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**MEMORANDUM**

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**ATTENTION** Senate **DATE** October 8, 2010  
**FROM** Jon Driver, Vice-President, Academic and Provost, and Chair, SCUP **PAGES** 1/1  
**RE:** Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: Halting Admission and Closing of Integrated Studies Program (SCUP 10-76)

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At its October 8, 2010 meeting SCUP reviewed and approved the proposal to halt admission to the Integrated Studies Program within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Fall 2010 and that the Program be discontinued upon the current cohort's completion in 2013.

**Motion**

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the proposal to halt admission to the Integrated Studies Program within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Fall 2010 and that the Program be discontinued upon the current cohort's completion in 2013.

encl.

c: P. Budra



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MEMORANDUM

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ATTENTION	Senate Committee on University Priorities	DATE	September 16, 2010
FROM	Bill Krane, Chair Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies	PAGES	1/1 
RE:	Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (SCUS 10-40) REVISED)		

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Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of September 16, 2010, gives rise to the following recommendation:

Motion:

That SCUP approve that admission to the Integrated Studies Program, within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, be halted effective Fall 2010 and; that the Integrated Studies Program be discontinued upon the current cohort's completion anticipated in 2013.

**The relevant documentation for review by SCUP is attached.**



FACULTY OF  
ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

MEMO

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TO: Bill Krane, Assoc. VP Academic  
FROM John Craig, Dean FASS  
RE Integrated Studies Program  
cc. Jo Hinchliffe, Sarah Dench  
DATE September 10, 2010

We are recommending that admissions to the Integrated Studies Program be halted as of fall 2010 and, over the next three years, the program be discontinued. The reasons for closing the program are twofold.

First, the Faculty of Business will no longer be offering courses in the ISP. The mature and working students in the ISP are largely drawn to the program because of those courses and student representatives have made it clear that without a Business component the program would not be viable.

Second, SFU plans to be accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. Part of the NWCCU's terms state that credits for prior experiential learning be limited to a maximum of 25% of the credits needed for a degree. The ISP gives 50% of the credits needed for a degree and that is granted on the basis of an essay, an interview, and a writing exercise. Even if the entrance requirements for the ISP were brought into line with the NWCCU's regulations, FASS cannot spare the faculty members it would take to evaluate the students properly.

The last cohort of ISP students begin courses this week. They will take three years to complete the program. As students are only admitted into the program once a year, in the fall, if admissions are halted immediately, there will be well over two semesters notice of closure.

Many thanks. If you have any questions, please direct them to Paul Budra ([budra@sfu.ca](mailto:budra@sfu.ca)).

John Craig

1. The termination of the Integrated Studies Program (ISP) will mean the elimination of a premium-fee Bachelor of General Studies. This will not impact on the BGS as a whole or on any other degrees or certificates.
2. The program is located in FASS but administered through Continuing Studies. There have been cohorts of students in the program at Harbour Centre, Surrey, Kamloops, and Kitimat. Currently there are cohorts at Harbour Centre and Surrey. One final cohort will begin this September at Harbour Centre.
3. The degree is offered by FASS.
4. The program will dissolve when the last cohort has finished the program: at the end of the summer of 2013.
5. The program is being terminated for several reasons:
  - a. After consulting with the Deans of Arts and Social Sciences and Continuing Studies, Business communicated their intention to withdraw from participation in the program. Business offered a number of courses in the program over the years but the ISP was not considered a Business degree. However, changes in the AACSB accreditation standards that mandate the percentage of business courses in Business School programs meant that the ISP *had* to be considered a Business program. The AACSB requires that programs with more than 25% business content or "Business" in the program name be included in their accreditation evaluation. Over time the business content in the ISP has risen as high as 39% of course offerings. Program coherence was also a problem: over time the course offerings changed to the point that they no longer met our Business faculty standards for even a partial business program offered at SFU. Further, courses in the ISP were not taught by regular Business faculty due to severe shortages of faculty to teach in the core.
  - b. SFU plans to be accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. Part of the NWCCU's terms state that credits for prior experiential learning be limited to a maximum of 25% of the credits needed for a degree, that they only be awarded for documented student achievement equivalent to expected learning achievement for courses within the institution's regular curricular offerings, and that they only be granted on the recommendation of appropriately qualified teaching faculty. Further, the credits granted for prior experiential learning must be so identified on the students' transcripts. The ISP gives 50% of the credits needed for a degree and that is granted on the basis of an essay, an interview, and a writing exercise. Even if the entrance requirements for the ISP were brought into line with the NWCCU's regulations, FASS cannot spare the faculty members it would take to evaluate the students properly.
6. Plans for termination:
  - a. Students have been told through their cohort representatives and the ISP website now states that no new applications will be accepted.

- b. Instructors, the ISP steering committee, the dean of Continuing Studies, the Program Director of the ISP, ISP staff, and the SFU Senate have all been told of the need to close the program.
  - c. The program is run on a cost-recovery basis so there should be no resources to reallocate when it is dissolved.
  - d. The departments in FASS were consulted at a FASS Curriculum Committee meeting on July 15, 2010. Business has already declared its intention to stop offering courses through the program.
  - e. There will be no impact on departments or faculties. All but two of the courses in the ISP are taught by sessional or limited-term instructors. The two full-time faculty members can teach courses in their respective departments.
  - f. Timeline: the final cohort will begin classes in September. Over the next three years existing cohorts will graduate until the final one completed at the end of the summer of 2013.
7. For more information please contact Paul Budra, Associate Dean and Academic Director of the ISP program: [budra@sfu.ca](mailto:budra@sfu.ca); 778-782-4416.