

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate

From: D. Gagan, Chair *D. Gagan*
Senate Committee on Academic Planning

Subject: M.A. in English and French Literatures

Date: December 11, 1995

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

Motion:

"That Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.96-11 , the proposed M.A. Option in English and French Literatures."

MA OPTION IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH LITERATURES

Rationale

As Canada is a bilingual nation, a graduate option linking the two official languages would seem inevitable and highly desirable. Because French Immersion has been actively cultivated in Canada, we now have a student population that is bilingual and trained in both literatures, and for those students it is a natural step to continue studies beyond the undergraduate level. An MA in English and French Literature would be extremely valuable for them. Further, the study of this country's writing in both languages would provide a more comprehensive knowledge of the field of Canadian literature.

Academic Soundness

This proposal for an MA option combining graduate courses taken in the French Department and the English Department is derived from the basic philosophy of the existing Graduate Programs in French and English which stress a broad based curriculum more than a narrow specialization. Both programs also favour interdisciplinarity.

Some links already exist between the departments at the undergraduate level with a joint Major in English and French. In the past, faculty from English have offered courses in translation in the Department of French. The English Department, on the other hand has, on several occasions, requested the participation of faculty from French at the graduate level for supervisory matters.

An MA in English and French literatures is coherent in its disciplinary orientation; taking courses in two different departments will not dilute the student's knowledge of concepts and research methods. Rather, the range of their applications will be expanded. For administrative/scholarship purposes, the Home department will count for 2/3, the Associate department for 1/3.

Student Demand for and Professional Value of Interdisciplinary MA Degrees

Clearly, students in this graduate option will not constitute the majority of graduate enrolments in any one department. However, enrolment figures for undergraduate Joint Majors (French and English/History & Political Science/Spanish) indicate that students in the Faculty of Arts are increasingly attracted to such programs. The MA option in English/French literatures will allow those undergraduate students who have made the special effort of expanding their field of specialization to take advantage of their enriched background at the graduate level. The success of the Master's program in Liberal Studies, is another sign of new directions in Humanities which transcend the traditional boundaries of language and nationality.

Students holding an MA in English and French literatures will have an advantage in the competition for teaching positions in arts departments, at college level or in senior high schools.

There is no conflict with the MA under Special Arrangements already offered by S.F.U. It is designed for a different group of students who already have elaborated a specific research project, usually of a multidisciplinary nature, with an individual program of courses. Such students have usually established a relationship with one or more S.F.U. professors prior to their application.

The present Graduate Studies programs of the Departments of English and French have in common similar requirements and similar flexibility.

CALENDAR ENTRY

1. (The following text to be inserted in the **Department of English** section after **Interdisciplinary Studies**, page 286):

Simon Fraser University also offers the Option of an MA in English and French literatures. This will allow students who have already been trained in both literatures to continue their studies beyond the undergraduate level. For course requirements please see the **Department of French** section.

2. (The following text to be inserted in the **Department of French** section before **Graduate Courses**, page 288):

Interdisciplinary Studies

Simon Fraser University offers the Option of an MA in English and French literatures. This will allow students who have already been trained in both literatures to continue their studies beyond the undergraduate level.

Under this option, students would register in and, if successful, receive a degree from, one of the two departments, which would be the "Home Department." The other department would be designated the "Associate Department."

Application for Admission

1. Students may apply to either department or to both, indicating a preference. Both departments must agree on the student's admission or on conditions for admission into the program.
2. A Home Department will be assigned in consultation with the student and with the agreement of both departments.
3. A minimum of 15 credits in upper level undergraduate courses in each discipline is required for admission.
4. The student, after initial admission and 2 semesters of course work, will have the the option of an MA either with Thesis or without subject to the agreement of both departments.

Supervision

The Home department will select a joint supervisory committee made up of two faculty members from the Home Department and one from the Associate Department.

Degree Requirements

1. Home Department Requirements.

- EITHER** a) English 810-5 Graduate Professional Development Seminar Part I.
 and
 English 811-5 Graduate Professional Development Seminar Part II.

OR

- b) French 801-2 Readings in French Literature.
French 802-2 Basic Research Methods (during the first semesters).

AND

2. Concentration requirements

MA with Thesis

For this option, students must successfully complete an additional 20 semester hours of coursework selected from literature offerings in the Department of French and the Department of English, including at least one course from each department (i.e. 1-3 or 2-2), and complete a thesis of about 100 pages on a topic acceptable to the supervisory committee, defended at an oral examination as described in sections 1.9 and 1.10 of the *Graduate General Regulations*.

OR

MA without Thesis

For this option, students must successfully complete an additional 30 semester hours of coursework selected from literature offerings in the Department of French and the Department of English, and including at least two courses from each department (i.e. 2-4 or 3-3), and a written field examination based on three completed courses. Preparation for the field examination will be undertaken on the advice of the supervisory committee.

APPENDIX I

Home Department Requirements

(The following descriptions are taken from SFU calendar pages 287 and 288).

ENGL 810-5 Graduate Professional Development Seminar Part I

The Graduate Professional Development Seminar (ENGL 810/811) is required of both MA and PhD students. All incoming students will take 810 in their first year. ENGL 810 has two components. The first component is to introduce students to the basic tools of advanced study and to acquaint them with the kinds of research being done in the department of faculty and graduating students. There will also be workshops on topics such as drafting and submitting proposals, applying for grants, presenting papers, publishing, choosing graduate schools, and employment possibilities, including interview situations. The second component consists of six 2 hour workshops for new teaching assistants which will focus on the teaching of writing in literature courses. Required. Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory.

AND

ENGL 811-5 Graduate Professional Development Seminar Part II

Conclusion of 810 consisting of research workshops for students near completion of their research projects. Required. Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory.

OR

FREN 801-2 Readings in French Literature

A semester of required readings in French literary theory. This course, which culminates in an oral examination, will be graded satisfactory/unsatisfactory.

AND

FREN 802-2 Basic Research Methods

The study of research methods and tools used in French linguistics or French literature. Planning a long-term project.

APPENDIX II

Concentration Requirements

N.B. Also specific concentrations are possible - Canadian Literature, Literary Theory, Literary Movements and Historical Periods, Monographic Studies, Genre Study, students are free to choose any combination of courses

APPENDIX III

Additional resources required to mount the program option.

Start-up and continuing costs:

- 1) Course costs: students will be integrated into current offerings at no additional cost.
- 2) Faculty costs: no additional faculty costs as new courses will not be created.
- 3) Library costs: costs will not exceed the current budget. Existing holdings are sufficient for courses offered.
- 4) Administrative costs: Publicity and mailings will fall under the current budget. Description of the joint MA option will become part of graduate program advertising and brochures.

Therefore, costs to the English and French Departments for the Joint English French MA option are estimated to be only minimal and will involve no new allocation of funding.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate

From: Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules

Subject: Senate Membership

Date: November 21, 1995

Part 7 Section 34(2)(h) of the University Act stipulates that the membership of Senate shall include "a number of full-time students, equal to the number provided in paragraphs (a) to (f), elected from the student association in a manner that ensures that at least one student from each faculty is elected".

Currently, there are 12 student positions on the Senate.

Section IV.F of the Rules of Senate further defines the conditions for eligibility of students to nominate, stand for office, vote, and continue to hold office. There are no provisions within the current Rules to ensure representation from both undergraduate and graduate students. It is the opinion of SCAR that Senate and the student constituencies would be best served if there was a provision to ensure that, among the student representatives on Senate, there should be at least one undergraduate student and one graduate student. While history and the number of voters in each category suggest it is unlikely that undergraduate students would not be represented, it is the recommendation of SCAR that the Rule should address either possibility.

Senate is reminded that alterations of the Rules of Senate require written notice at a regular meeting of Senate prior to the meeting at which a vote on the proposed alteration is taken, and this vote requires an affirmative vote by two-thirds of the voting members present to carry.

Notice of Motion:

SCAR recommends to Senate that the Rules of Senate relating to the election of students be amended to include the following provision:

4. There shall be at least one graduate student and one undergraduate student among the total number of students elected to Senate under Part 7, Section 34(2)(h) of the University Act.