

General  
S 156

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

SM 7/10/68

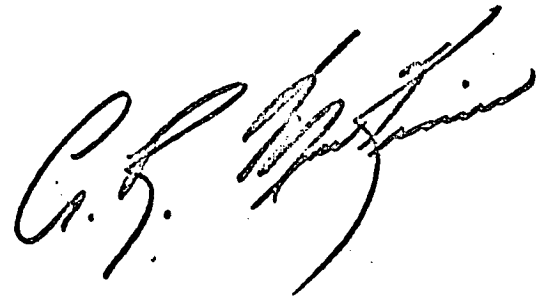
To Secretary of Senate  
Subject Individual Study Semester Proposal

From A.R. MacKinnon  
Dean of Education  
Date September 24, 1968

It is requested that the Individual Study Semester Proposal appear on the next Senate Agenda.

The proposal deals with a principle of program organization rather than with specific details of how the proposal will be put into operation in each Department or Centre. Calendar description, which will be presented to Senate at a later time, will provide the specific details.

ARM/ph  
Atts.



SM 7/10/68

Camden  
S156(a)  
#44

INDIVIDUAL STUDY SEMESTER PROPOSAL

It is recommended that the following offering be made by each Department or Centre of the Faculty of Education, to begin September 1968. The description would be identical for each Department but would bear the Departmental or Centre course titles.

499-15 (or 18 if in an honour's program) - Individual Study Semester

A full semester to be spent on an intensive study project of the student's own selection. Studies may involve any field of investigation for which there is adequate supervision in the University. There will normally be no scheduled lectures or tutorials. Each student will be responsible to faculty sponsors. This program is open to students who have satisfied a major portion of their required courses for the undergraduate degree, and who have displayed initiative in these courses. Application must be made to the Department or Centre in the semester preceding enrollment.

SM 7/10/68

Caen and

A PROPOSAL FOR AN INDIVIDUAL STUDY SEMESTER

The purpose of the program is to allow undergraduate students to formulate, explore and resolve problems of their own choosing on an intensive basis. It is assumed that there are at least two functions of a university education. The provision of information in a linear and organized way is largely accomplished in the traditional courses. However, a second function might be said to be the development of an ability to discover and solve problems without being told exactly what the problems are and how they should be solved. It is this function which it is suggested might be best accomplished by the proposed Individual Study Semester. It would also provide students with an opportunity to study one area in depth, rather than requiring them to study a number of diverse courses in each semester of their University career.

There are some precedents for such a program. Experiments have been carried out at Stanford University, Goddard College, Bennington College, Fordham University and Newark State College. At Bennington, for instance, the program is no longer experimental as it has been carried out for a number of years. All Bennington undergraduates are required to do individual study for one year and all must present a final product to demonstrate their accomplishments. At UBC a program entitled Arts 01 is currently undergoing a trial period. It is also interesting to note that individual study programs have been initiated in a number of high schools in B.C. (e.g. Sentinel School, West Vancouver) and in several locations in the United States (e.g. Pittsburgh).

Cont....

SM 7/10/68

Case 1115

3.

-2-

The following are suggested conditions of enrollment and procedures to be followed in the administration of the program:

1. In general, eligible students should have completed at least 60 semester hours of their degree program.
2. The Faculty Undergraduate Curriculum Committee will be responsible for the general supervision and coordination of the program.
3. A sponsor will be selected by the Department in which the student wishes to enrol. In cooperation with the sponsor, the candidate will select two additional sponsors to complete a Sponsoring Committee. This Committee will assist the candidate to draw up a program which will be submitted to the Curriculum Committee for ratification.
4. The candidate's work through the semester will be guided by the Sponsoring Committee. It must be emphasized that sponsorship will be voluntary. If a student cannot obtain sponsorship, he cannot undertake the program. It is further suggested that no sponsor should volunteer to handle more than one student.
5. At the end of the semester, a report on the student's work will be submitted to the Curriculum Committee. Evaluation will be carried out by the sponsors on the basis of a final product which must be submitted by the student. An oral examination may also be required at the discretion of the sponsors. Evaluation will be done on the basis of the normal University grading system. If possible, it is suggested that the final product be made available in the Library so that anyone concerned can assess the success of the program. It is also suggested that the student's transcript should show both the title and a brief description of the project.

SM 7/10/68

Case 101

-3-

6. A student enrolled in this program will not be permitted to undertake any other course in that semester.
7. A student enrolled in this program may attend any lecture or tutorial being given in the University, provided he first obtains permission of the person in charge. While the program itself will provide no formal lectures or tutorials, students will be encouraged to engage in an informal seminar for the purpose of discussing research projects.

It must be emphasized that for the Individual Study Semester to function properly, the proposal for study must originate with the student. It is hoped that such individual programming will be based upon the student's previous studies, in order that he will have a basis for more intensive explorations. However, it would seem undesirable to have the project approximate too closely any course which is being given currently in the University, particularly if there was the possibility that the student might take such a course at a later date.

SM 7/10/68

*General*

5.

To: Dean A.R. MacKinnon  
Dean of Education.

From: Registrar.

30 April, 1968.

Subject: Individual Study Semester.

Your memorandum of 29 April 1968 concerning Individual Study Semester addressed to the Secretary of Senate was discussed at today's meeting of the President's Advisory Committee. It was the Committee's decision that this not be placed on the Senate agenda until such time as it had been referred to the Faculties of Arts and Science and we have received their comment.

*D.A. Meyers*  
D.A. Meyers  
Acting Registrar

c.c. Dean of Arts  
Dean of Science

DAM/md

SM 7/10/68

Calendar 6

Secretary, Senate

A.R. Mackinnon

Dean of Education

Individual Study Semester

April 29, 1968

Attached is a proposal for the Individual Study Semester which was approved at the Faculty of Education meeting on Monday, April 29, 1968. Approval of Senate is requested so that this can begin September 1968.

Att.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

*Calendar*  
JUN 21 1968

7

MEMORANDUM

To..... Dean A. R. MacKinnon  
..... Faculty of Education  
Subject..... Individual Study Semester

From..... *SM 7/10/68*  
..... DEAN'S OFFICE  
..... B. L. Funt, DEAN OF EDUCATION

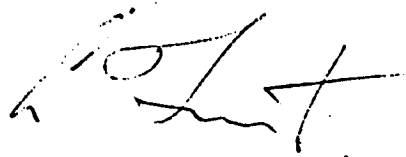
..... Dean of Science  
Date..... June 20, 1968

SE3005-6

At its meeting of June 19, 1968, the Faculty of Science discussed the proposal for the Individual Study Semester program to begin in the Faculty of Education in September 1968, as outlined in your memorandum of May 14, 1968.

It was the understanding of the Science Faculty that this is a program in the Faculty of Education, and a student can receive full credit there towards a B. Ed. degree. It was further understood that if a Science student participates in this program, it may count towards electives in his B. Sc., but can not count towards his core program for the B. Sc. degree.

With the above understanding, the Science Faculty passed a motion to approve the establishment of the Individual Study Semester program in the Faculty of Education.



mc



*Calendar*

*SM 7/16/68*  
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
MEMORANDUM

**RECEIVED**  
JUN 21 1968  
FACULTY OF EDUCATION

To..... Dr. A. R. MacKinnon, Dean  
Faculty of Education  
Subject Individual Study Semester

From..... G.A. Rheumer, Temporary Assistant  
Dean, Faculty of Arts  
Date..... June 21, 1968

There seems to have been more confusion than necessary over the fate of the proposed Individual Study Semester. Attached is a copy of the reply which then-Dean Matthews addressed to the acting registrar. The Faculty of Arts has stated (attached memorandum) that the program should be undertaken toward a B.Ed. degree only, and should not involve additional work load for members of the Faculty of Arts. Within these limits the Faculty of Arts would endorse the Faculty of Education's mounting of this program.

*G. A. Rheumer*

GAR:e  
encl.

SM 7/16/68

Calendar

9.

Mr. D. Meyers

John Matthews, Dean

Acting Registrar

Faculty of Arts

Individual Study Semester

May 19, 1968

In reply to your memorandum of 30 April, addressed to Dean MacKinnon, the Faculty of Arts has already discussed the proposal both in the Curriculum Committee and at a faculty meeting.

Following are main points made at a discussion of the Individual Study Semester, at the Faculty meeting on January 17 of this year:

- (a) 15 credits should entail something more than a 'normal' research project. Students in the Arts Faculty carry out research projects which might well be considered of equal weight, for 5 hours credit.
- (b) If the intention is to relieve a student for a semester from all other course commitments, there would be difficulty with Honors students who are expected to carry 18 hours in each of the last four semesters.
- (c) Such a project might unduly limit that part of a student's program to be taken outside his own specialty.
- (d) There would be pressure on members of this Faculty which could not well be avoided to undertake this supervision on top of their existing teaching load.
- (e) The Faculty felt that such projects should be undertaken, in the first instance, towards a B.Ed. degree only.