

How many Administrators do we need at SFU?

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Recently, the Vancouver Sun ran an op-ed piece¹ bemoaning that Universities have been taken over by administrators. How has SFU fared?

I obtained copies of the Organizational Charts and Senior Administrative Personnel listings from the Archives for the year 2000 onwards. From these, I extracted the positions listed, excluding Chairs, Program Directors, and School Directors. Results are summarized in Table 1. The growth in the total number of (senior) administrative positions is striking. Position titles have also been inflated over time with more and more Associate VPs, Executive Directors, and Chiefs. The figures in the later years likely also UNDERcounts the actual number of administrators as several positions that used to be on the organization charts have “disappeared”, but are still present at SFU. For example, the Advancement Office used to list Directors of Advancement for individual faculties on the organizational charts; these are no longer listed on the org charts, but appear in the latest SFU phone book. Similarly, many Faculties now have Directors of Administration and/or Budgets that also don't appear on the organizational charts.

How does the growth of Administrators compare to the growth of students and faculty. As a rough guess, the listing of Administrative Positions has increased from 2 pages in 2000 to 3½ pages in 2010 (a 75% increase). Additionally, I created Schwarz's **AD**ministrative Index (the SAD Index) as the total number of administrative positions (last line of Table 1) and compared it to the growth of student and faculty numbers (Figure 1). Many of us are not surprised that the growth in the number of administrators exceeds that of faculty and student numbers. While some of the growth in administrators has been mandated by government regulations, it is not clear at all that increases in faculty and student numbers require corresponding increases in administrators!

Note that SFUFA is not suggesting that administrators are unnecessary or that current holders of these positions are unqualified. But we keep hearing about future budget constraints and growth in this sector of the University is an obvious place to look for savings. As every gardener knows, it is often necessary to prune back excessive growth to improve the overall health of the plant.

Future Bulletins will look at the increases in compensation of administrators – stay tuned.

Please send comments/suggestions to myself (cschwarz@stat.sfu.ca). The bargaining team is also available for departmental visits to discuss bargaining in more detail.

1 <http://tinyurl.com/6vubwvf>

Table 1. Number of Administrative Positions by Title and Year									
	2000	2003	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
President	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
VP	4	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6
Assoc General Counsel	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	1
AssocVP	3	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4
AssistVP	1	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.
Chief	.	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	3
Executive Director	4	7	2	3	3	3	3	5	6
Senior Director	.	.	.	5	5	5	5	2	2
Special Advisor	.	1	2	1	1	2	.	1	.
Dean	8	8	9	8	8	8	11	11	11
Univ Librarian	1	1	1	1	1	1	.	.	.
AssocDean	10	11	12	15	16	17	17	19	19
Archivist	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Co-ordinator	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Director	30	36	42	43	45	57	58	59	58
Internal Auditor	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Officer	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Treasurer	1	1	1	1	1	.	.	.	.
AssocDirector	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	3
Manager	2	3	2	.	.	3	3	3	5
Senior Analyst	.	1	1	3	3	5	.	.	.
TOTAL	69	83	84	93	98	116	112	116	120

Figures extracted from listing of Administrative Personnel from the Archives and posted at <http://www.stat.sfu.ca/~cshwarz/SFUFA/EBinfo/SeniorAdmin>

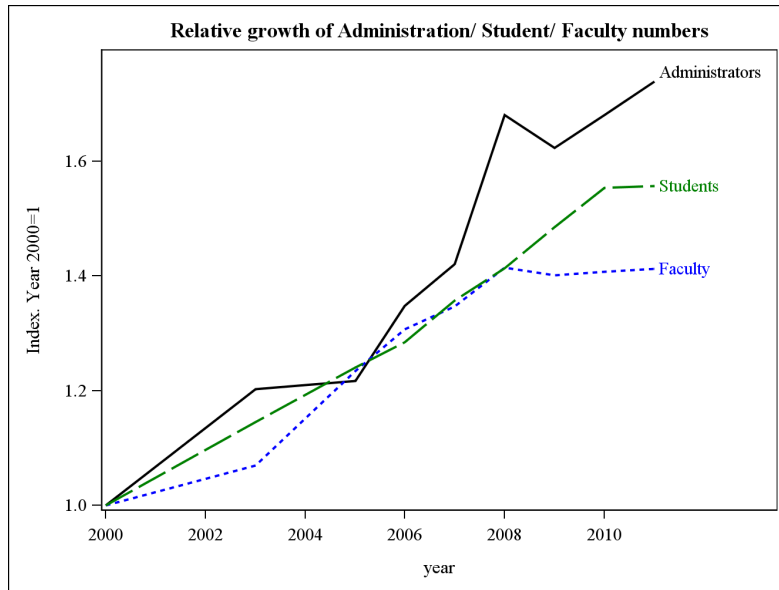


Figure 1. Relative growth of administrator/ faculty/ student numbers with year 2000 as the baseline (=1). Student numbers are based on combined undergraduate and graduate AFTE (activity full time equivalents where 30 credit hours = 1 student AFTE) in the corresponding fiscal year; faculty numbers are full-time equivalents as of 1 Sept in the year.