

S.88-83

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate

FROM: J.W.G. Ivany
Chair, SCAP

SUBJECT: MBA Curriculum Changes

DATE: Nov. 17, 1988

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Academic Planning/Senate Graduate Studies Committee gives rise to the following motion:

Motion: that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors as set forth in S.88-83 proposed changes to the coursework requirements of the MBA Program and changes to the wording with respect to the admission and financial assistance statements

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

AUG 16 1988
DEAN OF GRADUATE
STUDIES OFFICE

To: Bruce Clayman
Dean, Graduate Studies

From: Ernie Love
Director, MBA Programs

Subject: Calendar changes for the MBA Programs

Date: August 12, 1988

The Graduate Program Committee of Business Administration has recommended some changes to the structure of the Day MBA Program. Most of these changes have to do with the coursework requirements for the degree. In addition, some small wording changes were felt to be in order with respect to admission and financial assistance.

Please refer to pages 258 and 259 of the 1988/89 University Calendar for the original structure. The changes we are requesting are attached in the following (i) to (v) pages.

The rationale for these changes are detailed below.

a. FIELD OF CONCENTRATION

In terms of field of concentration vs. supporting fields, it was felt that the previous structure was too restrictive. Some students, with a good background from their previous Commerce degree, have the necessary breadth, and their academic supervisor(s) wish them to devote more time to an indepth study of their field of concentration. Hence, the desire to allow one additional course in their field.

On the other hand, it was felt that many students, particularly those who enter the program via the qualifying route are better served via the old structure. That is, to take only three courses in their field of concentration and devote more time to gaining breadth. (Typically, qualifying students enter the MBA program from a discipline other than Commerce and hence the desire to ensure more breadth).

b. SUPPORTING COURSES

It follows that the number of supporting courses must be adjusted to maintain the overall requirements of 8 courses for the project option and 6 for the thesis option.

c. RESEARCH COURSES

Experience indicates that too much of the students time is being devoted to research courses and research methodology for an MBA program. The Graduate Committe felt that one course in research methods is sufficient preparation for their research project.

In order to provide flexibility however, to the academic supervisor in planning the course of study for a student, we have maintained the option of up to three courses in research (the previous requirement).

For their thesis option, students should be required to take Bus. 900 (Research Methodology).

ADMISSION

The change in the Admission statement is to be clear on our expectations regarding the length of time to take the program. Because we will continue to require thesis students to take Bus. 900, and this course is scheduled only once per year, it is realistic to expect this extra semester from these students.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The previous calendar understates, we believe, the demand on the students' time when holding a TA/ship. As a consequence, students believe that they should be able to hold a TA/ship and also complete in three semesters. This creates the difficult situation that either their program or their TA/ship could suffer.

EL:lm

Degree Requirements (page 259)

(change to):

To qualify for the MBA degree under this program, the candidate must complete the requirements under one of two available options: the Project Option (Option I) or the Thesis Option (Option II). In addition, the student must choose a Field of Concentration, i.e., one of Accounting; Policy Analysis; Finance; Management Science and Information Systems; Marketing; or Organizational Behaviour. The student's academic advisor, taking into consideration the student's background, program and desires, will specify the supporting courses and the research courses necessary.

Admission: (page 258)

(4th paragraph changed to):

The program is designed for students to enter in the Fall semester. Courses are sequenced through the three semesters: Fall, Spring and Summer. The normal course load is three courses per semester. In this manner, it is possible to complete the program in one calendar year; although a typical student will require four semesters to finalize the project. Students granted entrance to the thesis option may expect to take one additional semester in order to take Bus. 900. Students holding TA/ships will take two courses per semester as a normal workload. Thus, the completion time for a student holding a TA/ship over their whole program is typically five or six semesters. In certain cases, students may be admitted to the program in other semesters.

ii Course work Requirements (page 259) (Changed to):

COURSE WORK REQUIREMENTS

For the Project Option the student must complete a minimum of 3 courses in a field of concentration and a minimum of at least one course in a supporting field and one course in research techniques. A total of eight courses are required for the project option. Of these, four must be taken as supporting or research courses. In addition, the student must complete a written research project equivalent to one course.

For the Thesis Option, the student must complete a minimum of three courses in a field of concentration as well as taking at least one course in research techniques and Bus 900, Research Methodology. A total of six courses are required in the thesis option. In addition, the student must complete a written research project equivalent to four courses.

Financial Assistance (page 259)

(1st paragraph changed to):

The Faculty of Business Administration is able to offer to qualified graduate students Teaching Assistantships in Business Administration. Annual remuneration is normally \$3100 per semester. For students holding a TA/ship it is expected two courses will constitute a full load. In addition to TA/ships, members of faculty from time to time, have funding available to hire Research Assistants.

(Page 259) (change to):

B. SUPPORTING COURSES

The academic supervisor will select supporting courses in consultation with the student. The selections may be either from Business Administration or from other fields of study (e.g. Economics, Resource Management, Computing Science, Psychology).

C. RESEARCH COURSES

Project option students must take at least one course in research techniques (Bus. 801 or equivalent). Thesis option students are required to take Bus. 900 in addition to a minimum one course in research techniques.

The academic supervisor will select the research courses in consultation with the student. Students taking Bus. 900 should complete their other research courses first.