

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
Senate Committee on University Priorities
Memorandum

TO: Senate

FROM: John Waterhouse
Chair, SCUP
Vice President, Academic

RE: Proposal for a Graduate Diploma in
Urban Studies

DATE: 11 December 2001

Attached is a proposal from Dr. Jock Munro and the Department of Geography for a Graduate Diploma in Urban Studies (GDUS).

The Senate Committee on University Priorities reviewed the proposal at its December 5, 2001 meeting. The proposal was unanimously approved.

Once approved by Senate, the proposal is to be submitted to the Board of Governors.

Motion

That Senate approves and recommends to the Board of Governors the proposal for a Graduate Diploma in Urban Studies as outlined in S.02-3

Attachments.

- c. J. Munro
- A. Gill
- J. Pierce

PROPOSAL FOR A GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN URBAN STUDIES

December 5, 2001

A. INTRODUCTION AND RATIONALE

1. Name of Department: Department of Geography
2. Credential: Graduate Diploma in Urban Studies (GDUS)
3. Development of Proposal

This proposal originates with the Graduate Urban Studies Steering Committee (GUSSC). This committee was established by the Dean of Arts in 1998 to supervise the offering of Urban Studies 600 and 601 and to consider further steps to implement the School of Urban Studies proposal (see below) in light of the experience in offering these two courses. The University's development of urban studies programming has been an interdepartmental initiative that has involved faculty from six departments. The Committee has worked closely with the Department of Geography, the academic "home" for graduate urban studies, in preparing this proposal.

The Graduate Urban Studies Steering Committee (GUSSC) is now proposing an expansion of graduate urban studies programming to offer a Graduate Diploma in Urban Studies (GDUS). This proposal for further graduate urban program expansion is being brought forward one year earlier than anticipated in 1998. The main rationales for this acceleration are:

- Demonstrated student interest in a more substantial graduate urban studies program that leads to a credential;
- The need to continue support for the development of the City Program;
- Acting in advance of possible steps by UBC to mount a more comprehensive urban program.

The GDUS would require a minimum curriculum of six 4-hour courses, or their equivalent, for a 24-hour Graduate Diploma. We are proposing 10 new courses and the deletion of the two existing graduate urban courses. The intention would be to offer two or three courses in each of the fall and spring semesters and perhaps one course in the summer semester. Our aim is to have the GDUS approved in January, 2002 and to have the first courses offered in 02-3.

The GDUS would be the University's third graduate diploma program. The Graduate Diploma in Business Administration (GDBA) requires 24 hours of graduate courses and the Graduate Diploma in Advanced Professional Studies in Education (GDAPS) requires 30 hours of graduate courses. The Graduate General Regulations specify 22 hours as the minimum requirement for a Graduate Diploma.

4. Rationale Statement

GUSSC believes that the GDUS proposal is consistent with the academic planning themes of the University as expressed over the last decade. The President's Committee on University Planning said in its final report (1996) that new graduate programs of an interdisciplinary character offered considerable opportunity for University development. In addition to strong academic foundations, such programs were to emphasize adaptability to changing professional requirements and co-operative education.

The 2001-04 academic plans of the Department of Geography and the Dean of Arts include the GDUS as an anticipated new program. The first academic goal on the 2001-04 Plan of the Vice President, Academic is to "reaffirm our commitment to the arts and sciences while enabling development of applied and professional programs." One of the means to achieve this goal is "the development of cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary programs." The GDUS, which is referred to in this section of

the Plan, is such a program. The Plan also encourages the development of applied and professional programs. The ongoing program development in urban studies referred to in this proposal could in the future lead to a professional program that would complement the essentially academic GDUS program.

An urban university is defined not only by its location, but also by its philosophy and programs, its interactive relationships, and a commitment to intellectual participation in the community that permeates the campus. Thus, a program with an explicit urban theme is especially appropriate for the Harbour Centre campus. As approved by Senate (S88-33), a key factor in the programmatic development of Simon Fraser University at Harbour Centre has been the unique location of the campus in the core of British Columbia's principal urban, national and international centre. Situated within the province's highest concentration of business, professional, cultural and governmental enterprises, a criterion for proposing and approving programs at Harbour Centre has been that they would be strengthened by being located in this urban centre with proximity not only to intended students but also to special community resources.

It is widely recognized that the transformation of Greater Vancouver's urban core presents possibilities and problems that involve significant intellectual and policy issues. Vancouver is in many respects quite unlike most North American cities. No urban core in North America is undergoing such a rapid transformation towards a mixed residential and business city, with some 60,000 new jobs predicted to be added in the next two decades. The opportunities for creating one of the most interesting and liveable cities in North America are quite phenomenal. At the core of this development is Simon Fraser University's downtown campus. We should ensure that the campus is not only in the city but also of the city and thus participates in the city's future.

This is similar to the rationale that was used in 1997-98 to support a proposal for a trial set of graduate urban courses in 1999-2001. The current proposal for a Graduate Diploma in Urban Studies is based on experience with the graduate urban studies "experiment", which is described below. The opinions of students and course instructors concerning these courses have been uniformly favourable and there has also been strong support for further development of graduate urban studies.

B. COURSE CHANGES

1. New Courses:

Urban Studies 605-2 Introduction to Urban Studies

Urban Studies 610-4 Urban Design

Urban Studies 620-4 Urban Communities and Culture

Urban Studies 630-4 Urban Development, Planning and Policy

Urban Studies 640-4 Urban Regions and Urban Change

Urban Studies 650-4 Urban Governance

Urban Studies 660-4 Economy, Land Use and Transportation in Cities

Urban Studies 690-4 The City in Art and Culture

Urban Studies 695-4 Selected Topics in Urban Studies

Urban Studies 698-2 Seminar in Urban Studies

2. Existing Courses To Be Discontinued:

Urban Studies 600-4 Urban Transformations

Urban Studies 601-4 Urban Issues and Solutions

3. Existing Credential to Be Discontinued

GUSSC believes that it would make sense to discontinue the current Post-baccalaureate Diploma in Urban Studies when the GDUS begins. This would avoid program overlap and confusion if there were to be two programs with somewhat similar objectives. Current PBD students who wished to complete their PBD would be accommodated.

C. BACKGROUND

1. Urban Studies Programming, 1991-2001

In an attempt to address the University's urban programming needs and, two initiatives were undertaken in the early 1990s. A Post Baccalaureate Diploma in Urban Studies and a Certificate in Urban Studies were established in 1991 (S. 91-55) to combine courses offered by the Departments of Geography, Political Science and Sociology and Anthropology into a coherent programmatic stream. Also, the non-credit City Program was established in Continuing Studies in 1992 to offer non-credit mid-career courses for urban professionals, public lectures and short courses, community outreach projects and special events which together provide a forum for the exploration of current urban issues. The program has been an outstanding success and has served over 14,000 people. The achievements of the City Program have been recognized throughout the community and have resulted in substantial contributions to the City Program Endowment Fund from the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia and the Lohn Foundation. The City Program has won several awards for its innovative and effective programming.

2. School of Urban Studies Proposal

Beyond the two initiatives described above, the question arose as to whether there were other educational needs unmet by existing university credit programs. Consequently, the Dean of Arts appointed Professor Alan Artibise of the School of Community and Regional Planning at UBC (SCARP) as urban program consultant.

In March, 1995 a proposal for a School of Urban Studies was completed by Professor Artibise and Professor Nick Blomley of the SFU Department of Geography. This proposal was considered by the Faculty of Arts Graduate Studies Committee and received "approval for further planning" from the Senate Committee on Academic Planning in June, 1995 (SCAP 95-32).

Further planning work was undertaken by Professors Artibise and Blomley through 1995, including a survey of Planning Institute of B.C. members concerning the need for a School of Urban Studies. A final report and recommendations were submitted to the Dean of Arts in March, 1996. The Dean appointed N. Blomley (Geography), W. Gill (Geography), and J. Munro (Economics) to carry out the next stages in planning and implementation. J. Oberlander, Director of the City Program in Continuing Studies, was also asked to participate.

One of the ideas discussed by this committee was a joint School of Urban Studies with UBC. This could have allowed SFU to expand its programming in this area and benefit from existing UBC capabilities and interests. Two meetings were held with UBC faculty members from SCARP to consider how the two institutions might co-operate. In the end, it appeared that tangible progress would require a Simon Fraser-only initiative, especially since the planning orientation of SCARP and its decreasing interest in urban programming seemed to argue against a meaningful practical collaboration.

3. Graduate Urban Studies Programming, 1999-2001

In May, 1998 the Senate Graduate Studies Committee authorized experimental graduate urban studies programming. Two courses were approved: Urban Studies 600-4 (Urban Transformations) and Urban Studies 601-4 (Urban Issues and Solutions), URB 600 was designed with three modules (economic, political, and social) and URB 601 was to be linked to two suitable City Program short courses. URB 600 was offered to 8 students in 99-3 and 14 students in 00-3; URB 601 was offered to 6 students in 00-1 and 5 students in 01-1. In addition, five students from URB 600 and 601 in 99-3 and 00-1 took GEOG 795 (Sustainable Urban Development) in 00-3 and followed it with POL 852 (Urban Government and Politics) in 01-1 and POL 856 (Global Cities) in 01-3. These students are keen to continue with other graduate urban studies courses and to obtain a credential. The offering of these courses has been facilitated by administrative support provided by the Department of Geography.

The basis on which URB 600 and 601 were approved was that they would not continue beyond the review if the review were "not positive". (The review was to consider demand, instructional experience, and student response.) If the review were positive, there was nothing in the approval that would prevent these courses from being offered into the future. However, a positive review was to lead to the development of "a proposal for the next stage in Urban Studies implementation at Simon Fraser". The graduate diploma was specifically mentioned in connection with this next stage.

D. STUDENTS AND ADMISSION

1. Student Demand

The experimental graduate Urban Studies courses attracted 22 students in 99/00 and 00/01. This level of interest despite the inherent unattractiveness of credit graduate courses that did not lead to a credential, makes us quite confident that the GDUS could meet its enrollment target of 20 students. Further support for this view is provided in the surveys that were done during the preparation of the School of Urban Studies proposal.

2. Admission Criteria

Applicants for admission would normally be required to hold an undergraduate degree in one of the urban studies base disciplines (economics, geography, political science, sociology and anthropology). Applications from students with other degrees or with equivalent professional training and experience would also be considered. Admissions decisions would be based on undergraduate grades, a statement of student interest in the program, and letters of reference.

E. BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

1. At least the equivalent of one new faculty position to support administration and instruction in a GDUS Program is required. GUSSC believes that this position should be in Geography and that it must be incremental to current faculty replacement planning in the Department of Geography.

2. In addition, provision should be made for the equivalent of two courses per year to be taught by faculty members on overload as Sessional Lecturers (\$15,000). A half-time administrative position at the Program Assistant level will be needed (\$20,000) and the GDUS would need in the range of \$15,000 annually for non-salary operating expenses. The administrative work that GDUS would require should not be a burden on the budget of the Department of Geography.

3. The University's Library resources in urban studies are reasonably strong. Additional journal subscriptions and a broadening of the monograph collection profile would require \$9,335 in recurring funding and one-time additions to the collection would require \$7,500.

4. A portion of these increased costs would be offset by revenue increases. The GDUS would, as a professional program, have a premium tuition fee. Since the GDUS would be a new program, its

initial tuition fee would not be affected by the tuition fee freeze. The standard graduate fee is approximately \$77 per hour. MPub charges about \$120 per hour. The GDBA fee is \$356.25 per hour and the GDAPS fee is \$145.90 per hour. If GDUS had a tuition fee of \$125 per hour, the seven courses (totaling 24 hours) planned for the 2002/03 academic year with an estimated 15 students each would generate \$45,000 in additional revenue annually for the University.

5. There is an endowment of \$120,000 attached to the present PBD in Urban Studies. With the permission of the donors, the Downtown Vancouver Association and the Building Owners and Managers Association, this would be transferred to the GDUS and its income made available for student financial assistance. We expect that further urban program development would generate additional endowment gifts.

F. FUTURE URBAN STUDIES PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

If this proposal is approved, GUSSC intends to continue with further program development planning. Approval of the current proposal would thus imply some level of support for further development. The next stage would be to plan a Master's Program in Urban Studies and to explore the feasibility of a research institute. We would expect that the courses we are proposing for the GDUS would be suitable for a graduate degree program with the addition of a few courses plus a research requirement. We would not expect a Master's Program to be in place until 2005, at the earliest.

G. CALENDAR ENTRY

The graduate diploma in urban studies (GDUS) is an interdisciplinary program that provides an opportunity to study the city and its functions from several perspectives. The program is aimed at those with a background in the urban professions as well as to those who would simply like to learn more about cities. The GDUS provides a strong foundation in various urban-related disciplines and emphasizes the application of these disciplines to real-world problems and situations.

The GDUS is offered at the University's Harbour Centre campus, located in the core of British Columbia's principal urban, national and international centre. The program draws particularly on Vancouver's experience but also encompasses study of cities in other places and from other times.

Admission

Applicants for admission would normally be required to hold an undergraduate degree in one of the urban studies base disciplines (economics, geography, political science, sociology and anthropology). Applications from students with other degrees or with equivalent professional training and experience would also be considered. Admissions decisions will be based on undergraduate grades (normally, a G.P.A. of 3.0 is required), a one-page statement of student interest in the program, and letters of reference.

Application

Candidates must submit the following documentation when applying for the program.

- Simon Fraser University's *Application for Admission to the Graduate Diploma In Urban Studies*
- Official copy of transcript of undergraduate grades (mailed directly from the granting institution)
- Two confidential letters of reference (mailed directly from the referees)
- TOEFL and TWE test scores may be required for applicants whose first language is not English

Financial Assistance

Limited student financial assistance is available.

Diploma Requirements

To qualify for the graduate diploma in urban studies, students must complete a total of 24 credit hours drawn from the following courses.

URB 605-2 Introduction to Urban Studies

URB 610-4 Urban Design

URB 620-4 Urban Communities and Culture

URB 630-4 Urban Development, Planning and Policy

URB 640-4 Urban Regions and Urban Change

URB 650-4 Urban Governance

URB 660-4 Economy, Land Use and Transportation in Cities

URB 690-4 The City in Art and Culture

URB 695-4 Selected Topics in Urban Studies

URB 698-2 Seminar in Urban Studies

- Up to two other graduate courses may be substituted for courses from this list.
- URB 605 and URB 698 are required courses.

NOTE: New course proposal forms for the above courses are available on request