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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Senate **DATE** January 17, 2012
FROM Jon Driver, Vice-President, Academic and Provost, and Chair, SCUP **PAGES** 1/1
RE: Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: Dissolution of the Major and Joint Majors in Latin American Studies (SCUP 11-60)

At its December 21, 2011 meeting SCUP reviewed and approved the proposal to dissolve the Major and Joint Majors in Latin American Studies within Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Beedie School of Business, Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology and Faculty of Environment, effective Fall 2012.

Motion:

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the dissolution of the Major and Joint Majors in Latin American Studies within Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Beedie School of Business, Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology and Faculty of Environment, effective Fall 2012.

encl.

c: P. Budra




OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC AND
ASSOCIATE PROVOST

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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	Senate Committee on University Priorities	DATE	December 2, 2011
FROM	Bill Krane, Chair	PAGES	1/1
RE:	Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (SCUS 11- 50i (revised))		

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of December 1, 2011, gives rise to the following recommendation:

Motion:

That SCUP approve and recommend to Senate the dissolution of the Major and Joint Majors in Latin American Studies within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Beedie School of Business, the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology and Faculty of Environment.

The relevant documentation for review by SCUP is attached.



FACULTY OF
ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

MEMO

ATTENTION: Jo Hinchliffe, Assistant Registrar, Senate and Academic Services
and Academic Integrity Coordinator

FROM: Paul Budra, Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences
Chair, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences Curriculum
Committee

RE: LAS Major Dissolution

DATE: November 22, 2011

Please find the attached LAS Major Dissolution document that passed at the last FASSCC Meeting and has been expanded on the advice of SCUS.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Dissolution of the Major in Latin American Studies

Committee Approvals

The LAS Steering Committee agreed last year to stop admitting new students to the Major. We discussed the dissolution of the major and voted on the resolution in our meeting on September 6, 2011. The agreement to stop admission has passed through FASSCC and SCUS.

Rationale for dissolution

It is with great regret that we propose that at this time the Major in Latin American Studies be dissolved. We will retain the Minor in LAS. We must do this because in recent years we have lost most of the faculty who teach in this program, making it impossible for us to offer the courses students require in order to complete the undergraduate major, particularly LAS 100. While one faculty hire in Latin American Studies would allow us to avoid this decision, we have been critically understaffed for nearly two years, and see no relief in the foreseeable future. As it stands, the program is simply not viable.

LAS will retain the Minor in Latin American Studies and the Latin American Studies MA, but will no longer offer a Major in Latin American Studies. This will impact Joint majors in Anthropology, Archaeology, Business Administration, Communications, Economics, Geography, History, International Studies, Political Science, and Sociology. We anticipate that students wanting to do the work of the Joint Major will be directed towards the Minor in Latin American Studies.

1. Location of the program:

Burnaby

2. Faculty(ies), Department(s), or School(s) offering the program;

The program is offered principally through the FASS, but a couple of our Joint Majors (see above) are offered in other Faculties.

3. Anticipated final dissolution date;

May 2012. That said, there are six students at the university who have completed some of the program requirements and will wish to finish the Joint Major after that date. We will grandfather these students through their degrees.

4. Reasons for discontinuance and dissolution of the program, including:

The Dissolution of the program is due to financial resources, principally the strains caused by several retirements and other faculty losses, none of which have been replaced. Between 2010 and 2011 alone we lost a faculty complement that offered 6 courses per year. We are simply not viable under these circumstances.

5. Plan for phasing-out of program, including:

a. Steps taken to inform students and prospective students

Students will be informed on the website (which will continue to be maintained, as the undergraduate major is only one part of our work), and through undergraduate advisors in the Departments that offer the joint majors. The six students presently declared into an LAS Major will be contacted and arrangements made for their degree completion.

b. Steps taken to inform instructors and staff

This does not impact staff or instructors, as there are no duties to be re-assigned.

c. Description of the reallocation or any remaining program and associated resources when program is dissolved

LAS will maintain a graduate program, a graduate certificate, and an undergraduate minor. At present there are no resources dedicated to the undergraduate Major. We would also request that LAS remain permitted to offer LAS 412 and LAS 300 periodically, as these courses represent the only venues on campus in which Latin American Literature courses are taught. LAS 412 is being offered during the Fall 2011 Semester, cross listed with a World Literature course. It has 30 students registered. This demonstrates that there is a robust demand for Latin American Studies on campus (a fact made further clear by the enrollment in courses on Latin America offered within the disciplines). We thus require resources to continue to meet campus demand for Latin America.

d. Confirmation of consultation with other impacted departments and Faculties

Consultations have been ongoing for over a year. No other department has been able to offer the resources needed to maintain the Major. LAS has contacted the other departments with which it offers joint majors.

e. Impacts on and/or reorganization of curriculum in cognate disciplines

While this affects joint majors, it does not impact the ability of other programs to offer stand alone majors.

f. Timeline of activities

We will immediately remove information about the Major from our Website. During this year the FASS undergraduate Committee will voted for the dissolution of the major. We anticipate this will be finalized by the end of the academic year 2011-2012.

6. More information:

**Paul Budra
Associate Dean
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**Alexander Dawson
Director
Latin American Studies Program
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Appendix to SCUS 11-50i revised:

The dissolution of the LAS major means the following joint majors will also be terminated. There are no students presently enrolled in these programs.

- **Joint Major Program, Latin American Studies and Geography**
- **Joint Major Program, Latin American Studies and History**
- **Joint Major Program, Latin American Studies and Economics**
- **Joint Major Program, Latin American Studies and Political Science**
- **Joint Major Program, Latin American Studies and Anthropology**
- **Joint Major Program, Latin American Studies and International Studies**
- **Joint Major Program, Business Administration and Latin American Studies**
- **Joint Major Program, Sociology and Latin American Studies**
- **Joint Major Program, Communications and Latin American Studies**
- **Joint Major Program, Archeology and Latin American Studies**