

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
Senate Committee on University Priorities
Memorandum

S.04-18

TO: Senate

FROM: John Waterhouse
Chair, SCUP
Vice President, Academic

RE: Departmental Status for
Gerontology

DATE: January 30, 2004
(revised: February 9, 2004)

The Senate Committee on University Priorities reviewed the proposal for the change of status of the Gerontology Program to a Department at its December 3, 2003 meeting and a revision at its January 7, 2004 meeting. It was resolved to recommend the following motion:

Motion:

“That Senate approve the proposal for Departmental Status for Gerontology.”

encl.

c. A. Wister
J. Pierce



MEMO

To: John T. Pierce, Dean of Arts	From: Gloria Gutman, Director, Gerontology Program
Re: Departmental Status	Date: June 9, 2003 (Amended by J. Pierce Sept. 19, 2003; and by A. Wister, current Director, Dec. 22, 2003) <i>GW</i>

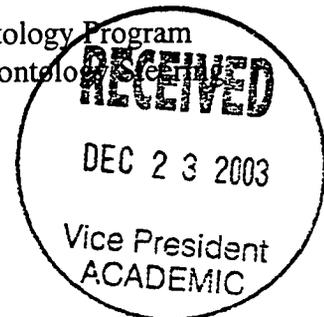
I request that you put the following motion before the appropriate university bodies:

That the status of Gerontology be changed from a Program to a Department.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Gerontology Program. The program has grown extensively since the post-baccalaureate Diploma in Gerontology was introduced in 1983. A Master of Arts in Gerontology was established in 1996 and an undergraduate Minor in Gerontology in 1999. In addition, a proposal is under development for a small, specialized doctoral program in Gerontology, with no new resource implications. The Gerontology Program now offers approximately 26 courses per year enrolling an average of 585 students.

The program's interdisciplinary approach to the study of aging is reflected in the diverse academic backgrounds of its five CFL Faculty members, 16 Adjunct Professors and seven Steering Committee members (see Appendix A). The five CFL faculty housed at Harbour Centre form the core of the Gerontology unit. Our adjunct professors provide supporting roles, including: graduate thesis/project committees (16); research capacity (11); and sessional instructorships (3). The Gerontology Steering Committee, representing four faculties, and has provided valuable direction for both the Gerontology Program and the Gerontology Research Centre (GRC) for 20 years. Members of the committee teach undergraduate courses, sit on Gerontology graduate theses and act as external examiners. The Gerontology Program and its affiliated GRC have developed an international reputation as leaders in the field of gerontology and attract considerable research funding as well as post-doctoral fellows, research associates, and visiting scholars from around the world (see Appendix A and Annual Report). Currently, there are seven such researchers in residence.

In reviewing these and other accomplishments, members of the Gerontology Program unanimously supported the movement to departmental status. The Gerontology Steering Committee also endorsed the move at its last meeting.



A. The Gerontology Program

To ensure a multidisciplinary perspective on aging, the Gerontology Program has worked closely with other academic departments in curriculum development and in the inclusion of faculty as Steering Committee members, joint appointments or associate members. Programs with whom we collaborate regularly on cross-listed and aging-related courses include Education, Psychology, Kinesiology, Criminology and Sociology.

The objective of the Diploma Program curriculum is to provide students with a multidisciplinary perspective on aging as well as requisite knowledge and skills for meaningful intervention and application of research findings to practice.

The Masters program offers specialization in Aging and the Built Environment and in Health Promotion/Population Health and Aging. Both build on the expertise of the Gerontology Faculty and Research Centre. Students are provided training covering a combination of research skills, policy analysis, and practice concepts.

B. Program Growth

The Gerontology Program has expanded its full-time faculty, course offerings and student base. Dr. Gutman (Prof) started the Diploma Program in 1983; in 1991 the current Director, Dr. Wister (Prof), joined the program. Drs. Mitchell (Associate), O'Rourke and Chaudhury (Assistant) were added in 1999 and 2001, in support of the Masters Program. The core faculty have demonstrated excellent performance in teaching, research and service. The average Gerontology teaching scores for the last three years have been 3.4 for undergraduate and 3.6 for graduate courses. Additionally, the five core faculty have published an average of 24 peer-reviewed articles per year since 2000, in addition to multiple books and chapters. Members of the Gerontology faculty are also very successful obtaining peer-reviewed grant funding, including several in excess of a million dollars, such as the Canadian Study of Health and Aging (Gutman); the Cardiovascular Health Best Practice project (Wister); and the proposed Canadian Longitudinal Study of Aging (Wister, O'Rourke).

The Diploma Program only offered nine courses when it began; only a small proportion of which carried a Gerontology designation. It now offers approximately 17 courses (eight/semester), of which our full-time Gerontology faculty teaches the majority. So far, over 200 students have graduated from the Diploma Program, which currently has 74 active students. Since its establishment in 1996, the Masters Program has become the largest Gerontology graduate program in Canada. Thirty-one students have graduated from the Masters Program in Gerontology (approximately six per year), and five (out of 16 thesis stream graduates) have been accepted into Ph.D. programs (University of Southern California; University of Wisconsin; University of Victoria; and University of Toronto-2). There are currently 29 active graduate students. All eight graduate courses are offered each year and are taught by our five full-time Gerontology faculty.

The Minor Program has also been growing steadily since it was introduced four years ago. The first semester it was introduced one student applied for the credential. There are currently

fourteen students working towards their Minor, and over fifteen students have graduated with a Gerontology minor.

C. Community Outreach

Together, the GRC and Gerontology Program serve as a focal point for the community for research, education and information on individual and population aging. The Centre also provides consultation and technical assistance to academic, government, public and private organizations on research, design, program development and evaluation. A full-time librarian is housed at the GRC to support students and community.

D. Academic and Administrative Resources

No additional academic resources are required for the proposed Department of Gerontology. Administrative support staff, operating budget and initial equipment needs will be transferred from the Gerontology Program.

E. Conclusion

The rationale for departmental status is founded on the unique development of quality undergraduate and graduate education in gerontology at SFU; the strong national and international reputation of our academic unit, as well as for research excellence and innovation in the study of aging; and the emergence of gerontology as a discipline in its own right. As a department, Gerontology will be able to encourage further interdisciplinary approaches within the Faculty of Arts through stronger representation on university committees, and will be in a better position to meet the student demand and opportunities that lie in the years ahead.

**Appendix A
Gerontology Faculty and Steering Committee Members**

Director and Professor, Gerontology Program

A.V. Wister BA, MA, PhD (W Ont),

Professors

G.M. Gutman BA (Br Col), MA (Alta), PhD (Br Col),

Associate Professors

B. Mitchell BA, MA (Wat), PhD (McM),
(joint appointment Department of Sociology and Anthropology)

Assistant Professors

H. Chaudhury BArch (Bangladesh), MSc Architecture (Texas A&M), PhD
(Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

N. O'Rourke HBBA (Laurier), Dip Ed (Br Col), MA (Br Col), PhD (Ottawa)
(associate member Department of Psychology),

Adjunct Professors

K. Anderson BA (Alta), BSW, MSW, (Calg), HSM, CHE

S. Brink BSc (Madras), MSc, PhD (Purdue)

M. Carr BN (McG), MSc (Calif Coll Health Science)

Y. Carrière BSc, MSc, PhD (Montr)

S. Crawford BHE (Br Col), MSc (Lond), PhD (S Fraser), RDN

V. Doyle BA (Vic), EdM (Harv), PhD (S Fraser)

E. Gallagher RN, BSc (Wind), MSc (Duke), PhD (S Fraser)

J. Gray BA, MA, (Canterbury), PhD (Lond)

M. Hollander BA (McG), MSc (Br Col), PhD (Vic)

D. Jackson AA (Eastern Arizona Coll), BTh (Sask)

T. Koch BA (Clark), MA, PhD (Br Col)

L. McDonald-Miszczak BA (Alta), MA, PhD (Vic)

A. Mihailidis BASc, MSc (Tor), PhD (Strathclyde), PEng

J. Small BA (Central Wash), MA (New Mexico), PhD (S Calif)

C. Spencer BA (Calg), LLB, LLM (Sask)

L. Trottier BSc PHARM (Br Col)

Steering Committee Members

C.B. Dean,

Associate Professor, Statistics and Actuarial Science Department

P. Dossa,

Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

R. Gordon, Chair

Professor and Chair, School of Criminology

J. Martin,

Professor, Faculty of Education

W. Parkhouse,

Professor, School of Kinesiology

A. Rawicz,

Professor, School of Engineering Science

W.L. Thornton,

Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology

Visiting Scholars 2003-2004

S. Hori

Professor, Dep't of Lifelong Education, Osaka University, Japan

S.K. Lee

Senior Deputy Director, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Korea

T. Kim

Associate Professor, Cheju National University, Korea