

S.91-31

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Vice-President Academic

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate
From: J. Munro, Chair
Senate Committee on
Academic Planning
Subject: Supervisory Committee
Composition
(SCAP 91 - 16)
Date: May 16, 1991

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

MOTION: "that Senate approve, as set forth in S.91-31 , the changes to General Regulations 1.2 and 1.6.4."

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Memorandum

DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES

TO: Senate

FROM: B. P. Clayman

SUBJECT: Supervisory Committee Composition

DATE: May 16, 1991

The Senate Graduate Studies Committee recommended to SCAP changes to graduate regulations 1.2 and 1.6.4 concerning the composition of supervisory committees. SCAP approved the recommendation after minor editorial change. Given below are the present and proposed regulations and a brief rationale for the change.

Regulation 1.2

FROM: Supervisory Committee

The student's Supervisory Committee is composed of two or more faculty members who help the student define a program of studies and report on the student's progress to the Graduate Program Committee. The Supervisory Committee forms part of the student's final examining committee.

TO: Supervisory Committee

The student's Supervisory Committee is composed of two or more *persons* who help the student define a program of studies and report on the student's progress to the Graduate Program Committee. The Supervisory Committee forms part of the student's final examination committee.

Regulation 1.6.4 Supervisory Committee

FROM: In consultation with the graduate student, the Senior Supervisor shall recommend a Supervisory Committee composed of the Senior Supervisor and at least one other faculty member. This recommendation shall be made during the same semester in which the Senior Supervisor is appointed. The composition of the Supervisory Committee for which the Senior Supervisor is Chair, shall be approved by the Graduate Program Committee and sent to the Dean of Graduate Studies for final approval. It shall be sent to the Faculty Graduate Studies Committee for information.

The Supervisory Committee is responsible for helping the student develop a program of study leading to a degree and reporting on the progress of the student's work. The Committee shall be available for consultation.

TO: *In consultation with the student, the Senior Supervisor shall recommend the composition of the Supervisory Committee. The committee consists of the Senior Supervisor and, in most cases, at least one other faculty member. For degrees designated by Senate as professional degrees, the other member(s) of the committee may be other suitably qualified person(s).* This recommendation shall be made during the same semester in which the Senior Supervisor is appointed. The composition of the Supervisory Committee, for which the Senior Supervisor is Chair, shall be approved by the Graduate Program Committee and sent to the Dean of Graduate Studies for final approval. It shall be sent to the Faculty Graduate Studies Committee for information.

The Supervisory Committee is responsible for helping the student develop a program of study leading to a degree and reporting on the progress of the student's work. The Committee shall be available for consultation.

Brief Rationale

As stated in regulation 1.2, the Supervisory Committee helps a student develop a program of study, reports on the student's progress and forms the core of the student's Examining Committee. The main requirement in these roles is relevant expertise. The Supervisory Committee now consists of the Senior Supervisor (who must be a faculty member holding the rank of Assistant Professor or above) and at least one other faculty member, all chosen for the relevance of their expertise to the student's work.

For students in professional programs (e.g. M.Ed., M.B.A, M.Eng., M.P.M., M.R.M.), the nature of their interests frequently presents a need for supervision by qualified professionals with relevant expertise. These people may be Adjunct Professors, Research Associates or prominent practitioners in the field of the student's work. Often, they have credentials that would have made them eligible for faculty appointment if they had chosen academic careers. At present, they are appointed to a Supervisory Committee in addition to the two faculty members who are required under the present regulations. In many such cases, there is no functional need for the second faculty member because adequate supervision is provided by the Senior Supervisor and the "third member"; the second member is appointed only to satisfy the regulation.

The proposed change would remove, for student's in professional Master's programs, the requirement that the second member of the Supervisory Committee be a faculty member. It would not remove the requirements that the Senior Supervisor be a faculty member and that the second member have relevant expertise and qualifications. Supervisory Committees would continue to require the approval of the Dean of Graduate Studies, who would continue to require curricula vitae for persons who are not faculty members, prior to consideration of a recommendation of their appointment to a Supervisory Committee. It would provide the flexibility needed to accommodate properly the needs of our professional Master's programs.



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