

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S. 71-50

MEMORANDUM

To..... SENATE

From..... ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Subject..... PROGRAM IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES,
S. 71-50

Date..... FEBRUARY 22, 1971

MOTION:

1. "That Senate approve the establishment of a program in Latin American Studies.
2. That the program initially consist of a minor in Latin American Studies requiring 15 credit hours in courses at the upper division level and 9 credit hours at the lower division level.
3. That responsibility for the program rest in the Division of General Studies with the organization and administration to be as set out in Section 3(a) of Senate paper S.424 revised.
4. That the implementation date of the program be no earlier than September, 1971."

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To Members of Senate

From Academic Planning Committee

Subject Program in Latin American Studies

Date February 22, 1971

RECOMMENDATIONS

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2. That the program initially consist of a minor in Latin American Studies requiring 15 credit hours in courses at the upper division level and 9 credit hours at the lower division level.
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MOTION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At the federal level, the Canadian Government has manifested a deep interest in increasing its diplomatic relationships with the Latin American nations. This new commitment apparently involves no reassessment of Canada's refusal to join the Organization of American States; Canada, rather, seeks to amplify its official and cultural ties outside the OAS framework. The increased importance of Latin America to Canadian officialdom was made clear by the extensive mission to Latin America of Minister of External Affairs Mitchell Sharp in 1968. Furthermore, the Canadian Universities Service Organization (CUSO) has had, or has at the present, missions in five of the Latin American nations, comprising 70 persons, and in twelve Caribbean areas, with 129 persons. Finally,

the growing interest of Canadian business in Latin American commercial and investment possibilities was made manifest by the founding in May 1969 of the Canadian Association for Latin America.

The inter-disciplinary approach to Latin American studies has been cultivated in U.S. universities for approximately half a century, and much recent U.S. scholarly writing on Latin America bears a marked inter-disciplinary stamp. From their experience, the Americans seem to have reached the concensus that inter-disciplinary work, including degree programs, is valuable at the undergraduate and, in many cases, at the M.A. level; advanced students, however, continue to work toward the Ph.D. degree within the traditional disciplines.

Priority among Canadian universities in the cultivation of Latin American studies probably belongs to the Universite de Laval. More recently, two important developments have taken place in English-speaking Canada; the creation of a Latin American study centre at the University of Calgary, and the founding of the Ontario Cooperative Program for Latin American and Caribbean studies, which represents a pooling of the graduate resources of the universities of Guelph, Waterloo, McMasters and Queens. It should be noted that the establishment of these two facilities now makes it possible for Canadian undergraduates to advance to graduate work in Latin American studies within Canada.

The number of Latin American specialists appointed to positions in the various disciplines has grown; in 1969 the first edition of the Directory of Canadian Latin Americanists listed 92 names. In June of 1969, approximately 70% of these scholars came together to found the Canadian Association of Latin American Studies as a learned society.

Outside Simon Fraser University, little development in Latin American studies has taken place in British Columbia. At the University of Victoria, two academics (in history and anthropology) offer course work in Latin American topics; neither does so as his major speciality.

At the University of British Columbia, an M.A. in Latin American literature is offered under the direction of H. Livermore; there is apparently no scholarly articulation within the limited number of other academics (e.g., in geography and sociology) who have also worked in the Latin American area.

Since its founding in 1965, Simon Fraser University has attracted an unusual number of Latin American specialists in the departments of Modern Languages, History, P.S.A., Geography and Economics and Commerce. This has been a fortuitous development; however, since the beginning, these persons have cultivated professional contacts with one another, and since early 1969 a faculty committee on Latin American Studies has worked to develop a more effective organizational framework. Encouragement to do so has resulted not only from the professional concerns of the individuals involved, but also because of the strong student response to individual courses with Latin American content, their requests for and ready response to the new courses in Spanish rapid reading offered by D.M.L., and frequent inquiries as to how they might obtain a fuller program of Latin American course work.

The objectives of the program proposed are:

- a) to meet the demand of a solid nucleus of students for a more coherent approach to Latin American studies.
- b) to meet the needs of the Canadian diplomatic, business and communications communities for university graduates with the necessary factual background and language skills relating to Latin America.
- c) to enable Simon Fraser University to join with the University of Calgary and the Ontario Cooperative Program at the forefront of Canadian university centres of Latin American studies.

IMPLEMENTATION

The program will be implemented no earlier than the fall semester of Fall 1971. The nucleus of the program at this stage will consist of the staff currently at Simon Fraser University who teach Latin American content oriented courses, and will include the current course offerings related to Latin America. (see appendix 1) If student and societal demand prove the viability of this program, the establishment of a major in Latin American Studies will be considered.

APPENDIX 1

A. Courses currently taught relating to Latin America

1. Language Skills

Spanish 102-4 Introductory Spanish 1
Spanish 103-4 Introductory Spanish 2
Spanish 110-3 Reading Spanish 1
Spanish 111-3 Reading Spanish 2
Spanish 201-3 Intermediate Spanish 1
Spanish 301-3 Advanced Spanish - Composition 1

2. Courses with Exclusive Latin American Content

D.M.L.

341-3 Hispanic Literature 2
451-5 Modern Spanish American Novel
452-5 Modern Spanish American Poetry

History

244-3 Latin America 1760-1880
280-3 Latin America since 1880
451-5 Latin America and the External World
452-5 Economic Aspects of Latin America
453-5 Social Aspects of Latin America

P.S.A.

346-5 Regional Studies and Politics: Latin America

Geography

467-5 Latin America

B. Courses with partial Latin American content or in which Latin America may be emphasized in a given semester

D.M.L.

240-3 Introduction to Hispanic Literature

History

141-3 Historical Development of the Americas to 1763

441-5 The U.S. as a World Power

Geography

The Geography of Lesser Developed Countries

P.S.A.

341-5 International Relations

342-5 Comparative Politics

441-5 International Institutions

466-5 Problems of Social Change in Developing Societies

Economics and Commerce

363-5 Economics of Natural Resources

455-5 Economic Development

Archaeology

273-3 Archaeology of the New World

C. New courses to be developed and submitted to Senate for approval

00X Introduction to Latin American Culture (inter-disciplinary)

A lecture course, taught cooperatively by the Latin American faculty. Culture is meant in the broadest sense: customs, manners, language, folklore will receive equal emphasis with formal arts and letters and interpretative approaches through the traditional disciplines.

40X Inter-disciplinary Seminar in Selected Latin American Subjects

Each semester, two or three of the Latin American teaching faculty will come together to choose the term topics: Obvious themes to be explored with profit in this mode are:

Indigensim, Man and the Land, Values and the Latin American Ethos, Challenge of Urbanization, the Latin American Revolutionary Tradition.