

S.72-73

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To SENATE

From J. WHEATLEY

DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Subject SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Date MAY 18, 1972

MOTION: "That Senate approve the Special Arrangements for Graduate Students, as set forth in Paper S.72-73."

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

To: Senate

From: J. Wheatley
Dean
Graduate Studies

Subject: Special Arrangements for
Graduate Students

Date: May 18, 1972

MOTION: "That Senate approve the paper on Special
Arrangements for Graduate Students"

The paper on Special Arrangements for Graduate Students
was approved by the Senate Graduate Studies Committee on
May 15, 1972.

(J. Wheatley)
J. Wheatley
Dean
Graduate Studies.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

This document lays out the conditions under which special arrangements can be made for an incoming graduate student who wishes to work outside or between established programs of the University.

I. General Principles

1. Special Arrangements will be made only when it is clear that:
 - (a) The student concerned is exceptionally able;
 - (b) The student's proposed course of studies cannot be pursued in any existing program;
 - (c) There is little need for additional expenditure of University funds in connection with the Arrangements; e.g. provision of new library resources, laboratory equipment, etc.
2. The Special Arrangements made for each individual student must:
 - (a) Be approved by the Senate Graduate Studies Committee;
 - (b) Be periodically reviewed by the Executive Committee of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee;
 - (c) Have a final report prepared on them by the Executive Committee regarding the value of the training the University has been able to provide.
3. The Special Arrangements must provide for the inclusion of at least one External Examiner at both the masters and doctoral level. The Executive Committee, in making its final report to the SGSC, will seek the opinion of the external examiner as to the value of the training the University has been able to provide for each student.
4. The Special Arrangements made for an individual student do not constitute a new program, or set a precedent for other graduate students with similar interests.

5. If many students in the same area come before the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, it can require the relevant Department or Departments to submit to the procedures for the establishment of a new program as a condition of considering further students in that area.

II. Documentation and Procedures for Special Arrangements

1. Initiation of requests:
 - (a) Students wanting Special Arrangements should apply to the Dean of Graduate Studies.
 - (b) In accordance with General Principle I. 1., the Dean may require the student to apply to an existing department.
 - (c) Where Special Arrangements seem to be needed, the Dean will endeavour to find at least two full-time members of faculty who would be willing to supervise the student in his area of study and to sponsor Special Arrangements on his behalf. Faculty members should have the approval of their Departmental Chairmen to undertake this responsibility.
If no sponsors can be found, the request will be automatically denied.
2. A specific proposal for Special Arrangements shall be submitted by the sponsors to the Senate Graduate Studies Committee through the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies by the end of the second month of the semester before the student wishes to enter.
3. All proposals should contain the following:
 - (a) The names and curricula vitae of all sponsors and persons who wish to be associated with the Arrangements, together with statements of their current areas of interest and research.
 - (b) A statement of the field of study and its core areas to be covered

by the proposed Arrangements explaining why Special Arrangements are required. For interdisciplinary Arrangements, such a statement should show its internal coherence, discreteness and academic merit. The departments concerned should be named.

- (c) A statement giving the relationship between the qualifications of the persons associated with the Arrangements and the core areas.
 - (d) A statement indicating which of the currently awarded degrees, except the M.B.A., (i.e. M.A., M.Sc., M.A. (Education), M.Sc.(Education), M.Sc. (Kinesiology), Ph.D.) the student would be seeking, and indicating which Faculty or Faculties would exercise the statutory power of faculties in his case.
 - (e) The academic requirements for the degree: theses, examinations, practica, field experience; courses which the student would take and how they would relate to the core areas. The expected number of semesters of work needed for the degree should be indicated.
 - (f) A statement as to what University facilities will be needed, such as laboratories, with approval for their use by the appropriate authorities; a statement as to the adequacy of the library holdings in the proposed area of work.
 - (g) Should some small additional expenditure be necessary for the Special Arrangements, the Senate Graduate Studies Committee should be assured in writing by the department chairman or chairmen or from the dean or deans involved that the cost will be met out of existing budgets. Statements about library acquisitions must be countersigned by the University Librarian.
 - (h) A statement giving sources of support, if any, for the student.
4. The Senate Graduate Studies Committee may, at its discretion, require further information from the sponsors and may seek other assessments of the proposal from outside or inside the University.

5. The functions of a Departmental Graduate Studies Committee for a student whose Special Arrangements fall under one department shall be carried out by the actual Departmental Graduate Studies Committee of that Department. The functions of a Departmental Graduate Studies Committee for a student whose Special Arrangements fall between existing departments shall be the Executive Committee of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee.
6. Other than the exceptions stated in this document, the current Graduate Regulations approved by Senate apply to students for whom Special Arrangements are made.

III. Implementation and Review

1. The provisions of this document will come into effect immediately upon passage by Senate.
2. The provisions of this document shall remain in force until revoked by Senate. At the end of three years an ad hoc committee shall be appointed by the Senate Graduate Studies Committee to assess the principles and procedures of this document and review the individual Arrangements made. It shall then make a recommendation to the Senate Graduate Studies Committee for transmission to Senate as to whether the provisions of this document should be continued, discontinued or amended.

PROPOSED NEW CALENDAR ENTRY

Simon Fraser University permits well qualified and highly motivated students to explore areas of graduate work where it has qualified faculty but no established programs. Prospective students wishing to avail themselves of this opportunity should write to the Dean of Graduate Studies six months in advance enclosing a detailed outline of the proposed area of work.

RATIONALE FOR THE PAPER ON SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Flexibility is, in general, a positive virtue at a university. The provisions of this paper allow for a greater flexibility in graduate work at Simon Fraser while maintaining proper control of all students.

In the past, a graduate student at S.F.U. has been required to pursue his studies and research interests within an existing program. Whenever the interests and qualifications of a student do not fall under what is offered in some program, there is no proper way to accomodate him. Yet sometimes the qualifications and interests of individual faculty members are such that it would be academically entirely proper that students who do not fit into existing programs should be accepted under some sort of special arrangement. This paper gives control mechanisms for such arrangements.

The provisions of this paper allow new growing points, new areas of specialization and new approaches to multifaceted problems at Simon Fraser. In particular they allow multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary work within the university without encouraging the proliferation of new programs. In an age when many of society's problems will not yield to a single-discipline approach, having these sorts of provisions is clearly desirable.

HISTORY OF THE PAPER ON SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

This paper was drafted by a specially elected ad hoc drafting committee drawn from the various graduate studies committees of Simon Fraser. It was placed before the Senate Graduate Studies Committee on May 15th where it passed unanimously.