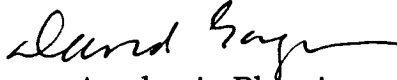


SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate

From: D. Gagan, Chair 
Senate Committee on Academic Planning

Subject: Faculty of Arts -
Curriculum revisions
(Reference: SCUS 97-36)
(Reference: SCAP 97-60a)

Date: November 10, 1997

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies and the Senate Committee on Academic Planning gives rise to the following motion:

Motion:

"that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors as set forth in S.98 - 5 , the deletion of the Latin American Studies Major Program."

For Information:

Acting under delegated authority the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies approved the following curriculum revisions:

Change of requirements for the LAS Minor Program
Change of language requirements for the LAS Joint Majors
Change of requirements for the LAS Joint Majors
Changes to LAS/Sociology and Anthropology Joint Major

Any Senator wishing to consult the full report of curriculum revisions should contact Bobbie Grant, Senate Assistant at 291-3168 or e-mail bgrant@sfu.ca

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

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Summary

The following revisions to the LAS Undergraduate Program take into account the limitations resulting from the dissolution of the former Spanish and Latin American Studies Department and the creation of the Latin American Studies Program.

Given that the restructuring of the program requires, to a large extent, that we "rethink ourselves", particularly in terms of orientation and future goals, we have decided to proceed in stages. We believe it to be more reasonable and effective to introduce immediate changes where it is more practicable at present --credit changes, scheduling and so forth-- and where it will also have a more immediate effect --increased enrolments, better utilization of resources, etc. Changes involving long term implications --definition of streams and/or accomodation of course offerings to suit those streams, for example-- will be done within the next two years.

Deletion of the LAS Major

This major change responds primarily to the need to downsize our program offerings in view of recent fiscal constraints in the university. The LAS Program basically had to choose between retaining either the undergraduate major or the masters program, along with the joint majors and minor programs. In view of the fact that Simon Fraser University offers the only masters program in Latin American Studies in Canada, we consider that the lesser sacrifice is made by abandoning the LAS undergraduate major. Historically, the proportion of students opting for a straight LAS major has fluctuated between 25% and 33%. Our expectation is that after deleting this major most of the students interested in LAS will simply opt for one of the nine (9) joint majors we have to offer.

Furthermore, it is our belief that our graduates will be better prepared to meet market challenges when combining the interdisciplinarity training provided by the LAS Program, if it is supplemented by the disciplinary grounding provided by any of the joint majors that we offer with our associated departments. It seems like the marketplace still has a hard time understanding interdisciplinarity, and such grounding would make it easier for potential employers to identify the additional skills that our LAS graduates would have to offer with a joint major. Furthermore, upon exploring what other programs in North America do in this regard, we have found that most programs tend to have a similar requirement of disciplinary grounding, whether they call it "disciplinary concentration" or "disciplinary major" within LAS.