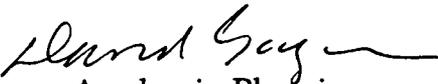


SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate

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

Subject: Faculty of Science -  
Graduate Program in Molecular Biology  
and Biochemistry  
(SGSC Meeting Nov. 17, 1997)  
(SCAP Reference: SCAP 97-57)

Date: December 9, 1997

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Action undertaken by the Senate Graduate Studies Committee 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 - 10 , that the full administrative authority for the Graduate Program in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry (MBB) be transferred to the Biochemistry Program from the Departments of Chemistry and Biological Sciences. For the purpose of assignment of Teaching Assistantships, graduate students qualified to teach in, but not registered in, a departmental program and supervised by a member of the department will be given preference over external graduate students, undergraduate students, and candidates for appointments as External Teaching Assistants."

**For Information:**

Acting under delegated authority the Senate Graduate Studies Committee approved the following change to the Calendar entry:

- From:** The interdepartmental Molecular Biology and Biochemistry graduate program (MBB) is administered by a steering committee consisting of members of the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry (IMBB). Members have appointments in the Departments of Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Physics. In addition, the IMBB has associate members from these and other departments who may serve as senior supervisors.
- To:** The Molecular Biology and Biochemistry (MBB) graduate program is administered through the Biochemistry Program by a steering committee consisting of members of the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry (IMBB). Members of the IMBB have appointments in the Biochemistry Program, and/or Departments of Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Physics. In addition, the IMBB has associate members who may also serve as senior supervisors for students in the MBB graduate program.

# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

## MEMORANDUM

To: B.P. Clayman,  
Dean of Graduate Studies

From: C.H.W. Jones, Dean  
Faculty of Science

Subject: **MBB**

Date: October 24, 1997

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At the Faculty of Science meeting on October 20, 1997, the following motion was approved:

*That full administrative authority for the Graduate Program in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry (MBB) be transferred to the Biochemistry Program from the Departments of Chemistry and Biological Sciences. For the purpose of assignment of Teaching Assistantships, graduate students qualified to teach in, but not registered in, a departmental program and supervised by a member of the department will be given preference over external graduate students, undergraduate students, and candidates for appointments as External Teaching Assistants.*

*And that the Calendar Entry for this program be changed,*

*From:*

*The interdepartmental Molecular Biology and Biochemistry graduate program (MBB) is administered by a steering committee consisting of members of the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry (IMBB). Members have appointments in the Departments of Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Physics. In addition, the IMBB has associate members from these and other departments who may serve as senior supervisors.*

*To:*

*The Molecular Biology and Biochemistry (MBB) graduate program is administered through the Biochemistry Program by a steering committee consisting of members of the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry (IMBB). Members of the IMBB have appointments in the Biochemistry Program, and/or Departments of Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Physics. In addition, the IMBB has associate members who may also serve as senior supervisors for students in the MBB graduate program.*

Background and rationale:

The MBB Graduate Program was approved in 1995 (Senate document S95-18). Initially, it was envisioned as an independent program administered by the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry (IMBB), with its members and associate members serving as senior supervisors of students in the program. This proposed arrangement was approved as a Statement of Intent by the Faculty of Science and was approved in principle by SCAP. However, the Dean of Graduate

Studies maintained that research institutes cannot administer teaching programs and that interdepartmental programs must be administered by a department, school, or independent program. The MBB Graduate Program was consequently initiated as two parallel streams in the Departments of Chemistry and Biological Sciences. The MBB Graduate Program is overseen by a Steering Committee consisting of members of the IMBB, which elects a Graduate Program Committee. It reviews students for admission, and ranks applicants for SFU Graduate Fellowships and external scholarships, then advising the departments about MBB graduate students enrolled in that department. The departments have final responsibility for recommending students for admission, monitoring their progress, ranking them for fellowships/scholarships, and communicating with the Dean of Graduate studies.

This arrangement has proven cumbersome and fails to acknowledge that some faculty members in the MBB program do not hold appointments in Chemistry or Biosciences, making it difficult or impossible for them to accept students into the program. This proposal would transfer authority for the program to those most concerned with its success (the MBB Steering Committee), with full administrative responsibility to be held by the Biochemistry Program. The interests of the students will be served in a more informed manner by this arrangement, and faculty workload will be reduced by eliminating some duplication of effort. There should be no net increase in operating cost since there will be no net change in the number of students (presently about 45) resulting from this change of an existing program.

The MBB Graduate Program will have representation on Faculty and University committees identical to that afforded to departmental graduate programs.

Please include this item on the agenda of the next meeting of SGSC for consideration and approval.

CHW. Jones.  
C.H.W. Jones

CHWJ:rh

- c. B.P. Brandhorst, Director, IMBB  
A. Lachlan, Chair, Faculty of Science Graduate Studies Committee