

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S. 431

MEMORANDUM

To..... SENATE

From..... GREG BASHAM

..... STUDENT SENATOR

Subject..... INDEPENDENT STUDY PROPOSALS

Date..... OCTOBER 22, 1970

Independent Study Proposals

Motion 1. "That Senate approve, in principle, the offering of a 400 level course of independent semester study by the departments of the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Science and that credit be granted as follows:

Majors Program 15 hours  
Honours Program 18 hours

The implementation of such proposals be subject to ratification by Senate in the normal manner and that only one such course be permitted for credit towards the degree."

Motion 2. "That Senate approve, in principle, departments in the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Science offering of a 300 level course of independent study and that credit granted be ten hours. A minimum of 45 hours is required for entry to the course.

The implementation of such proposals be subject to ratification by Senate in the normal manner and that only one such course be permitted for credit towards the degree."

GB/dp

# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

## MEMORANDUM

To..... SENATE.....

From..... GREG BASHAM.....

..... STUDENT SENATOR.....

Subject..... INDEPENDENT STUDY PROPOSALS.....

Date..... OCTOBER 23, 1970.....

The purpose of these proposals is to provide undergraduate students with a means to formulate, research and ascertain solutions to problems of their own selection by intensive study. The present course structure entails both incremental learning and some forms of independent study and directed research.

The proposals are to extend and further evolve the present undergraduate program as offered. Their classification is not, however, entirely innovative, experimental and/or interdisciplinary. The existence of similarly structured courses precludes these classifications. For example:

B.S.F. 498-18 (Honours)  
B.S.F. 499-15  
C.C.A. 499-15  
History 499-18 (Honours Program only)

There are several other proposals concerning interdisciplinary studies, experimental programs, and innovative educational techniques including a general studies degree, currently being discussed at various stages. These are complementary and, hopefully, soon to be instituted.

The implementation of these does not necessarily strengthen or enhance the present linear and organized programs in a way which allows for the most adequate demonstration of learned skills and abilities. In other words, it is time to create an institutional framework in which a student has the greatest opportunity to apply the knowledge gained from the core programs.

The semester operation is designed to maximize course selection in line with student preferences and needs. The semester system further enables a portion, or the full semester, to be devoted to independent study and research to complement the concept of a wide selection of course. The two are not necessarily mutually exclusive as future departmental recommendations will take this into account. This is mentioned again later.

The inclusion of a 300 level course (10 hours) is based on several academic arguments. It initially presents itself as an intermediate level of independent study while permitting work to continue towards fulfilling majors, honours or group requirements. It has the further feature of an option to the 400 level course.

The maximum amount of independent study will remain as initially stated: One 300 level course and one 400 level course in a different department or subject area. This would be determined by the departments.

An alternative to this could be a maximum of two 300 level courses in different areas or departments. Once again, it is a consideration the department and Senate can give at a later date.

Further implications involve changes in upper and lower level hour requirements in the department. In cases where departments require 30 semester hours at the 300 and 400 level in the department, it will be necessary to determine the amount of independent study credit which may be applied towards that requirement.

Also to be considered is the basic philosophy of a wide selection of courses. These are best developed by normal departmental reviews of the curricula.

These proposals serve as guidelines with which departments may work to facilitate program changes as well as to provide stimulation and leadership by Senate in improving the academic program. Thus, approval will enable the greater development and extension of a good undergraduate education.

GB/dp