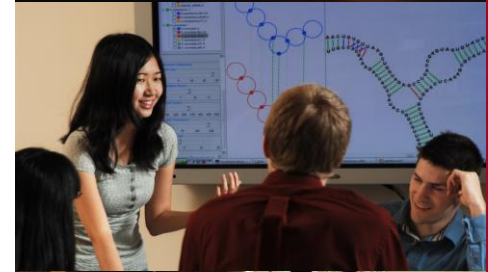
- Student will not know where to go for help as a follow up to the withdrawal
- Large volume of requests, can't follow up in the true sense of case management
- Instructors lack experience to adjudicate varied requests
- Vague guidelines between departments for consistency and fairness
- Privacy issues compromised



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Case Study: A perspective in unity

- ◆ Sayoko is a 21 year old International Student from Japan who has become ill with depression
- ◆ She is in Canada on a Study Permit
- ◆ She needs to withdraw from all her current courses; her physician supports her and believes that although she must drop her current semester, that after a short break she should be well enough to return to her studies by taking a few classes (2)
- ◆ What are, if any, the consequences of this?
- ◆ How do we help her?



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