

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate

FROM: J. Munro
Chair, Senate
Ctee on Academic
Planning

SUBJECT: Undergraduate Curriculum
Revisions - Faculty of Arts -
SCAP Reference: SCAP 90-57

DATE: December 11, 1990

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Academic Planning and the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, gives rise to the following motion:

MOTION: "that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.91-1 undergraduate curriculum revisions in the Faculty of Arts as follows:

Department of Psychology

- Changes to the program admission requirements for Psychology Minor, Major and Honors students"

MEMORANDUM

To: Jock Munro, Chair of SCAP
Date: November 27, 1990
Topic: Program change in Psychology

Last summer, the Psychology Department requested approval of changes to the program admission requirements for Psychology Minor, Major, and Honors students. In each case, students will be required to achieve a minimum grade point average over the specified lower division courses before being considered for admission.

Minor: Complete PSYC 100, PSYC 102 and PSYC 201 with a minimum grade point average of 2.00

Major: Complete PSYC 100, PSYC 102, PSYC 201 and PSYC 210 with a minimum grade point average of 2.00

Honors: Complete PSYC 100, PSYC 102, PSYC 201 and PSYC 210 with a minimum grade point average of 3.00.

This proposal was approved by FACC on August 2nd, but when it was considered by SCUS at its October 16th meeting it was determined that the GPA limitation constituted an enrolment limitation. SCUS approved the course completion component, but forwarded the GPA limitation proposal to SCEMP for consideration. SCEMP approved the GPA limitation at its meeting of November 21st.

In this process, the arguments for the proposal have been elaborated. To facilitate consideration by subsequent bodies, these arguments are recapitulated here. Since Psychology's main concern is with the change in regulations governing declaration of a major, and since this particular change is the only one with potentially significant enrolment limitation implications, the following arguments focus on Psychology majors.

Completing the Courses Before Declaring Major

It is our experience that many students declare a major in Psychology after taking only a few introductory level courses. We feel that the declaration of major should be a well-informed decision, and in particular that students

should have completed the core content and method courses that define the scope and practice of Psychology.

We have a minimal prerequisite system in Psychology. This acknowledges the obligation we feel to make the discipline maximally accessible consistent with the need for cumulative development of knowledge. We have felt for some years that the balance has tilted too far in the direction of accessibility. However, we have stopped short of recommending, for example, that most or all the lower division requirements be completed before any upper division course is attempted. Although that is common in other programs, Psychology is different in that 48% of our upper division enrollees are not Psychology majors. We feel that many of them would be unwilling to take PSYC 201 and 210 (Research Methods, Data Analysis) in order to gain access to upper division Psychology courses. The effect of adding PSYC 201 and 210 to the prerequisite list on our upper division enrolments (the largest of any department in the University) would be unacceptably disruptive.

Another reason for the proposed change is to encourage Psychology majors to take most of the basic required courses before they take most of their upper division courses. Some students delay the method courses (PSYC 201, 210) too long, in our opinion. We could address this problem by changing our prerequisites, but as noted in the previous paragraph, the effect on enrolments would probably be unacceptably large.

Establishing a Minimum CGPA of 2.00

This part of the proposal is not motivated by the need to reduce our enrolments. Psychology has always shown itself exceptionally ready to shoulder enrolment growth. In fact, between 1982 and 1989 Psychology absorbed 30% of the university-wide increase in course enrolments! Rather, we are concerned that Psychology is becoming responsible for an increasing proportion of the students who are denied entry because of low CGPA to programs with enrolment limitations. This is a difficult trend to track, but 89/90 data show that the proportion of students admitted to a major with a CGPA <2.00 was higher in Psychology (11%) than all but one of the other programs sampled.

Consequences for Enrolments

There will be no obvious changes resulting from the first part of the proposal - to have students take the required courses before declaring the major. The effect will largely be one of reordering their course schedule.

2.

There would be effects of requiring that these basic courses be completed by would-be majors with a minimum CGPA of 2.00. We have examined some data that suggest what these consequences might be. There are no definitive data, since the first part of the proposal has never been in effect. However, we have looked at two sets of sample data.

First, for students declaring a major in Psychology in 85/86 through 89/90, we noted their CGPAs at the time of declaration. The numbers of such students (percentages in parentheses) over these 5 years are as follows: 31 (12%), 49 (15%), 36 (12%), 32 (10%), 50 (11%). Note, however, that this is based on the student's GPA over all courses, not just the required lower division Psychology courses (some of which had not been taken at the time of declaration).

We also looked at the records of the 53 students who graduated with a Psychology major at the convocation ceremony last month. Records show that 8 of these students had a CGPA less than 2.00 in the required lower division Psychology courses that they took at SFU (some of these requirements were satisfied with transfer courses). This represents some 15% of this admittedly small sample.

These data suggest that implementation of the proposed changes might result in us denying admittance to major of some 10-15% of students currently admitted on first application. We should stress that this figure should not be generalized to our upper division enrolments. As previously noted, almost half our upper division enrollees are not Psychology majors and would be unaffected by the proposed change. Even those denied admission to a Psychology major could continue to take most of our upper division courses.

We conclude that the number of Psychology Majors might drop by 10% if the proposed changes are implemented, but that the drop in our upper division enrolments would be considerably less.

CC: Meredith Kimball, Psychology UGSC
Sheila Roberts, FACC



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DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SENATE OF SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY HELD
ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1991 KLAUS RIECKHOFF HALL, 7:00 P.M.

OPEN SESSION

Present: Saywell, W.G., Chair

Barrow, R.
Bedford, B.
Blackman, R.
Blaney, J.
Bowman, M.
Bukovac, S.
Carlson, R.
Clayman, B.
Covell, M.
Dickinson, J. (replacing D. George)
Dill, L.
Djwa, S.
Dobb, T.
Duguid, S.
Ekstedt, J. (replacing R. Brown)
Evenden, L.
Giffen, K.
Gray, P.
Heinrich, K.
Hendrickson, T.
Hoechsmann, M.
Hoegg, J.L.
Jones, C.
Leiss, W.
Luk, W.S.
Maaske, R.
Menzies, R.
Munro, J.
Myers, T.
Nielsen, V.
Palmer, E.
Palmer, L.
Percival, P.
Reilly, N.
Rieckhoff, K.
Saunders, R.
Shannon, D.
Shapiro, S.
Stewart, M.L.
Tuinman, J.
Verdun-Jones, S.
Wade, S.
Walker, R.
Warsh, M.
Winne, P.
Wotherspoon, A.

Absent: Cercone, N.
D'Auria, J.
Delgrande, J.
DiFonzo, A.
Gibbons, N.
Mauser, G.
Munro, D.
Pinfield, L.
Rae, B.
Strate, G.
Swartz, N.
Tjosvold, D.

In attendance:
Heath, N.
McKeown, B.

Nagel, H. Acting Secretary
Grant, B., Recording Secretary

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda was approved as distributed.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION OF DECEMBER 3, 1990

The Minutes were approved as distributed.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

- i) Senate was informed that a report, prepared under the Chair's name, in response to the Ministry's strategic planning initiative will be presented to Senate at its next meeting for consideration.
- ii) The Chair reported that the University has received notification that controls are being returned for public sector wages. A letter from the Hon. M. Couvelier, together with the official press release, is the full extent of the information received at this point and copies will be forwarded to the various employee groups on campus.
- iii) The Chair was pleased to announce that capital funding has been received for the planning of the West Mall Complex and that the planning process was now underway.
- iv) The Chair was pleased to announce the appointment by Order-in-Council of Senator Deborah Shannon to the Board of Governors.
- v) Senate was informed that the first annual report of the Harassment Co-Ordinator will be released in the near future. The Policy has been effective in terms of raising the sensitivity of the university community to such issues and in establishing procedures to effectively handle complaints in this regard.
- vi) Congratulations were extended to J. Ekstedt, School of Criminology, who was instrumental in the creation of the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy which is a joint venture between Simon Fraser University, Faculty of Law - University of British Columbia, and Rutgers University in the United States.
- vii) Congratulations were also extended to M.L. Stewart, Department of History/Women's Studies, whose recent book was ranked by the Foundation for Humanities as the best book published in the Humanities in Canada this year.
- viii) The Chair reported difficulty in receiving written confirmation from all of the honorary degree candidates as well as difficulty in scheduling individuals for the various ceremonies but he hoped to be able to make a public announcement very soon. However, in order to focus more attention on the Fall Convocation, separate announcements will be made for the June and October ceremonies.
- ix) In response to concerns from L. Palmer about recent changes to the parking policy, in particular the regulations relating to evening parking, the Chair requested that the concerns be submitted to his office in writing and stated that he would take the matter under advisement and report back.

5. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

i) Senate Committee on Academic Planning/Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

a) Paper S.91-1 - Faculty of Arts - Department of Psychology - Changes to the program admission requirements for Psychology Minor, Major and Honors students

Moved by J. Munro, seconded by R. Blackman

"that Senate approve, as set forth in S.91-1, undergraduate curriculum revisions in the Faculty of Arts as follows:
Department of Psychology - Changes to the program admission requirements for Psychology Minor, Major and Honors students"

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

b) Paper S.91-2 - Minimum Graduation Requirements

Moved by J. Munro, seconded by K. Rieckhoff

"That Senate approve, as set forth in S.91-2, the following recommendations of SCUS (as amended by SCAP): (Note: SCAP amendments underlined)

1. In order to qualify for graduation from the general degree program, a student must satisfy, as a minimum, both of the following requirements: a minimum CGPA (Cumulative Grade Point Average) of 2.00.
and
a minimum grade point average of 2.00 calculated on the basis of all upper division courses taken at Simon Fraser University. This grade point average will be calculated by dividing the total number of grade points earned in upper division courses by the total number of semester credit hours assigned for those courses, counting only the higher grade in courses that have been duplicated.
2. In order to qualify for graduation from the honors degree program, a student must satisfy, as a minimum, both of the following requirements: a minimum CGPA (Cumulative Grade Point Average) of 3.00.
and
a minimum grade point average of 3.00 calculated on the basis of all upper division courses taken at Simon Fraser University. This grade point average will be calculated by dividing the total number of grade points earned in upper division courses by the total number of semester credit hours assigned for those courses, counting only the higher grade in courses that have been duplicated.

If a student in the honors degree program has completed both the CGPA and the grade point average for upper division courses at 3.50 or higher, the designation "First Class" will apply.

3. Individual faculties and departments may, with the approval of Senate, maintain their own supplementary graduation requirements. Individual

faculties and departments may apply to Senate for permission to increase the minimum grade point average required for graduation, or to impose additional requirements, or both.

4. In keeping with the above regulation, the definition of the grade "C-" on page 22 of the current calendar should be revised from 'Satisfactory Performance' to 'Marginal Performance'.
5. The upper division grade point average should appear on students' transcripts in a running manner.
6. The revised minimum graduation requirements apply to all students entering the University commencing with the Fall 1991-3 Semester. Students who were registered at the University prior to the Fall 1991-3 Semester may satisfy either the minimum graduation requirements as stated on page 11 of the 1990/91 Calendar, or the revised minimum graduation requirements as set out in S.91-2"

In response to an inquiry about grandfathering current students, R. Blackman drew Senate's attention to Item 6 of the motion which explicitly addresses this issue.

Responding to an inquiry about the effect of the proposed changes, J. Munro pointed out that at the present time graduation CGPA is not calculated until students apply for graduation. If the proposed regulation is approved, a running entry will appear on student transcripts so they will know exactly where they stand with respect to this requirement. The regulation will also establish a consistent university-wide calculation for the graduation GPA.

Concern was expressed that the proposal as it was originally motivated by departmental curriculum committees had been radically transformed by SCUS and SCAP and opinion was expressed that this represented a departure from the spirit of the original proposal.

In response to an inquiry concerning the C- designation, R. Blackman indicated that the committee felt that since it was not possible to obtain a degree with only C- grades, C- should not be described as it currently appears in the Calendar as 'satisfactory performance' and therefore the committee recommended C- be described as 'marginal performance'.

Inquiry was made as to the need for changing the current regulation and, in response, it was pointed out that it was now possible for a student to graduate with less than 2.00 grade point average which was lower than the current maintenance standard. Although this did not happen frequently the Committee felt it should be corrected. Opinion was also expressed that this proposal places greater weight on upper level course work which is where the emphasis for graduation should be.

It was pointed out that under current conditions of academic probation, and if the proposed regulations are approved, students will be able to continue with a cumulative grade point average below 2.00, complete their graduation requirements provided that their grade point average in a review period is higher than 2.00, and at the end of their studies not be eligible for a degree. Request was made that the Senate Undergraduate Admissions Board review the condition of academic probation. The Chair advised that the request will be noted and taken under advisement.

Moved by B. Bedford, seconded by T. Hendrickson

"that the motion be referred back to the Senate Committee on Academic Planning and the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies for further discussion"

Opinion was expressed that there appeared to have been little discussion between SCUS and SCAP regarding the impact of the changes and it would have been more democratic to refer the committee amendments back down to the curriculum committees for consideration.

Question was called on the motion to refer, and a vote taken.

MOTION TO REFER FAILED

Question was called on the main motion, and a vote taken.

MAIN MOTION CARRIED

- ii) Senate Committee on Academic Planning/Senate Graduate Studies Committee
- a) Paper S.91-3 - Change to Graduate Studies General Regulation 1.9.5 re Ph.D. External Examiners

Moved by J. Munro, seconded by B. Clayman

"that Senate approve changes to the Graduate Studies General Regulation 1.9.5 regarding Ph.D. External Examiners, as set out in S.91-3"

As a point of clarification, B. Clayman indicated the intent was that students would not be made aware of the exact question the examiner wished to pose at the defense but there was no prohibition against informing students of the general nature of any concern the examiner might have.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

- b) Paper S.91-4 - Graduate curriculum revisions - Faculty of Applied Sciences

Moved by J. Munro, seconded by B. Clayman

"that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.91-4 curriculum revisions in the Faculty of Applied Sciences as follows:

Natural Resource Management Program -

- Change to description of program
- Change to degree requirements re credit hours and elective courses
- New course - MRM 658-5
- Change of title and description - MRM 650-5
- Change of description and addition of prerequisite - MRM 670-5

- Change of title - MRM 615-5"

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

c) Paper S.91-5 - Graduate curriculum revisions - Faculty of Arts

Moved by J. Munro, seconded by B. Clayman

"that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.91-5, curriculum revisions in the Faculty of Arts as follows:

- i) S.91-5a School of Criminology
- ii) S.91-5b Department of Economics
- iii) S.91-5c Department of Geography
- iv) S.91-5d Department of Linguistics
- v) S.91-5e Department of Political Science"

Referring to S.91-5, a suggestion to amend section (c) of the proposed modifications to read 'at least twenty-one (21) hours selected from additional graduate curriculum offerings' was accepted as a friendly amendment. Referring to S.91-5e concern was expressed about possible overlap between the proposed new course POL 855 with courses in existence in the Department of Communication. B. Clayman pointed out that representatives from both Departments were present at the various levels when committees approved this course and this issue had not been raised.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

d) Paper S.91-6 - Graduate curriculum revisions - Faculty of Business Administration

Moved by J. Munro, seconded by B. Clayman

"that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.91-6, curriculum revisions in the Faculty of Business Administration as follows:

- New courses - MBA 660-5, MBA 661-5, MBA 662-5, MBA 663-5
- Change of title - MBA 607-5, MBA 681-5, MBA 691-5"

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

e) Paper S.91-7 Graduate curriculum revisions - Faculty of Education

Moved by J. Munro, seconded by B. Clayman

"that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.91-7, curriculum revisions in the Faculty of Education as follows:

- Revision to PhD Supervisory Committee
- Revision to requirements re Comprehensive Examinations in the Curriculum Theory and Implementation PhD Program
- Revision to Comprehensive Examination Committee for the

- Curriculum Theory and Implementation PhD Program
- New Course - EDUC 863-5
- Revision to list of core courses in the Counselling Psychology Program"

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED.

f) Paper S.91-8 - Graduate curriculum revisions - Faculty of Science

Moved by J. Munro, seconded by C. Jones

"that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.91-8, curriculum revisions in the Faculty of Science as follows:

- i) S.91-8a Department of Biological Sciences
- ii) S.91-8b Department of Mathematics and Statistics"

Clarification was requested with regard to the explanation that some of the new courses in Biological Sciences were instituted in response to the external review of the Department since Item 3.9 of the Review indicates that the number and diversity of courses should be reduced. C. Jones explained that by introducing these special topic courses, the Department hoped to provide an appropriate array of courses to allow students the opportunity to take what they want without offering a very large number of courses.

In response to an inquiry concerning the introduction of 900-level courses in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, B. Clayman explained that graduate course numbers range anywhere from 500 to 900. These were not the first 900 numbers in the University, and he indicated he intended to look into this issue in an attempt to rationalize the numbering system in graduate studies. It was also pointed out that in order to keep some rationale for their own sequence of numbering the Department had to move to the 900-level as the majority of numbers at the 800-level had already been used.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) Senate Committee on Academic Planning
Paper S.91-9. - External Review Report - Department of Biological Sciences - For Information

The External Review Report of the Department of Biological Sciences was received by Senate for information.

iv) Senate Undergraduate Admissions Board
Paper S.91-10 - Associate in Science Diploma - Admission and Transfer Status

Moved by R. Saunders, seconded by C. Jones

"that Senate approve the admission of students from Fraser Valley, Douglas and Kwantlen Colleges who have completed the Associate in Science Diploma subject to the following minimum conditions:

- 6 credits in mathematics (Calculus)
- 6 credits in english
- at least 6 further credits in a discipline other than biological sciences, chemistry, physics or mathematics
- at least 36 further credits in biological sciences, chemistry, physics or mathematics, with at least 20 credits in one of these disciplines
- at least 6 further credits in any discipline
- a minimum CGPA of 2.50

All of the above courses and all courses included in the CGPA must transfer to Simon Fraser University"

In response to an inquiry as to why this was before Senate, J. Munro explained that it required Senate approval because it guarantees admission for students who have completed the Associate Program in Science with a transfer GPA of 2.5 no matter what the admission requirement for college transfer is set at. It was pointed out, however, that the question of the grade point average is open for discussion on a continuing basis. At the present time the college transfer admission GPA is 2.2 so the guarantee doesn't really mean anything but it would become crucial should the college transfer admission be raised above 2.5. It was also noted that Senate had already approved admission by Faculty and effective September 1992 the Faculty of Science will take advantage of this regulation; this proposal although not required for this change, complements it nicely.

Concern was expressed about approving exceptions to rules, especially at this point when the exception is not really needed and the possibility in future of ending up with different exceptions to different rules in various faculties.

In response to an inquiry with respect to potential conflicts between the motion and enrolment limitations, it was pointed out that if college transfer admission GPAs are set higher than the 2.5, any students admitted with the Associate credential at 2.5 would have to be taken into account in calculating the overall number of students admitted in the college transfer category. It was pointed out that students admitted with the Associate credential would be admitted to upper level Science courses which is an area where extra enrolment would not have severe effect on the rest of the university. The intent of the Associate Program was to encourage students in the college to focus their attention on the possibility of attending university and mapping out for them a cohesive program of courses that will allow them admission to the University to take a degree program in the Faculty of Science.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

B. Bedford requested his opposition be noted.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Notices of Motion

Paper S.91-11 - Changes to the Rules of Senate, Sections V.A.6, V.A.7

Senate received notice of motion for a proposal to change the Rules of Senate in order to allow the meeting time of Senate to be changed.

The Chair indicated that a suggestion to consider this issue in the Closed Session of Senate will be reviewed by the Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules.

8. Information

The date of the next regularly scheduled meeting of Senate is Monday, March 4, 1991.

The Assembly moved directly into Closed Session at 8:05 p.m.

H. Nagel
Acting Secretary of Senate