

# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.06-3

## Senate Committee on University Priorities Memorandum

TO: Senate

FROM: John Waterhouse  
Chair, SCUP  
Vice President, Academic

RE: Proposal for a Minor in Legal Studies  
and a Post Baccalaureate Diploma in  
Legal Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (SCUP 05-067)

DATE: December 15, 2005

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At its November 23, 2005 meeting SCUP reviewed and approved the proposal from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences for a Minor in Legal Studies, and a Post Baccalaureate Diploma in Legal Studies.

### Motion One

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the proposal for a Minor in Legal Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

### Motion Two

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the proposal for a Post Baccalaureate Diploma in Legal Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

encl.

c: G. Anderson  
D. MacAlister

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**  
Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Jo Hinchliffe  
Secretary, Senate Committee  
on Undergraduate Studies

**From:** Mary Ann Gillies  
Chair, Faculty of Arts  
and Social Sciences  
Curriculum Committee

**Subject:** School of Criminology  
New Minor and PBD Programs  
in Legal Studies

**Date:** May 13, 2005

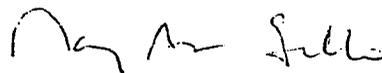
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The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Curriculum Committee, at its meeting of May 12, 2005, approved the attached new proposal for a Minor and PBD Program in Legal Studies, submitted by the School of Criminology.

- new Minor Program in Legal Studies (FPP)
- new Post Baccalaureate Program in Legal Studies

Would you please put these items on the agenda of the next meeting of S.C.U.S.?

Thank you.



Mary Ann Gillies, Chair  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
Curriculum Committee

MAG:dgg  
encl.

**PROPOSAL:**

**LEGAL STUDIES MINOR PROGRAM  
AND A POST-BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA CREDENTIAL  
IN LEGAL STUDIES AT SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**

May 16, 2005

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a proposal to create a Minor in Legal Studies and a Post Baccalaureate Diploma (PBD) in Legal Studies at Simon Fraser University. There are no comparable programs in British Columbia. The proposal creates the Minor and PBD out of existing course offered by a variety of Schools and Departments in the university. The aim of these programs is to apply a multi-disciplinary approach to the study of law and legal institutions, placing law into its social, philosophical, and economic context, resulting in an invaluable contribution to citizenship.

**Minor Program** - Students must complete lower level credits in criminology and political science, plus an upper level perspectives course in law offered by the School of Criminology (Sociology of Law or Philosophy of Law). In addition, students must select additional courses from a broad menu of law-based upper division course offerings. The credit requirements for the minor are in accord with other minor programs offered within the university.

**Post Baccalaureate Diploma** - This program is for those with a bachelor's degree. Students must complete an approved program comprised of 30 credit hours of third and fourth year courses. Students must complete the two perspective courses: CRIM 332-3 Sociology of Law and CRIM 338-3 Philosophy of Law. In addition, students must select courses pertaining to one of the following concentrations: Criminal Law, Women and Law, Psychology and the Law; Education and Law, Business, Economics and the Law, and Fundamental Rights and Law.

### **General Considerations**

It is anticipated that these programs will meet with widespread initial interest that will be sustained over time. Students will be able to complete the minor concurrent with their major degree and PBD students will be able to complete their requirements in one year of full-time study.

The programs will offer an excellent foundation for students planning on attending law school and those ultimately pursuing graduate work in law and social policy, public administration, or allied programs. For those students seeking employment immediately after graduation, the legal studies minor should be useful for those pursuing careers in a broad variety of areas including lifelong learners who have already entered the workforce and have come to realize the importance of legal knowledge to their employment.

The School of Criminology will establish a yearly quota for admission into the minor program. Once the program is available, it is anticipated that many students transferring from lower level programs at colleges and university colleges will be attracted to the legal studies minor.

Since no additional resources will be required to offer this program, administration and instructional costs will be met from existing operating funds. It is intended that the program will begin in September 2006.

**PROPOSAL FOR A LEGAL STUDIES MINOR PROGRAM  
AND A POST BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA CREDENTIAL  
IN LEGAL STUDIES AT SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**

**1. Institutional and Program Identification**

*(a) Institution awarding the degree*

The programs will be offered by Simon Fraser University.

*(b) The title of the program*

The programs will be a Minor in Legal Studies and a Post Baccalaureate Diploma in Legal Studies.

*(c) The credential that will be awarded to graduates*

Graduates of the Minor program will be awarded a Minor in Legal Studies. Graduates seeking the Diploma will be awarded a Post Baccalaureate Diploma in Legal Studies.

*(d) For new credentials:*

*(i) What is the rationale for choosing this particular degree name?*

The term "Legal Studies" was selected from a range of options that included "Socio-Legal Studies" and "Law and Society Studies". The term "Legal Studies" appears to have received fairly wide-spread acceptance among programs of this nature elsewhere in Canada, as well as in Britain, the United States and Australia.

*(ii) Is there a comparable academic program in the province which uses a different credential? If yes, why has a new degree name been requested?*

At the present time, there are no comparable programs in British Columbia.

*(iii) Were professional associations or other groups outside the institution consulted on the name of the degree. If yes, who? If not, why not? Does this degree require accreditation by an external organization?*

Since neither the Minor in Legal Studies, nor the Post Baccalaureate Diploma in Legal Studies, are prerequisites for membership in any professional society, accreditation is not a live issue. While there are no professional associations directly impacted by the Minor or the Diploma, the concept of a Legal Studies degree has been discussed with representatives from other criminology and criminal justice programs in Western Canada at annual articulation meetings. Amongst this group, support for a credential in this area has been fairly high.

*(e) Faculty or School offering the new degree program*

The programs will be administered by the School of Criminology in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

*(f) Name, title and phone number of the institutional contact person in case more information is required.*

David MacAlister  
Assistant Professor  
School of Criminology  
Phone: 604-291-3019  
Email: [dmacalis@sfu.ca](mailto:dmacalis@sfu.ca)

Or

Dr. Gail Anderson  
Associate Director, Undergraduate Program  
Associate Professor  
School of Criminology  
Phone: 604-291-3589  
Email: [ganderso@sfu.ca](mailto:ganderso@sfu.ca)

## **2. Program Description**

*2.1 Brief description of the program and how it will contribute to the mandate and strategic plan of the institution. Define the aims, goals or objectives of the new degree program.*

The aim of the Minor and Post Baccalaureate programs is to apply a multi-disciplinary approach to the study of law and legal institutions by placing law into its social, philosophical, and economic context. Courses in the legal studies programs adopt a social problems/issues perspective rather than engaging in the training of students for a career practicing law. It is believed that the study of law in this manner is an invaluable component of citizenship and should be useful for many chosen career paths.

### **Minor Program Requirements:**

Students must complete a minimum of 9 lower level credits in accordance with the following requirements:

#### **Lower Division**

Students must complete the following courses:

CRIM 135-3 Introduction to Canadian Law and Legal Institutions  
POL 151-3 The Administration of Justice

Students must select at least one from the following:

CRIM 210-3 Law, Youth and Young Offenders  
CRIM 230-3 Criminal Law  
CRIM 231-3 Introduction to the Judicial Process

Note: PHIL 120 Introduction to Moral Philosophy is also strongly recommended for Legal Studies Minor students. It is a prerequisite for PHIL 320 and PHIL 321.

### **Upper Division**

Students must select at least one from the following:

CRIM 332-3 Sociology of Law  
CRIM 338-3 Philosophy of Law

In addition, students must select additional courses totaling at least 15 credit hours from the upper division courses listed above, or from those listed below. Students must be careful to ensure they have necessary lower level prerequisites:

BUS 393-3 Commercial Law (subject to space availability)  
BUEC 391-3 Law in the Economic Society  
BUEC 495-3 Legal Aspects of Economic Relationships  
(In the process of being changed to: Seminar in Law and Economics)  
CRIM 310-3 Young Offenders and Criminal Justice: Advanced Topics  
CRIM 314-3 Mental Disorder, Criminality and the Law  
CRIM 330-3 Criminal Procedure and Evidence  
CRIM 331-3 Advanced Criminal Law  
CRIM 333-3 Women, Law and the State  
CRIM 335-3 Human Rights and Civil Liberties  
CRIM 336-3 Corporate Crime and Corporate Regulation  
CRIM-416/417/418-3 Current Issues in Criminology and Criminal Justice (on legal topic)  
CRIM 430-3 Judicial Administration and Planning  
CRIM 432-3 Gender in the Courts and the Legal Profession  
CRIM 435-3/GERO 435-3 Adult Guardianship Law  
CRIM-436-3 Corporate Crime and Corporate Regulation: Advanced Topics  
CRIM 437-3 Crime and Misconduct in the Professions  
ECON 388-3 Introduction to Law and Economics  
EDUC 445-4 Legal Context of Teaching  
EDUC 446-4 Law for the Classroom Teacher  
EDUC 448-4 Law in the Curriculum  
HIST 312-4 Poverty, Crime and Madness: Society and the Outcast  
PHIL 320-3 Social and Political Philosophy  
PHIL 321-3 Moral Issues and Theories  
POL 324-4 The Canadian Constitution

POL 344-4 Public International Law  
POL 346-4 International Organizations  
POL 351-4 The Public Policy Process  
POL 355-4 Governing Instruments  
POL 417-4 Human Rights Theories  
POL 459-4 Selected Topics in Governance  
PSYC 369-3 Law and Psychology  
PSYC 469-4 Selected Topics in Psycholegal Issues  
WS 303-4 Special Topics in Women's Studies (as Women and the Law)

Additional relevant courses may be added to the list of optional courses as they become available.

### **Post Baccalaureate Diploma Requirements**

This program is for those with a bachelor's degree. Students must complete an approved program comprised of 30 credit hours of third and fourth year courses (students must ensure they have the necessary lower level prerequisites for all courses in which they enroll). Students must complete the following two perspective courses:

CRIM 332-3 Sociology of Law  
CRIM 338-3 Philosophy of Law

In addition, students must select one of the following concentrations and complete all of the courses listed under their chosen concentration:

#### **Criminal Law**

CRIM 310-3 Young Offenders and Criminal Justice: Advanced Topics  
CRIM 314-3 Mental Disorder, Criminality and the Law  
CRIM 330-3 Criminal Procedure and Evidence  
CRIM 331-3 Advanced Criminal Law  
CRIM 335-3 Human Rights and Civil Liberties

#### **Women and Law**

CRIM 333-3 Women, Law and the State  
CRIM 335-3 Human Rights and Civil Liberties  
CRIM 432-3 Gender in the Courts and the Legal Profession  
W.S. 303-4 Special Topics in Women's Studies (as Women and the Law)

#### **Psychology and the Law**

PSYC 369-3 Law and Psychology  
PSYC 469-4 Selected Topics in Psycholegal Issues

CRIM 314-3 Mental Disorder, Criminality and the Law  
CRIM 435-3 Adult Guardianship Law

Education and Law

EDUC 445-4 Legal Context of Teaching  
EDUC 448-4 Law in the Curriculum  
EDUC 446-4 Law for the Classroom Teacher

Business, Economics and the Law

BUEC 391-3 Law in the Economic Society  
BUEC 495-3 Legal Aspects of Economic Relationships (Seminar in Law and Economics)  
BUS 393-3 Commercial Law (subject to space availability)  
ECON 388-3 Introduction to Law and Economics

Fundamental Rights and Law

CRIM 335-3 Human Rights and Civil Liberties  
PHIL 320-3 Social and Political Philosophy or PHIL 321-3 Moral Issues and Theories  
POL 324-4 Canadian Constitution  
POL 417-4 Human Rights Theories

The balance of the required credits will be fulfilled by students taking courses from those listed under the list of electives for the Legal Studies Minor Program above. Exemptions and replacement courses for those required in the program may be granted by the Associate Director responsible for Undergraduate Programs in the School of Criminology.

*2.2 Discussion of the target student audience for this program.*

*(a) Identification of the student audience(s) that this program is intended to serve.*

It is anticipated that the programs will draw on two groups of students. The minor program will attract students who wish to supplement their selected major program with a concentration on law. Accordingly, students majoring in criminology who wish to increase their emphasis on the study of public law will be able to develop a concentration in that area. Similarly, Business students seeking to develop a concentration in their studies that pertains to private law can take courses pertaining to this interest. Students interested in the popular area of psychology and law will be able to supplement their major in Psychology with a minor in legal studies. Students in virtually any major program at the university are envisioned as being attracted to a minor program in legal studies. While the minor program will initially draw students already at the university who are interested in law and legal studies, the program might ultimately draw students to the university who are interested in the ability to supplement their desired major with a concentration in legal studies.

The post-baccalaureate diploma program is targeted towards students who already possess a bachelor's degree but desire a post-graduate qualification in the legal studies area. This group will include students desiring to boost their qualifications with the intent of eventually doing graduate work in the legal studies area. It will also include those individuals with undergraduate degrees from a broad variety of disciplines who find themselves employed in an area where a further understanding of legal issues is important, such as those who are working as a notary public, a paralegal, a court clerk, a police officer, a forensic scientist, or any other line of work requiring skills and knowledge pertaining to law.

*(b) Anticipated enrolments in the program.*

It is anticipated that these programs will meet with widespread initial interest that will be sustained over time. Since many of the students enrolling in the minor program will already be declared majors in criminology, the program can accommodate many students without adversely affecting criminology's already high course full turn away rate. However, resource limitations mandate that enrolments will have to be restricted. It is anticipated that the program will initially attract 40-50 current SFU students and a further 30-40 new students annually. The post-baccalaureate diploma program will probably attract a narrower audience of perhaps 10-15 students per year.

*(c) Any evidence that this student audience is not currently being served with existing offerings in the British Columbia post-secondary system.*

Faculty members who are presently teaching in Criminology and Psychology have found widespread interest in legal studies. Additionally, considerable interest has been identified in the Faculty of Education and in the Faculty of Business Administration. At present, no other university or university college in the province offers the opportunity to specialize in this area. Formal law degree programs are offered at the University of British Columbia and the University of Victoria. However, they do not provide programs for students undertaking their initial BA degree, or students who have completed a BA degree and wish to supplement their knowledge with an array of legal courses falling short of a full LL.B. degree. Additionally, the law schools' programs are, to a large degree, practitioner-oriented programs, designed to prepare graduates for a career practicing law. They also have limited enrollments and high turn-away rates, significantly limiting the opportunity for post secondary and post baccalaureate students to study the law.

*(d) A list of programs that exist at other British Columbia institutions which may contain similar content, or have similar objectives, and if similar, what is the rationale for duplication.*

There are no similar programs in BC at this time. The BA major in Criminology program at SFU and the BA in Criminal Justice at the University College of the Fraser Valley both provide students with the opportunity to take a significant number of courses

concentrating in law, however neither program offers recognition for a student who has chosen to concentrate on such courses.

*(e) Outline the expected normal time required for students to complete the program (in years or semesters)*

Completion of the minor will depend upon the student's point of entry into SFU and their major program. Students entering from high school or transferring from a college/university college program in criminology in BC will be able to complete the minor concurrent with their major degree. Students enrolled in another discipline or transferring from a non-criminology program may be required to complete up to an additional two years of studies.

Students will be able to complete the Post Baccalaureate Diploma in one year of full-time study if they already possess the necessary prerequisite courses.

*2.3 Evidence of labour market and student demand is required. Include a discussion regarding the anticipated employment destination for graduates from the proposed program. Attach this information as an appendix.*

The programs aim to provide knowledge, skills and abilities that will be considered important in graduates aiming for employment or further education in a broad variety of areas.

The programs will offer an excellent foundation for students planning on subsequently attending law school. For those pursuing graduate work in law and social policy, public administration, or allied programs, they will also provide an excellent foundation.

For those students seeking employment immediately after graduation, the legal studies minor should be important for those seeking careers in a broad variety of areas. All legal studies graduates will benefit from a better understanding of the law and its place in our society, as well as its role in shaping relationships among individuals and between citizens and the state. For example, Communications graduates seeking positions as producers and television station managers need to know about Canadian content regulation, the law governing freedom of expression, and media liability. All employees in any conceivable position will benefit from knowledge pertaining to civil liability and laws governing privacy. Educators require knowledge of sexual abuse, negligent supervision, sexual harassment, youth justice, copyright regulation, and privacy issues. Intellectual property rights, licensing, and electronic commerce are concerns of those seeking careers in business and industry. Those working in banks or other financial institutions need a thorough understanding of commercial law subjects. Practicing psychologists and counselors require knowledge about privilege, the duty to warn potential victims, and the potential role that mental health professionals may play as expert witnesses. Government workers, as well as industry leaders and environmentalists, need knowledge of environmental law and regulation. Scientists working in the increasingly regulated areas of pharmaceutical manufacturing and testing, genetic

modification, and related research and development areas must have an awareness of legal and ethical issues affecting their work. In short, the current climate of risk avoidance makes legal knowledge essential in all potential employees. The Post Baccalaureate Diploma should be particularly attractive to lifelong learners who have already entered the workforce and have come to realize the importance of legal knowledge to their employment.

The traditional employment goals of criminology students are areas in which legal knowledge has been required in the past. It will continue to do so in the future. Policing, corrections, court administration, paralegal work, criminal justice policy development and analysis, counseling and youth care work, to name only a few of the employment areas in which criminology graduates have traditionally gone, all require sound knowledge of the law. Many of our students already take the necessary courses for the proposed minor in legal studies, however they are not presently recognized for having done so.

### **3. Admission and Transfer**

*Describe the admission and residency requirements for this program, including a plan for transferability. If applicable, please include a brief discussion on how the following apply to the proposed new degree program.*

With the approval of the Office of the Dean of Arts and Social Sciences, the School of Criminology will establish a yearly quota – the number of students to be admitted into the minor program. This quota will be established on the basis of projected available space and school resources. In advance of each competition, the school will announce the minimum cumulative grade point average below which students will not be considered for admission. The school will receive and review all applications from those eligible for consideration, and in its screening decisions will consider all relevant materials, including cumulative grade point, practical experience, letters of recommendation and other material the student wishes to submit in support of the application. The school will also review and assess applications to the post baccalaureate diploma program.

#### *(a) Prior Learning Assessment*

This will be carried out in accordance with existing policy

#### *(b) Transferability, both into and out of the program.*

Students should be able to transfer into the minor program seamlessly. The program uses courses for which transfer arrangements already exist between SFU and the various colleges and university colleges in the province. Since no new courses are required for the program outside of those already offered at the university, there are no impediments to implementation of the program arising out of transfer issues. Students may transfer their courses taken in the legal studies minor to other institutions the same as they may at present, on a course-by-course basis. Post-baccalaureate students will come with a variety

of undergraduate degrees from a variety of institutions. Limited transfer opportunities exist since that program is entirely composed of upper division courses for which transfer arrangements are relatively rare.

(c) *Articulation arrangements that exist (or are planned) at:*

(i) *your institution; and*

(ii) *other institutions that will allow the students to ladder or transfer into this program*

Once the program is available, it is anticipated that many students transferring from lower level programs at colleges and university colleges will be attracted to the legal studies minor. The lower level required courses are already taken by all students hoping to transfer to SFU or UCFV to complete a BA degree in Criminology (SFU) or Criminal Justice (UCFV). For those taking a lower level program in another discipline, the lower level requirements may be made up upon transfer to SFU and are not onerous. The vast bulk of the courses required for the minor are offered at the upper level, and accordingly will not affect the typical transfer student.

Beyond the existing course-by-course transfer arrangements, there are no other existing or planned articulation agreements with other programs or institutions.

#### **4. Program Resources and Timelines**

4.1 *Describe the resources that will be required to mount this program including:*

(a) *Existing and shared resources at your institution or at other institutions that will be used to offer the program (facilities, library resources, faculty, etc.); and*

Sufficient course offerings are currently available to complete a minor or a post baccalaureate diploma in legal studies. The library also has adequate legal resources to support this program. Faculty with knowledge about the law, many of whom have law degrees, can be found in various departments and schools in the university including Criminology, Political Science, Business Administration, and Psychology. The largest concentration of faculty with law degrees is found in criminology (currently five full time regular faculty members). Many faculty in S.F.U. departments and schools hold expertise in various aspects of legal studies with credentials other than those coming from law faculties.

(b) *Additional resources that will be required to offer this program (facilities, library resources, faculty, etc.)*

No additional resources will be required to offer this program. Program administration and instructional costs can be met from existing operating funds.

4.2 *What, if any, other programs will be reduced or eliminated in order to initiate the new program?*

No other programs will be reduced or eliminated.

4.3 *What is the intended implementation schedule of the degree program?*

It is intended that the program will begin in September 2006