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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	Senate	DATE	December 6, 2013
FROM	Gordon Myers, Chair	PAGES	1/1
	Senate Committee on		
	Undergraduate Studies		
RE:	120-Credit Honours Degree for SFU Credentials (REVISED SCUS 13-43)		

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of December 5, 2013, gives rise to the following recommendation:

Motion:

“That Senate approve the requirements for an SFU honours degree be modified to reduce the minimum number of required units from 132 to 120 as follows:
An honours degree is comprised of a minimum of ~~132~~ 120 units in a specified honours program including approximately 48-52 units in specified upper division courses in the honours subject or field.
 This to take effect in Fall 2014.”

Rationale: Currently an honours degree at SFU requires 132 units. There are many institutions in Canada that require 120 units for an honours degree. A number of disciplines in the university have pointed out that their disciplinary standard for an honours degree is 120 units. In those disciplines the substantive distinction between an honours degree and other degrees is something other than the quantity of courses. The same issue has come up in external reviews. This has led to requests by some academic units that the university allow more flexibility by changing the university honours degree to require a minimum of 120 units.

For clarity, this reduction of the minimal total units required makes no change to the specific course requirements of any particular honours program. This is not a choice between 132 units and 120 units it is a choice to allow both. Departments, schools and Faculties offering honours programs may choose to review their honours programs in light of the change in total credit requirement, but there is no requirement to do so.

Province	University Name	BA Honours Min Units*	BSc Honours Min Units*	Typical Course Unit Value	Course Duration
Newfoundland/Labrador	Memorial	120	120	3 units	1 4-month term
Quebec	McGill	120	120	3 units	1 4-month term
	Concordia	120	120	3 units	1 4-month term
Ontario	Toronto	20	20	0.5 units	1 4-month term
	Guelph	20	20	0.5 units	1 4-month term
	Western	20	20	0.5 units	1 4-month term
	Queen's	114	120	3 units	1 4-month term
Manitoba	Manitoba	108-120	120	3 units	1 4-month term
	Winnipeg	120	120	3 units	1 4-month term
Saskatchewan	Saskatchewan	120	120	3 units	1 4-month term
Alberta	Alberta	120	120	3 units	1 4-month term
	Calgary	120	120	3 units	1 4-month term
BC	UBC	120	132	3 units	1 4-month term
	Uvic	60	60	1.5 units	1 4-month term

***Assuming 4 years of study, one subject**