

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

8.87-3

MEMORANDUM

To..... Members of Senate.....

From... Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies

Subject..... Senate Graduate Studies Committee.

Date.... February 9, 1987.....

REPORT TO SENATE OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SENATE GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE FROM JANUARY 1986 TO DECEMBER 1986.

Number of Meetings - Five (5)

The Senate Graduate Studies Committee acted with delegated power from Senate to:-

1. Recommendations for Admission under Special Arrangements. Ten recommendations were considered. Six were approved, three were referred back and one was rejected.
2. Approved the following change in the General Regulations - Graduate Studies, Section 1.5.1:
Delete: The CGPA is the cumulative average of the grade points earned in all the graduate courses accepted towards a Master's or Doctoral degree at this University.
Add: The CGPA is the cumulative average of the grade points earned in the SFU graduate courses taken towards a Master's or Doctoral degree.
3. Recommendation that the applicants to Graduate Studies be charged an application fee. This was not approved.
4. The Dean of Graduate Studies was delegated the power to approve Recommendations for the Award of the Degree if all University requirements are met.
5. The Committee approved that a sub-committee of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee be set up to investigate instituting a policy concerning conflict of interest, especially in sexual relationships, between Supervisor, or other Committee members and the student. This Committee has been abandoned due to lack of interest, and in view of the expected report of the Committee on Sexual Harassment.
6. Recommendation that the Executive Committee of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee be dissolved. This was approved.
7. Graduate Curriculum Changes for the Departments of Economics, English, History, Psychology, Chemistry, Mathematics & Statistics, Physics, Computing Science, Engineering Science and Kinesiology.
8. Requested a report on Special Arrangements students. This is to be ready in early 1987.



B.P. Clayman
Dean of Graduate Studies.

DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Report to Senate

February 1987

The Dean of Graduate Studies is responsible for the general supervision of graduate work at the University and is Chairman of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee. This report outlines the position of graduate studies at Simon Fraser University, describes some changes made in the 1986/87 year and makes recommendations for future directions.

I. Enrollments and Degrees

Table I shows the recent history of graduate enrollments and degrees granted. It is taken from the 1986 S.F.U. Fact Book which contains more detailed breakdowns by department and Faculty.

The FTE enrollment figures must be treated with caution. The process for determining them is subject to considerable variation among departments and is often based on incomplete information on a student's activities. In consultation with the Director of Analytical Studies, Walter Wattamaniuk, I am working on a more consistent and logical scheme for determining FTE enrollments.

II. Degree Completion

Table II is an historical survey of the times required by S.F.U. students to earn their graduate degrees. The "historical" data are taken from a survey done in 85-2 by Dr. M. L. Bowman, then the former Associate Dean of Graduate Studies. The more recent data in Table III are from the new Graduate Studies Database.

I am concerned by what appear in many cases to be excessive times for degree completion. When resources are limited, it is especially important that they be used effectively. I am actively encouraging departments to ensure both that their degree requirements are realistic and that their students make satisfactory progress, as required by Senate regulations, toward meeting those requirements.

I am also pressing for timely appointments of supervisory committees. In establishing the Graduate Studies Database, I encountered many students who had been here for several years, yet apparently had no supervisory committees. This situation has largely been remedied.

III. Grades

Table IV gives information on the S.F.U. graduate grades of all students enrolled in the Fall 86 semester; it includes courses taken in that semester up to the end of 86-2 and excludes students who had not yet taken an S.F.U. graduate course. Data were taken from the Registrar's data files and incorporated into and processed within the Graduate Studies Database.

For each department, a number of measures of the grade distribution are presented. The weighted CGPA ("Wted") weights each student's CGPA by the number of semester hours completed. The average CGPA ("Aver.") does no weighting, but counts all students equivalently. The median ("Med.") CGPA and the N% CGPA give the CGPA at the median of the distribution and at the Nth percentile. For example, in the third entry - Business, the top 10% of the students have CGPA of 3.80 or higher, the top 20% have CGPA of 3.62 or higher and so on.

The tremendous range in the nature of the grade distributions among departments may stem from two causes: (1) differences in grading practices and (2) differences in the abilities of students. I believe that, most likely, it is a mixture of these with the former a larger contributor than the latter. This range is one of the reasons that I have moved away from interdepartmental comparisons of CGPA in the ranking of applicants for S.F.U. graduate scholarships.

IV. Grading System

One other possible reason for the variations noted in Table III is the coarseness of the grading system. With only A, B, P, and F to choose from, and B = 3.0 minimum CGPA continuation, it is likely that some instructors were reluctant to assign B's. This situation is modified by the introduction of A-, B+ and B- grades, effective 86-3. It will be interesting to observe whether significant changes in the "Grades Awarded Average" occur in 86-3; these grades are not yet available in summary form.

V. Special Arrangements

Table V is a summary of the status of students enrolled under Special Arrangements. The Senate Graduate Studies Committee serves as their Graduate Program Committee. As its chairman, I have given special attention to these students. With the goal of ensuring their satisfactory progress, I have brought all their supervisory committees into compliance with Senate's regulations and, as of 86-3, require up-to-date progress reports as a condition of registration. To date, the response of students and supervisors has been excellent.

I am pleased to report that the defences of theses completed under Special Arrangements, which I chair, have all been quite successful. Table VI provides some data on degree completion. Historically, Special Arrangements have been a high risk area; students either succeed or fail spectacularly. Numbers of students enrolled have remained roughly constant around 30. Degree completion has been highly variable: 6 in 1986, 2 in 1985, 6 in 1984, 1 in 1983, 2 in 1982, and 4 in 1981. Other students have dropped out. By the steps outlined above and by rigorous enforcement of the criteria for entrance into Special Arrangements, I hope to improve the success rate.

At the request of the S.G.S.C., I have undertaken a review of the Special Arrangements program. The results of that review and any resultant changes to the program will be reported to Senate.

VI. Future

I remain optimistic about the future of graduate studies at S.F.U. The quality of most of the thesis defences which I have attended has been high. With rare exception, applicants recommended by departments for entry into Ph.D. programs have been very strong. Through more aggressive recruiting of excellent applicants with the aid of entrance scholarships, more rigorous enforcement of the present requirements for satisfactory progress, and more careful monitoring of student supervision, it should be possible to improve the quality of graduate programs and decrease times for degree completion, thus making more effective use of our limited resources.



TABLE I

	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>
Total Graduate Enrollment						
Head Count	1138	1243	1355	1414	1419	1377
FTE	886	937	1054	1137	1153	1125
Master's Degrees Awarded	154	121	191	208	218	279
Ph.D. Degrees Awarded	21	25	22	30	37	39
TOTAL	175	146	213	238	255	318

TABLE II

Average Semesters Required for Degree Completion

<u>Dept.</u>	<u>Ave. Time for Master's Degree</u>		<u>Ave. Time for Doctoral Degree</u>	
	<u>Historical</u> <u>1974-80</u>	<u>86-1</u>	<u>Historical*</u> <u>1974-80</u>	<u>86-1</u>
ARCH	12.09	11.00		25.00
BISC	11.77	10.63		14.80
BUS	8.96	9.76		-----
CHEM	10.06	9.50		18.50
CMNS	12.74	17.00		-----
CMPT	9.00	7.50		-----
CRIM	10.60	9.00		-----
DLLL	9.33	16.80		-----
ECON	9.33	8.09		17.00
EDUC	9.75	10.96		-----
ENGL	11.67	8.00		-----
GEOG	10.86	11.00		26.00
HIST	11.08	17.00		14.00
KINES	9.26	11.00		-----
MASTA	9.96	10.00		20.00
MRM	-----	10.75		-----
PHYS	9.06	17.00		11.00
POL	10.06	4.00		-----
PSYC	10.62	7.50		20.00
SAR	12.33	8.00		-----

* Average = 13.4 for 117 SFU Doctoral graduates.

TABLE III

DEGREE COMPLETION TIMES (SEMESTERS)

Degree:		<u>Master's</u>		<u>Ph.D.</u>	
Completion in:		<u>86-3</u>	<u>85-3-86-3</u>	<u>86-3</u>	<u>85-3-86-3</u>
ARCH	MA	13.00	13.75	27.00	21.50
BISC	MPM	11.33	10.18	16.00	15.64
"	MSC	11.00	11.36	-	-
BUS	MBA	13.00	10.69	-	-
CHEM	MSC	-	8.75	-	16.00
CMNS	MA	13.00	10.73	-	11.00
COMPT	MSC	-	8.93	-	11.00
CRIM	MA	-	11.00	-	11.00
DLLL	MA	-	8.00	-	-
ECON	MA	3.50	7.00	20.00	18.11
EDUC	MA	12.18	12.34	8.00	8.50
"	MED	13.00	12.09	-	-
"	MSC	-	15.00	-	-
ENGL	MA	18.33	14.24	-	20.50
GEOG	MA	-	12.50	-	27.50
"	MSC	10.00	9.33	-	-
HIST	MA	14.00	14.60	-	14.00
KINES	MSC	16.00	10.86	-	-
MASTA	MSC	7.00	7.91	13.00	13.50
MRM	MRM	13.00	10.57	-	-
PHYS	MSC	10.00	10.50	-	13.60
POL	MA	-	13.00	-	-
PSYC	MA	7.00	7.54	20.00	19.30
SA	MA	-	15.00	-	-
SAR	MA	7.00	8.33	17.33	18.80
"	MSC	-	19.00	-	-
WS	MA	6.00	6.00	-	-
Average/Number		11.97/61	10.94/361	17.13/15	17.05/64

TABLE IV

SUMMARY DATA ON SFU GRADUATE GRADE POINT AVERAGES OF MASTER'S & PHD STUDENTS
WHO HAVE TAKEN SFU GRADUATE COURSES AS OF SEMESTER 86-2

Dept	# of Stu.	CGPA 25%	CGPA 20%	CGPA 10%	CGPA Aver.	CGPA Med.	CGPA Wted.
ARCH	30	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.74	3.75	3.73
BISC	126	3.92	4.00	4.00	3.59	3.71	3.63
BUS	120	3.56	3.62	3.80	3.35	3.30	3.36
CHEM	48	3.75	3.85	4.00	3.53	3.50	3.56
CMNS	39	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.56	3.70	3.60
CMPT	68	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.56	3.67	3.55
CRIM	44	3.78	3.81	4.00	3.48	3.67	3.51
DLLL	16	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.82	3.91	3.82
ECON	82	3.62	3.74	3.86	3.37	3.42	3.42
EDUC	318	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.64	3.75	3.67
ENGL	61	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.59	3.80	3.66
GEOG	36	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.63	3.71	3.66
HIST	30	3.80	4.00	4.00	3.42	3.50	3.50
KINES	33	3.83	3.86	4.00	3.68	3.73	3.70
MASTA	52	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.62	3.80	3.64
MRM	50	3.76	3.80	3.86	3.45	3.59	3.52
PHIL	5	3.50	3.50	3.60	2.82	2.00	3.00
PHYS	39	3.88	4.00	4.00	3.59	3.57	3.59
POL	12	3.83	4.00	4.00	3.65	3.60	3.69
PSYC	74	3.86	3.88	4.00	3.64	3.69	3.63
SA	28	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.80	4.00	3.81
SAR	27	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.72	3.79	3.72
WS	5	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.67	3.33	3.50

TABLE V

In SAR Department, all current students as of January 26, 1987

Student	Program	Sr. Supr	Other Supervisors	Sen Enter		
C. BAILEY	831900550 MA	GATES	BOYER	COHN	83-1	
R. EIGENFELDT	851008573 MA	BARTLETT	TRUAX	UNDERHILL	85-3	
S. MCLARDY	773046859 MA	GATES	WAGNER	GARCIA	83-3	
M. TREVIN	842900656 MA	GARCIA	KIRSCHNER	GATES	85-1	
D. WOLF	833904980 MA	DIAMOND	STELLA	ALDERSON	83-3	
S. WRIGHT	793014812 MSC	CRAWFORD	HARESTAD	BEYERSTEIN	85-3	
E. BRISTOWE	803902832 PHD	GUTMAN	MALLINSON	HILL	VERDUN-JONES	80-2
J. DEBO	653011323 PHD	VERDUN-JONES	GAVIGAN	PALYS	GUTH	80-3
V. DOYLE	863904710 PHD					86-3
M. ELLIOTT	823073481 PHD	AKES	KODPHAN	BARNARD		83-1
P. GADGIL	833904774 PHD	MORRISON	FUNT, BL	COLBOW		83-3
E. GALLAGHER	853904043 PHD	GUTMAN	GEE	JACKSON, MA		85-3
D. GODFREY-SMITH	823903802 PHD	HUNTLEY	RIECKHOFF	HICKIN		86-1
P. JAIN	773900881 PHD	BERGGREN	GAY	CLEVELAND		84-1
D. MCCABE	823904511 PHD	COLEMAN	BUSHE	MANLEY-CASIMIR		82-3
T. MCGUIRE	671005596 PHD	BRANTINGHAM, PL	BRANTINGHAM, PJ	FATTAH		82-3
R. SEPT	733003552 PHD	MALLINSON	WIDEEN	WEXLER	BUSHE	82-3
M. SMITH	803903038 PHD	MARCIA	PROCK	CONROY	SHEPPS	80-3
T. SUSSEL	783030760 PHD	MANLEY-CASIMIR	SMITH	SMITH		86-2
J. WINTERDYK	783032337 PHD	ROESCH	CORRADO	JACKSON, MA		82-3
C. WRIGHT	752008938 PHD	COPEs	GEEN	MAKI	HEAPS	85-3
D. MOTTET	851020826 SPECL					86-3
D. VOGT	863009419 SPECL					86-3

Number of records in SAR: 23

TABLE VI

Times for Degree Completion for Graduands Completing Degree Requirements
in 853 and Thereafter.

Dept	Pgm	Name	Semester Completed	Semester Started	Semesters in Program
SAR	MA	P. DOLDEN	853	823	10
SAR	MA	A. DAVIS	861	833	8
SAR	MA	M. LEE	863	843	7
SAR	3	Graduands;	8.33 = Average Semesters in the MA Program		
SAR	MSC	A. MALLINSON	853	783	22
SAR	MSC	A. MCBRIDE	853	803	16
SAR	2	Graduands;	19.00 = Average Semesters in the MSC Program		
SAR	PHD	A. LUKE	863	812	17
SAR	PHD	M. REYES	862	782	25
SAR	PHD	E. PETERSEN	863	823	13
SAR	PHD	A. RAHMAN	863	793	22
SAR	PHD	P. HOWARD	862	801	20
SAR	PHD	N. MCNULTY	862	811	17
SAR	6	Graduands;	19.00 = Average Semesters in the PHD Program		

Totals: 5 Master's Graduands and 6 Ph.D. Graduands

12.60 = Average Semesters in the Master's Program Overall

19.00 = Average Semesters in the PhD Program Overall