SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES
MEMORANDUM

S.06-77

TO: Senate

FROM: Trude Heift, Chair, Senate Graduate Studies Committee

SUBJECT: Graduate General Regulation 1.5.1 – Normal grading system (GS2006.12)

DATE: April 25, 2006

cc:

At its meeting of 10th April 2006 Senate Graduate Studies Committee approved the following changes to the graduate general regulation 1.5.1 – Normal grading system, and recommends these changes to Senate for approval:

1.5.1 Normal grading system

Add the following after the list of grades and points:

"The CGPA is the cumulative average of the grade points earned only in Simon Fraser University graduate courses taken towards a master's or doctoral degree."
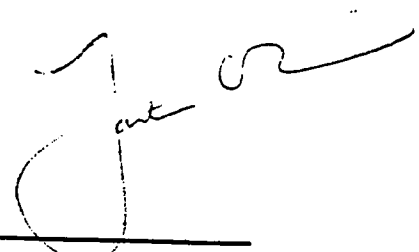
Rationale:
Similar language was in the Calendar until 2002/03, but was inadvertently removed. This needs to be restored due to numerous cases of students asking that undergraduate courses taken during the graduate program be included in the CGPA calculation.

Motion: "that Senate approve the above-noted revision to Graduate General Regulation 1.5.1 Normal Grading System"

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES
MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairs of faculty graduate program committees

FROM: Jonathan Driver, Dean of Graduate Studies

SUBJECT: Two proposed changes to graduate regulations

DATE: 18th January 2006

cc:

At the SGSC meeting of January 16th 2006 two changes to graduate general regulations were discussed, and it was recommended that these first be presented to the graduate program committees in each faculty for comment. I will therefore bring these two proposals to the April SGSC meeting for a decision. This should give the faculty representatives time to discuss these issues and to receive some direction from graduate program chairs on whether or not to support them when SGSC votes.

1. <u>Graduate General Regulations 1.8.2 "Review of unsatisfactory progress", paragraph 1</u>

Add: c) require the supervisory committee to improve its supervisory practices *deferred by SGSC*

Rationale: as currently written, this regulation assumes that unsatisfactory progress is the result of a student's actions. Remedies for unsatisfactory progress are either withdrawal from the University or a requirement that the student make specific improvements in a specific period of time. However, it is possible that unsatisfactory progress could result from inattention or poor supervision on the part of a supervisory committee. The regulation should recognize this possibility, and empower a graduate program committee to require better quality supervision.

2. <u>Graduate General Regulations 1.5.1</u>
After the first section that lists the grades and their points, **add** the following:

The CGPA is the cumulative average of the grade points earned in the Simon Fraser University graduate courses taken towards a graduate diploma, or towards a master's or doctoral degree.

Rationale: very similar language was in the Calendar until 2002/03. We need to restore this language, because there have been cases of graduate students asking that undergraduate courses taken during the graduate program be included in the CGPA calculation. I have been back through the documents pertaining to the review of graduate regulations in 2000/2001, and I believe that this language was inadvertently removed.

Proposed Change to Graduate General Regulations

Proposal: That the following sentence be added to the end of the first paragraph under the list of possible graduate grades in section 1.5.1 of the Graduate General Regulations:

> The CGPA is the cumulative average of the grade points earned in the Simon Fraser University graduate courses taken towards a master's or doctoral degree.

Rationale: This sentence was present in the calendar until the 2002-03 calendar. The current policy appears to be that undergraduate courses can be counted towards the CGPA if the student asks that this happen. Such a policy encourages abuse. In any case the current calendar language must be made clear since the current policy is neither affirmed nor denied by any explicit calendar language. The suggested language has the advantage that all courses used in the computation will have been graded on the same basis.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Lockhart, Graduate Chair
Faculty of Health Sciences

9 January 2006

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