

S.88-54

*As amended by
Senate Dec 5/88*

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate

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

Subject: Faculty of Arts - Change of
Requirements

Date: November 17, 1988

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

Motion:

that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors as set forth in S.88-54 the following changes

- a) in general program requirements in the Faculty of Arts
- b) in honours program requirements in the Faculty of Arts

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
Office of the Dean
Faculty of Arts

Xm for
SR.

MEMORANDUM

To: W.R. Heath, Secretary
Senate Committee on
Undergraduate Studies

From: Sheila Roberts
Faculty of Arts
Curriculum Committee

Subject: Curriculum Revision

Date: November 17, 1988

The Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee at its meeting of October 6, 1988 approved changes to the Faculty Requirements reducing the required number of hours taken in the Faculty, and specifying that half of the hours required to be taken outside of the major department must be taken within Arts.

This change was sent out to the faculty for referendum and was overwhelmingly approved.

SIMON FRASER UNIVESITY
Office of the Dean
Faculty of Arts

MEMORANDUM

To: Ross Saunders
Chair, SCUS

From: Ellen Gee
Associate Dean of Arts

Re: Changes in Faculty of
Arts Degree Requirement

Date: October 11, 1988

At the October 6 meeting of FACC, the following change in degree requirements was approved. Could you please place it on the next agenda of SCUS.

GENERAL PROGRAM - REQUIREMENTS

FROM:

- a) At least 70 semester hours in Arts subjects.
- b) At least 45 semester hours in upper division courses which must include at least 30 semester hours in upper division courses in an Arts major program.*
- c) Lower division prerequisites for at least one Arts major program.
- d) Satisfaction of the Faculty of Arts breadth requirements (see below).
- e) At least 30 semester hours taken outside the major department.

TO:

- a) At least 65 semester hours in Arts subjects.
- b) At least 45 semester hours in upper division courses which must include at least 30 semester hours in upper division courses in an Arts major program.*
- c) Lower division prerequisites for at least one Arts major program.
- d) Satisfaction of the Faculty of Arts breadth requirements (see below).
- e) At least 30 semester hours taken outside the major department, which must include at least 15 ~~semester hours in Arts subjects.~~
deleted by senate

HONOURS PROGRAM - REQUIREMENTS

FROM:

- a) At least 82 semester hours in Arts subjects.

b) At least 60 semester hours in upper division courses which must include at least 50 semester hours in upper division courses in an Arts honors program.*

c) Lower division prerequisites for at least one Arts honors program.

d) Satisfaction of the Faculty of Arts breadth requirements (see below).

e) At least 30 semester hours taken outside the honors department.

TO:

a) At least 65 semester hours in Arts subjects.

b) At least 60 semester hours in upper division courses which must include at least 50 semester hours in upper division courses in an Arts honors program.*

c) Lower division prerequisites for at least one Arts honors program.

d) Satisfaction of the Faculty of Arts breadth requirements (see below).

e) At least 30 semester hours taken outside the honors department, ~~which must include at least 15 semester hours in Arts subjects:~~
deleted by Senate

RATIONALE:

a) Change from 70 to 65 hours in Arts Subjects

1) For honors students, there is never a problem in students meeting minimum hours in Arts subjects; indeed, most far exceed the minimum. Also, for major students, the vast majority fulfill the 70 hours as presently stipulated. However, students who add a major late in their programs, or change faculties late in their programs have difficulty fulfilling this requirement. These students usually are required to complete extra hours to fulfill the requirement and the rigorous application of the 70 hour requirement presents considerable hardship to a few of them.

2) When the requirements were instituted in 1975, the committee had no particular reason for choosing 70/82 but said that the requirement could be revised when it had been tested after a few years. This review has never taken place, and this requirement is waived more often than any other. Advisors have not been given clear guidelines regarding the 70 hours - thus, at graduation requests for waivers are granted.

3. By reducing the 70 hours to 65 and stating that the committee will not waive this requirement, advisors will be able to give students clear and strong directives.

b) Addition of "which must include at least 15 hours in Arts subjects"

The imposing of an Arts breadth requirement is in the spirit of the committee's belief in breadth for Arts students transferring into Arts to take courses in Arts from other than their major/minor department.

Memorandum

Office of the Dean
Faculty of Arts
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

C. 88-27
70 Hr.

TO: ELLEN GEE
INCOMING CHAIR, FACC

FROM: EVAN ALDERSON
OUTGOING CHAIR, FACC

RE:

DATE: AUGUST 19, 1988

One of the issues that has frequently arisen in the FACC during my chairmanship is requests for waivers of the Faculty of Arts degree requirement that 70 hours of credit should be completed within the Faculty of Arts. The Committee, to my knowledge, has never developed a very clear rationale for this specific requirement. Several individual cases have come before the Committee that have made it appear unreasonable to some members of the Committee to enforce the requirement strictly. On the other hand, several committee members have felt that whatever the reasons for the requirement, it is not there to be waived upon request.

The last time this issue arose, at the beginning of the summer semester, I promised to have one of the subcommittees look at the issue. I have not done so, but I have a proposal to make that could form the basis for subcommittee deliberations under your chairmanship.

I propose that the requirement for "At least 70 hours in Arts subjects" be dropped, and that the requirement for "At least 30 semester hours taken outside the major department" be amended to read: "At least 30 hours taken outside the major department, which must include at least 15 hours in Arts subjects."

My reasons for proposing this change are as follows:

1. It seems to me that the best rationale for the present 70 hours requirement is that for an Arts degree, a student should take over half of his or her work in this Faculty. I agree with this principle, and my proposal would maintain it, in as much as all majors in the Faculty require at least 45 hours of work in the major subject.
2. In addition, however, I think the requirement is intended as a kind of disguised breadth requirement, which we would do better to state more directly. For example, in the case of a transfer student with a science background who takes 60 hours of Psychology and then requests a B.A. with a major in Psychology: would it not make more sense to insist that such a student should do 15 hours in Arts but outside Psychology, than to insist that he or she do 10 more hours in Arts which could include Psychology? I think this principle of breadth is more defensible, and quite appropriate for this Faculty to insist upon.

Please note that if the subcommittee decides this idea bears further discussion, it will have to decide whether and how to modify the requirements for an Honors Program.

EA/nm

cc: S. Roberts

