

FOR INFORMATION

S I M O N F R A S E R U N I V E R S I T Y

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Senate

FROM: J.W.G. Ivany,
Chair, SCAP

SUBJECT: Faculty of Arts
Ethnic Relations Program
Reference: SCUS 87-15 (revised)
SCAP 87-15

DATE: Nov.19, 1987

Acting under delegated authority, the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies approved the following minor modifications to the Ethnic Relations Diploma Program as set out in S.87-44. SCUS further ruled that the Program should be subject to a review in three years time.

1. Alteration of the program requirements to require completion of at least 15 credit hours to be selected from a list of 8 core courses rather than completion of 5 specified courses.
2. Specification of a list of optional courses and the mechanism by which unlisted courses may be accepted for credit in the program.
3. Deletion of the restriction of admission into the program only once a year in the fall semester.
4. Transformation of the requirement that "Each student may be required to participate in a one-day orientation seminar prior to beginning the program" into an entitlement of students "To participate in occasional workshops and seminars on ethnic relations sponsored by the ethnic relations committee".
5. Deletion of the requirement that S.A. 303 must be taken in the first semester.
6. Amendment of the calendar description of the program.

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PROPOSED REVISIONS

EXTENDED STUDIES DIPLOMA IN ETHNIC RELATIONS

(A) INTRODUCTION

During the past year the Steering Committee for the Ethnic Studies Diploma Program (the Ethnic Relations Committee) has undertaken a thorough review of the program and has considered various means for improving the accessibility of the diploma program to students. From an initial enrollment of 30 students who started in the program at its inception in September 1984, only three are currently active, and there has been only one graduate.

Nevertheless, this is more an indication of logistical difficulties with the program as it currently exists than a measure of public demand for an extended studies diploma program in ethnic relations. When the program was advertised prior to its introduction in 1984/3 it prompted several hundred inquiries from members of the public and more than 60 applications for admission in the first semester. Since that time minimal advertising of the program and loss of a part-time ethnic relations coordinator employed by Continuing Studies has decreased its visibility within the community. But even now the Program Advisor (Mrs. Jean Jordan, Departmental Assistant, Sociology and Anthropology) receives more than 30 inquiries concerning the program each semester. There is, in short, substantial "hard" evidence of public interest in the program. These revisions to the academic program are being made at the same time as we seek to reinstate public programming in ethnic relations.

Moreover, the academic reasons for continuing and further developing such a program of studies are obvious to those who are well informed about world issues. Ethnic relations remain a source of concern and conflict in the Lower Mainland, in Canada, and throughout the world today. One has only to consider the highly publicized efforts of native peoples to achieve recognition of aboriginal rights, the international attention being focused on the nature of ethnic relations in South Africa, the recent ethnically based coup which overturned the Fijian government, and the Canadian Sikh community's continuing involvement in inter-ethnic struggles both in India and in Canada to appreciate the fundamental significance of ethnic relations in today's world. Simon Fraser University's extended studies diploma in ethnic relations was the first of its kind to be offered by a Canadian university. It remains a program with enormous potential both to foster valuable scholarly work and to make the benefits of this research available to a public which is crying out for information and advice concerning issues involving ethnic relations.

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The initial proposal to develop an extended studies diploma program in ethnic relations cited the following as its goals:

- 1) to foster inquiry into theoretical and applied questions pertaining to ethnic relations;
- 2) to provide an opportunity for mature students, especially those currently employed in human services professions, to continue their education in a specialization of particular interest to themselves and their employers;
- 3) to serve as a resource to public institutions and the community at large by providing an opportunity for professionals to apply theoretical knowledge to their practical experiences; and
- 4) to provide an opportunity for professionals from a wide variety of fields to meet and collaborate on examination of issues of mutual concern.

These remain the goals of the program. What this present proposal for revising the program seeks to do is (1) to remove some of the logistical bottlenecks that constrain the accessibility of the program and (2) to make use of a broader range of faculty and courses in enhancing the scope of the program.

Interviews with the students and other sources of information indicate that while there is considerable public interest in the program, accessibility of courses is a major obstacle to diploma completion. Concurrent with gathering feedback from students, the Steering Committee has surveyed all departments to identify faculty with expertise in the area of ethnic relations. We find the number of such faculty to be larger than the number in our initial identification five years ago. In turn, these faculty have made us aware of a broader range of courses appropriate for inclusion in the diploma program.

In order to make the program more accessible and to utilize a broader range of faculty expertise, the following proposed revisions to the program are recommended.

(B) REVISIONS TO THE PROGRAM

- 1 ALTERATION OF THE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS TO REQUIRE COMPLETION OF AT LEAST FIFTEEN CREDIT HOURS TO BE SELECTED FROM A LIST OF 8 CORE COURSES RATHER THAN COMPLETION OF 5 SPECIFIED COURSES.

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RATIONALE:

As well as taking advantage of additional courses offered by the University which have primary significance for an understanding of ethnic relations, this measure will serve to overcome the problems students have in the past encountered as a result of the sometimes inconvenient scheduling of required courses. It should be noted that 3 of these core courses (CRIM 311, EDUC 441 and SA 386) are currently available as distance education courses and that 2 other courses from the core list may soon become available in the form of correspondence courses. This will enhance the availability of core courses to students.

2. SPECIFICATION OF A LIST OF OPTIONAL COURSES AND THE MECHANISM BY WHICH UNLISTED COURSES MAY BE ACCEPTED FOR CREDIT IN THE PROGRAM.

RATIONALE:

The listing of specified optional courses in the calendar will assist students to plan their studies and will also indicate the range of courses dealing with ethnic relations offered by the university. The mechanism by which courses not listed either as core or optional courses may be considered for credit in the program will provide flexibility in ensuring that courses offered occasionally (eg. graduate and special topics courses as well as new courses) may be utilized in a timely and efficient manner.

3. DELETION OF THE RESTRICTION OF ADMISSION INTO THE PROGRAM ONLY ONCE A YEAR. IN THE FALL SEMESTER.

RATIONALE:

This restriction has proved to be an unnecessary impediment to enrollment in the program.

4. TRANSFORMATION OF THE REQUIREMENT THAT "EACH STUDENT MAY BE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN A ONE-DAY ORIENTATION SEMINAR PRIOR TO BEGINNING THE PROGRAM" INTO AN ENTITLEMENT OF STUDENTS "TO PARTICIPATE IN OCCASIONAL WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS ON ETHNIC RELATIONS SPONSORED BY THE ETHNIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE".

RATIONALE:

It was originally intended that a required orientation seminar be held at the beginning of the fall semester to prepare students for the program. Since the restriction of admission of students only during the fall semester is recommended to be deleted, it would not be practical to offer such an orientation seminar at the beginning of each semester. Instead the Steering Committee proposes to sponsor occasional seminars and workshops to which both interested faculty and students will be invited.

5. DELETION OF THE REQUIREMENT THAT S.A. 303 MUST BE TAKEN IN THE FIRST SEMESTER.

RATIONALE:

Since additional courses are being added to the list of core courses, it is no longer deemed necessary for students to complete S.A. 303 during their first semester in the program. Moreover, since students will henceforth be admitted into the program in any semester, and since the Department of Sociology and Anthropology cannot ensure that S.A. 303 can be offered every semester, the continuation of this provision would effectively restrict admission into the program to those semesters in which S.A. 303 was being offered.

6. AMENDMENT OF THE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

- (A) Add the following sentence to the second paragraph of the calendar description of the program:

"The program will also be of interest to those who wish to develop their general education background."

- (B) Substitute "multi-ethnic" for "multi-cultural" in the last sentence of the second paragraph of the calendar description of the program.

RATIONALE:

(A) While the diploma program is specifically designed for professionals working in the human services field, it is also designed to attract students with more general educational interests.

(B) Minor editorial change to make the terminology consistent

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(D) PROPOSED NEW CALENDAR ENTRY

Extended Studies in Ethnic Relations

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Ethnic Relations is the study of ethnically defined conflicts and problems of migration. Such conflicts arise from the ascription of demeaning characteristics to groups of people and, more importantly, result from exclusion. The Extended Studies Diploma Program in Ethnic Relations provides an opportunity to explore the causes of unequal treatment, to compare ethnic antagonisms internationally and to develop strategies to improve intergroup relations in Canada in light of this knowledge.

The Diploma is primarily intended for human services professionals (social workers, educators, police, counsellors, personnel managers, health practitioners or civil servants) who are required to perform effectively with clients from a variety of cultural and linguistic backgrounds. The Program will also be of interest to those who wish to develop their general education background. The Diploma Program seeks to foster better understanding of the nature of the multi-ethnic society in which we live and work.

Courses may be taken on campus on a full or part-time basis. From time to time courses will be offered in the evening either on campus or at SFU Downtown, in addition to regular daytime courses. Some courses are available through Distance Education.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Successful completion of at least 30 credit hours of upper division coursework, or graduate level courses if appropriate.

At least 15 of these credit hours are to be earned by completing courses selected from the list of "core" courses listed below. The remaining credits may be earned by completing (a) additional courses from the "core" list, (b) courses from the list of optional courses listed below, or (c) other courses which are deemed by the Program Steering Committee to have a content appropriate to the Program.

Completion of the Diploma within five years of admission. Students must maintain a GPA of 2.5 on courses applied toward the Diploma.

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Students will be entitled to participate in occasional workshops and seminars on ethnic relations sponsored by the Ethnic Relations Committee.

New students may be accepted into the Program in any semester.

THE CURRICULUM

CORE COURSES:

Crim 311-3 Minorities and the Criminal Justice System
Educ 441-4 Cultural Differences and Education
Hist 322-3 Atlantic Migration
Pol 481-3 Ethnic Politics and National Identity:
Comparative Perspectives
Psyc 360-3 Social Psychology
SA 303-4 Ethnic Conflicts
SA 386-4 Native Peoples and Public Policy
SA 400-4 Canadian Ethnic Minorities

OPTIONAL COURSES:

Omns 322-3 Communication in Conflict and Intervention
Crim 335-3 Human Rights and Civil Liberties
Crim 419-3 Native North Americans: Deviance and
Criminal Justice
Geog 420-5 Comparative Cultural Geography
Hist 326-3 The History of Native People in Canada
SA 387-4 Canadian Native Peoples
SA 388-4 Comparative Studies of Minority Indigenous
Peoples
SA 477-4 Southern Africa

Students in the Program will also be advised of any additional courses dealing with ethnic relations that may become available from time to time and which may be taken for credit.