

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**

**OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC**

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Senate  
**From:** D. Gagan, Chair *D. Gagan*  
Senate Committee on Academic Planning  
**Subject:** Proposed Ph.D. Program in Political Science  
**Date:** February 12, 1996

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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 - 15 , the proposed Ph.D. Program in Political Science including:

New courses:

POL 890	Ph.D. Seminar
POL 896	Ph.D. Comprehensive Exam
POL 899	Ph.D. Thesis Research."

## **PROPOSAL FOR A PhD IN POLITICAL SCIENCE**

- |                        |                                                                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>9 Nov 1994</b>      | <b>Approved "in-Principle" by Senate Committee on Academic Planning</b> |
| <b>3 Apr 1995</b>      | <b>Approved by Faculty of Arts Graduate Studies Committee</b>           |
| <b>6 Apr 1995</b>      | <b>Received by Dean of Graduate Studies</b>                             |
| <b>18 May 1995</b>     | <b>Reviewed by Assessment Committee for New Graduate Programs</b>       |
| <b>22 June 1995</b>    | <b>Revised Proposal Received by Dean of Graduate Studies</b>            |
| <b>2 October 1995</b>  | <b>Reviewed by Assessment Committee for New Graduate Programs</b>       |
| <b>6 November 1995</b> | <b>Revised Proposal Received by Dean of Graduate Studies</b>            |
| <b>11 January 1996</b> | <b>Approved by Assessment Committee for New Graduate Programs</b>       |
| <b>29 January 1996</b> | <b>Reviewed by Senate Graduate Studies Committee</b>                    |

*Simon Fraser University*  
MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** January 15, 1996

**TO:** Phyllis Wrenn, Chair  
Assessment Committee for New Graduate Programs

**FROM:** Peggy Meyer  
Graduate Studies Committee  
Department of Political Science

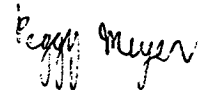
**RE:** Ph.D. Program - Political Science

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Please find attached a further revised version of the Department of Political Science's Ph.D. proposal.

In response to ACNGP's comments on our last revision, we have made editorial changes in Sections II.1 and II.2 of the proposal. Figure II has been revised. References to teaching legislators have been removed. We have enclosed easier-to-read copies of the attachments. The Calendar Entry has been revised to clarify the Program Requirements, and the word "normally" has been added to the section on Admission requirements. We have attached the notice from SCAP indicating approval of our new graduate courses.

We hope that these changes are sufficient to satisfy the concerns of ACNGP members.



Peggy Meyer

*Simon Fraser University*  
MEMORANDUM

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DATE: November 3, 1995

TO: Phyllis Wrenn, Chair  
Assessment Committee for New Graduate Programs

**COPY**

FROM: Peggy Meyer  
Graduate Studies Committee  
Department of Political Science

RE: Ph.D. Program - Political Science

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Please find attached a revised version of the Department of Political Science's Ph.D. proposal.

The Department's Graduate Studies Committee has revised the proposal in response to comments made by the Senate Assessment Committee on New Graduate Programs at its October 2, 1995 meeting. We have made the proposed rationale and focus of our program much stronger and clearer. This focus is enunciated clearly in section II.3 (Distinctiveness of SFU program). We have completely revised the chart included in that section so that it no longer divides faculty members along traditional lines among Comparative Politics, International Relations, etc. but instead highlights their areas of specialization relating to Political Economy, Public Policy and Governance, the three areas of specialization proposed for the Ph.D. program. Our reference to new appointments (just before Figure V) has been revised to reflect these new areas of specialization, not the old ones.

We have made a number of changes in the Calendar Entry to highlight the proposed areas of specialization and to ensure that they will remain a focus of the program. The section on Admission now requires each applicant to identify two areas of proposed specialization in his/her statement of current research interests. Applicants are told that an important consideration for admission will be how well their proposed research coincides with the department's focus on political economy, public policy and governance. The section on Supervisory Committee now states: Each supervisory committee will be structured to reflect the department's focus on issues of political economy, public policy and governance and to ensure that these constitute an integral part of each student's program. The section on Course Work now requires students to seek the approval of their Supervisory Committee for all course choices and to take one course in each area of specialization identified in his/her letter of intent. The section on Thesis makes clear that the Ph.D. seminar, where students will prepare their formal thesis topics, will ensure that each topic is related to issues of political economy, public policy and governance.

We have edited the proposal to remove any claims about the "unique" strengths of our department. We continue to claim, however, that our program will be distinctive in western Canada. In support of this claim, we have added to Section II.2 the direct quote from the 1992 External Review of our Department which stressed its "particular thrust" (their words not mine) which differentiate it from UBC's Political Science Department.

In order to assuage any lingering concerns about the size and quality of our proposed Ph.D. program, we have raised the minimum admissions requirement from a G.P.A. of 3.5 to a G.P.A. of 3.67 in graduate courses taken towards the M.A. degree. We have reduced the planned intake from two to four in the previous draft to two new students per year in this draft.

We have updated the information in all the charts and attachments. Since our new M.A. courses now have been approved, we no longer refer to the old curriculum. Figure III has been updated to project teaching of our new graduate courses through 97-2. Figure IV now lists only our new and proposed

graduate courses. We have deleted the list of old courses. We have removed the old course outlines from the attachments, leaving only the outlines for our new graduate courses. Figure V has been updated to show Graduate Supervision during 1995. We have attached updated faculty cvs.

We have provided in Section IV.1. (on pp. 11 and 12) a much longer and more detailed explanation of the proposed program's resource implications showing how our department will be able to absorb the various direct and indirect costs (space, administrative and faculty time, teaching assistantships, etc.) without asking for any increase in its budget beyond the \$450 already mentioned. This figure of \$450 actually is \$100 less than the amount mentioned in our previous proposal. The difference is that money will no longer be needed for the library since the item identified in Ralph Stanton's memorandum already has been purchased to support our undergraduate and M.A. programs.

The Ph.D. package was approved by the Department of Political Science in March 1994. The package received Approval in Principle from FAGSC on June 23, 1994 and from the Senate Committee on Academic Policy (SCAP) on November 9, 1994. It received detailed approval from FAGSC on February 23, 1995 and passed a referendum in the Faculty of Arts in March, 1995..

The requisite graduate course revisions were approved by the Department's Graduate Studies Committee at its meeting of December 12, 1994, by the Department of Political Science at its meeting of January 10, 1995 and by FAGSC at its February 23, 1995 meeting.

We hope that the changes we have made in the attached proposal meet the ACNGP's concerns. We look forward to hearing your reaction.

*for* *M. Murphy*  
Peggy Meyer

## Ph.D. Program - Political Science

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### Table of Contents

#### I. General Information

1. Title of the Program
2. Credential to be Awarded to Graduates
3. Department to Offer the Program
4. Date of Senate Approval
5. Schedule for Implementation

#### II. Program Description and Related Matters

1. Objectives
2. Relationship to Role and Mission of the University
3. Relationship to Other Canadian Programs
4. Distinctiveness of SFU Program
5. Existing and Proposed Curriculum
6. Proposed Calendar Language
  - 6.1. Deletion
  - 6.2. Additions
  - 6.3. New Courses

#### III. Need for the Program

1. Enrollment Predictions
2. Graduate Employment Prospects

#### IV. Present and Projected Resources

1. Administrative, Faculty, Library and Budgetary Needs

#### V. Evaluations

1. Letter From Bennett Library Collections Manager Ralph Stanton  
Re: Library Costs
2. Letter From Dean of Graduate Studies Bruce Clayman Re: MA  
Program in Political Science
3. Letter From Dean of Arts Evan Alderson Re: BA Program in  
Political Science

#### VI. Appendices

1. Calendar Entry
2. Graduate Course Outlines
3. Faculty Vitae

## **I. General Information**

### *1. Title of the Program*

The program for which approval is sought is entitled "The Ph.D. Program in Political Science"

### *2. Credential to be Awarded to Graduates*

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Political Science

### *3. Department to Offer the Program*

The Department of Political Science, Simon Fraser University

### *4. Date of Senate Approval*

Approval in Principle by the Senate Committee on Academic Planning (SCAP) on November 9, 1994

### *5. Schedule for Implementation*

First students to be admitted in 1996-97

## **II. Program Description and Related Matters**

### *1. Objectives*

The Department of Political Science is proposing the creation of a small, specialized Ph.D. program which is distinctive in Western Canada. The proposed program will exploit the ability of our faculty to teach, conduct research and contribute to the advancement of knowledge in areas such as Political Economy, Public Policy and Governance which stand at the borders of traditional fields in the discipline.

Comparative Politics, International Relations, Canadian politics and other traditional areas of political science still are often considered in isolation. These boundaries are beginning to break down in response to real world processes, e.g., globalisation, and to theoretical developments in political science. The intent of our proposed program is to emphasize the linkages between and among these traditional fields. The configuration of faculty expertise currently in place makes it possible to offer a small specialized programme which is at the cutting edge of developments in the discipline.

The program can be mounted with minimal new expenditures by relying on the re-allocation of existing resources realized through the re-organization of the existing graduate program. It is expected that the first entrants will begin the program in the fall of 1996. The Department will place a high GPA requirement (3.67) on entrants to ensure that the program remains small.

### *2. Relationship to Role and Mission of the University*

Plans for a small, specialized program in political science draw upon established faculty expertise at SFU in areas where our faculty compares favourably with the faculty at other universities in British Columbia and Western Canada.

The small, specialized nature of our program will differentiate it from the much larger, omnibus program at UBC. In this regard we note the following assessment of the particular strengths of our faculty that was expressed in the March 1992 External Review of our department: "The emphasis on questions of

governance (institutions and the administration of policy, particularly in the interrelations of politics and the economy) gives a particular thrust to the Department and one that is quite different from the areas of strength of the UBC Political Science Department (which, within Canadian politics, is much stronger on questions of 'politics' than of 'policy' and/or 'governance')."

Internally, within the Department, the need for high-level graduate assistance has grown dramatically in recent years. As more faculty have won major national and international research grants, the opportunities for high-level graduate student training have also increased. This training not only enhances faculty research, teaching and tutorial efforts, but also substantially promotes the ability of SFU graduates to win post-graduate competitions and employment. The establishment of a Ph.D. program at SFU enhances the ability of the University to win research grants, and enhances the ability of the Department to instruct students in the latest developments in the discipline at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The benefits to MA students of the presence of Ph.D. students in graduate colloquia and seminars are obvious.

The establishment of such a program will improve the capacity of SFU to train future civil servants and academics in British Columbia, Canada, and abroad. The program will also clearly enhance the ability of SFU faculty to carry out research of value to the University community. In so doing, it contributes in a substantial fashion to the growth of the department, the university and the university community.

### *3. Relationship to Other Canadian Programs*

At the present time there are 15 Ph.D. programs in political science in Canada (See Figure I below.) One program exists in Eastern Canada, 11 in Central Canada and three in Western Canada. The only current program in British Columbia is located at the University of British Columbia, to which those inquiring of SFU's programme have been referred in the past.

The general trend in Canadian universities has been away from the establishment of "omnibus" Ph.D. programs offering instruction and supervision in all fields of the discipline and towards smaller, specialized programs. This has been the case with new programs established over the past five years at Carleton University, McMaster University and the University of Ottawa.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>The discrepancies visible in Figure I in terms of teaching resources are partially explained by the division of universities into "omnibus" versus "specialized" programs; with "omnibus" programs requiring many more faculty than more specialized programs. However, there is no direct link between teaching resources and the nature of the program. Thus, the smallest program in terms of teaching resources, that of Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, is of an "omnibus" nature. Other discrepancies can be traced to other factors. Hence the number of faculty cited for Carleton University includes a large number of faculty in the associated School for Public Administration. The number cited for York University, the University of Toronto, and the University of Western Ontario includes faculty located at satellite or affiliated colleges who may not be present on the main campus itself.



Figure 1: Canadian Ph.D. Program Data - 1994

University	Faculty	Program Type	Half-Courses	Other	Thesis	Residence Period
Alberta	21	Canadian/Pol. Phil/IR/Comp	6	lang./2 written/1 oral comp.		2 years Minimum
Toronto	57		10 <sup>(1)</sup>	lang./1 theory/4 major course/4 minor/course	350 pp.	2 year min 6 year max
Carleton <sup>(2)</sup>	43	Theory/Canadian/Comp/IR/PA/PP	6	theory/stats/Lang. /2 genl comps/2 spec comps		2 year min
McGill <sup>(3)</sup>	22	Canadian/Comp Dev'd/Comp Dev'ing/IR/Theory	13	2 Major /1 Minor /Language		
Dalhousie	15		6	Lang. /2 core course/Theory/Meth./3 oral/writ/comps or papers		
UBC	22		6	2 oral and written./comps	300 pp	
York	53	Canadian/Comp/Theory/Method/IR/Pol. Theory	8	2 Oral and Written comps		
Laval	31	PA/Pol. Phil/Comp/IR/Pol Sociol.	8	2 spc. Phd Seminars/1 Oral/1 Written Comp.		3 year expected finish
Western	29	Theory/Canadian/Policy/local govt.	6	2 written/oral comps	400 pp	4 year max
UQAM	33	Quebec/IR	6	2 Methods/1 PQ Prop. (no comps)		6 year max
McMaster	21	Comparative Public Policy	6	2 comps (one policy)/language/Comp. Pol/Stats/Research Design		
Queen's	25	Canadian/Comp Dev'd/Comp Dev'ing/Theory/IR	6	2 comps/language		
Université de Montréal	28		5	PhD Seminar/Thesis Seminar		
University of Ottawa	19	Phil/Canadian/IR	7	2 comps/language/methods/thesis seminar		
University of Calgary	21	Canadian/Comp/IR/Theory	6	language/2 written and oral comps		
SFU Proposal	18	Canadian Politics & Policy/Comp/IR	6	language/2 written and oral comps	300 pp	6 year Max
(1) NOTE: Can use MA Credits						
(2) NOTE: Includes Ph.D. in Policy						
(3) NOTE: Integrated MA/PhD						

The programs likely to be closest to the proposed program are those located at McMaster University, the University of Western Ontario and the University of Ottawa. These programs specialize in several sub-fields within the discipline.

#### 4. Distinctiveness of SFU Program

This specialization sets the program proposed for Simon Fraser University apart from that at the University of British Columbia which is one of the smaller, "omnibus" programs offered in Canada. With

its growth in faculty complement and expertise over the past several years, the Department of Political Science at SFU is now well placed to successfully mount this type of program.

Faculty members in political science have varied research interests. While the existing faculty teach in all of the 5 fields of political science (Political Theory, Canadian Government and Politics, Comparative Government and Politics, International Relations and Public Administration and Public Policy) at the Undergraduate and M.A. levels, the departmental expectation is to focus on Political Economy and International Political Economy, Canadian and Comparative Public Policy and Governance at the Ph.D. level. Faculty areas of teaching and research are set out in Figure II below.

Figure II - Teaching Specializations and Research Interests, Department of Political Science

FACULTY MEMBER	TRADITIONAL FIELD	POLITICAL ECONOMY	PUBLIC POLICY	GOVERNANCE
A. Ciria	Comparative	-	Cultural	Latin America
L. Cohen	Comparative/ International	-	Foreign Policy	East Europe
M. Cohen	Canadian	NAFTA/ CAFTA	Labour/Trade/ Women	-
T. Cohn	International	NAFTA/ CAFTA	Trade/Agriculture	
M. Covell	Canadian/ Comparative	-	-	Africa/Europe/ Federalism
L. Dobuzinskis	Canadian/ Comparative	-	Policy Analysis/ Environmental/ Resources	Public Administration
L. Erickson	Canadian	-	-	Political Parties
A. Heard	Canadian	-	Human Rights	Constitutional Law/Federalism
M. Howlett	Canadian	Provincial	Policy Analysis/ Environmental/ Resources	-
T. Kawasaki	Comparative/ International	Japan/East Asia	Foreign Economic	-
D. Laycock	Canadian/ Comparative	-	-	Social Democratic Regimes
S. McBride	Canadian/ Comparative	Advanced Industrial	Economic/Social/ Labour Market	-
P. Meyer	International/ Comparative		Foreign Policy/ Security	Russia/China
A. Moens	International/ Comparative	-	Foreign Policy Analysis/Security	U.S./Europe
D. Ross	Canadian/ International	-	Foreign Policy/ Security/Defence	Civil Military Relations/ International Organization
P. Smith	Canadian/ Comparative	-	Urban/Labour Market	Urban/Regional
P. Warwick	Comparative	-	-	West Europe

## *5. Existing and Proposed Curriculum*

The Department of Political Science at Simon Fraser University has offered graduate instruction since its inception as the Department of Political Science, Sociology and Anthropology (PSA) at the University's creation in 1966.

Fifty MA and 8 Ph.D. degrees were awarded by the PSA between 1966 and 1974. Since division of the Department into the Department of Political Science and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology in 1974, however, the Department of Political Science has offered only an MA program with students proceeding to the Ph.D. through Special Arrangements provisions of the University Calendar. Since its inception, the Department of Political Science has awarded more than 60 MA degrees. Current full-time equivalent enrollment in the MA program is 50. The Department currently receives close to 100 written and telephone inquiries per year regarding the status of its Ph.D. program.

Graduate courses are offered within a three-semester academic year. Students are expected to complete the MA program within 6-8 semesters. The program is intended for students desiring academic and research careers. There are five areas of research specialization within the MA Program: Canadian Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Political Theory and Public Administration and Policy. These concentrations involve a combination of required and recommended courses, examinations, and research.

Students are normally admitted to the M.A. program with a Bachelor's degree, and are matched with their Senior Supervisor's research interests. All M.A. students are required to complete Politics 801, a course in research design and data analysis. Courses must also be completed from at least two of the five fields offered by the Department

*MA Non-Thesis Option:* Students are normally admitted to the non-thesis MA program and must apply to the Chair of the Graduate Program for approval to transfer to the thesis option. Completion of a non thesis MA requires successful completion of six graduate courses and the completion of two oral and written Field Exams. Students also may be advised to take additional courses specific to their research specialization.

MA field exams involve the establishment of a major and a minor field by the student and the student's supervisory committee. For each field, a list of readings is prepared by the supervisory committee in consultation with the student. A three-hour written exam is then scheduled. After the written examination results have been compiled, an oral defence is held.

*MA Thesis Option:* Students approved by the Graduate Studies Committee may proceed into the MA Thesis option. In this option four courses must be completed and a 100 page thesis defended in an oral thesis defence. Courses include Politics 801 plus three additional courses taken from at least two of the fields of study offered by the Department.

The MA thesis is expected to provide an in-depth treatment of a subject of concern to the Canadian political science community. Students desiring to enter the thesis option must present a thesis proposal of no more than 25 pages to the Field Committee in the area of the thesis topic. The proposal includes a brief summary of the topic, its relevance and the methodology to be followed in its investigation; a chapter by chapter outline of the thesis itself; a timetable for thesis completion; and a limited bibliography. The Field Committee takes the availability of qualified faculty to supervise the thesis into account in rendering its decision.

At present the department offers between 10-12 courses per year at the graduate level. Graduate Students may also arrange with individual instructors to take related undergraduate courses for graduate credit, providing that additional assignments and contact requirements outside of class time are completed. Students may also arrange with individual instructors to pursue Directed Readings courses. Figure III shows the range of graduate course offerings planned for 1993-1997.

Figure III - Grad Teaching 1993 - 1997

Faculty	93-3	94-1	94-2	94-3	95-1	95-2	95-3	96-1	96-2	96-3	97-1	97-2
A. Ciria	839						839					
L. Cohen		832			832							832
M. Cohen										825		
T. Cohn		844			844			844			844	
M. Covell				801			801					
L. Dobuzinskis	801					855			851		812	
L. Erickson	821						821					
A. Heard					824			827				
M. Howlett			851									
T. Kawasaki										801		
D. Laycock			814					814				
S. McBride			821	814							821	
P. Meyer								861				
A. Moens							841					
Q. Quo				841								
M. Robin												
D. Ross										846		
P. Smith	853	852									853	
P. Warwick		830							830			838
Total	3	4	2	4	4	1	4	4	2	3	4	2

Figure IV- (1995) Course Offerings - Department of Political Science

1995 Offerings	Offerings
POL 801	The Scope and Methods of Political Science
POL 812	Political Theory
POL 814	Normative Political Theory
POL 821	Canadian Government and Politics
POL 825*	Canadian Political Economy
POL 826*	Parties and Ideologies in Canada
POL 827*	Issues in Canadian Government and Politics
POL 829	Legislative Internship
POL 830	Comparative Government and Politics
POL 832	Government and Politics of Communist and Post-Communist Countries
POL 838	Government and Politics of Industrialized Countries
POL 839	Government and Politics of Developing Countries
POL 861	Issues in Political Development
POL 841	International Relations
POL 842	International Law and Organizations
POL 843	Canadian Foreign Policy
POL 844	International Political Economy
POL 845*	Foreign Policy Analysis
POL 846*	International Security Issues
POL 851	Public Policy Analysis
POL 852	Urban Government and Politics
POL 853	Public Administration
POL 855	Science, Technology and Public Policy
POL 856*	Issues in Social and Economic Policy
<i>Other Courses</i>	
POL 891	Master's Seminar
POL 893	Readings in Political Science
POL 897	Master's Field Exams
POL 898	Master's Thesis Research
<i>Proposed Courses</i>	
POL 890	Ph.D. Seminar
POL 896	Ph.D. Comprehensive Exams
POL 899	Ph.D. Thesis Research

\*New Courses approved by Senate Graduate Studies Committee and Senate Committee on Academic Planning,

SCAP Reference:S.95-47

\*Approved by Senate September 18, 1995

## 6. Proposed Calendar Language

The establishment of a Ph.D. program in the Department of Political Science requires the following changes to be made to the Simon Fraser University Calendar.

### 6.1. Deletions

Delete current sentence "The Department is not currently admitting candidates to work toward the Ph.D. degree." and add the following language:

### 6.2. Additions

A complete calendar entry is provided in Appendix I.

### 6.3. New Courses

Three new courses will be created for the Ph.D. program in order to provide administrative mileposts judging progress through the program. These courses will cover the completion of the Comprehensive Examinations, the Ph.D. Thesis Seminar, which will be designed to assist students with the preparation of a formal thesis topic related to issues of political economy, public policy and governance, and the Ph.D. Thesis.

## III. Need for the Program

In 1992, the External Review of the Department of Political Science noted that the establishment of a Ph.D. program was a logical step in the evolution of the Department (p. 4). In doing so, it stated that "once the Department is more satisfied with its MA programme the question of further expansion can be raised". The external reviewers specifically noted that:

*(This) recommendation should not be seen as suggesting a waiting period in the development of the graduate programme but rather that the Department should accord greater priority and greater attention to its development (pp. 18-19)*

The reviewers argued that "development of the MA programme will result in even more clearly defined areas of strength and it would then be possible to think of creating a specialized PhD programme in those areas of strength" (pp. 18-19)

It is the position of the Department of Political Science that the time has now come for the development of a Ph.D. program. The department has significantly revised its MA program, and has developed specializations through hirings and appointments which now form a close fit with existing library resources. Establishing a Ph.D. program is thus in keeping with the thrust of the External Review and is a logical step in the evolution of the Department into the front rank in Canadian political science.

The establishment of such a program will improve the capacity of SFU to train future civil servants and academics in British Columbia, Canada and abroad. The program will also clearly enhance the ability of SFU faculty to carry out research of value to the University community. In so doing, it contributes in a substantial fashion to the growth of the department, the university and the university community.

### *1. Enrollment Predictions*

It is expected that the first entrants will begin the program in the fall of 1996.

Although the Department currently receives over 100 written and telephone inquiries annually regarding its (non-existent) Ph.D. program, the Department will place a high GPA requirement (3.67) on entrants to ensure that the program remains small and that each student is assured of a reasonable level of funding. As such the Department expects to allow only 2 students into the program annually.

## *2. Graduate Employment Prospects*

Given the views of the External Review and the Department expressed above, it should be clear that the view within the political science community in Canada is that the establishment of a Ph.D. program at Simon Fraser University is in keeping with the general evolution of the Department and represents a logical step in that evolution.

The establishment of a small, specialized program at SFU is not only in keeping with developments in the discipline, but also is considered to be the best model for ensuring graduates have a high probability of post-graduation employment. While most older, omnibus, programs remain oriented towards the preparation of teachers, both the Canadian and American Political Science Associations have recognized that smaller, specialized programs enhance the possibility of post-graduate employment not only in academe, but also in government and elsewhere, primarily because of the system of close student-supervisor interaction found in smaller programs.<sup>2</sup> In academia, there will be a large number of retirements and renewed demand for Ph.D.s., especially in the fields emphasized by our program. In British Columbia, this will include opportunities both in universities and in the colleges where anticipated retirements and the growing pressure to teach first and second year university courses will increase the demand for faculty with Ph.Ds.

Graduates may also seek employment in the public services of Canada and abroad. Although overall levels of employment in this area have begun to decline, most of these declines have been in the clerical rather than managerial ranks. In the managerial ranks, the academic credentials for employment and promotion continue to increase, including a doctoral requirement for specialized positions in policy and administration.

Other potential avenues for employment are in private sector consulting firms, in polling firms, in the media, in non governmental organizations, and in industry, where there will be a continuing need for specialists in business-government relations and in international risk analysis.

## **IV. Present and Projected Resources**

### *1. Administrative, Faculty, Library and Budgetary Needs*

A major Departmental administrative re-organization has taken place since the last Department External Review was completed. This includes: enactment of a new Departmental Constitution and Bylaws; establishment of new committees to deal with issues such as scholarships and student funding; appointment of a new Department Chair; a re-organization of office staff and duties; completion of the computerization of the department staff and faculty; and establishment of new graduate and undergraduate computing labs. Their impact upon the general managerial capacity of the Department of Political Science is attested to by the Dean of Arts in Evaluation #3. The net result of these efforts is that the proposed new Ph.D. program can be mounted with little additional administrative cost.

The Department has also focused much time and energy since 1991-92 towards improving its graduate program. These steps have included: the early assignment of a supervisory committee for each student; the establishment of faculty "field" committees responsible for thesis proposals, field exams, and graduate curricula review; establishment of a graduate student colloquium and departmental speakers' program; production of a new Departmental graduate studies guide and handbook; establishment of course planning over a four year cycle; establishment of new scholarships for graduate students from alumni funds; and re-organization of the process and priority system for allocation of Teaching and Research

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<sup>2</sup>See Deborah K. Furlong and Scott R. Furlong, "Netting the Big One: Things Candidates (and Departments) Ought to Know" in *PS: Political Science and Politics* 27 (1), 1994 91-98; and Peter H. Russell, Richard A. Vernon, and Margaret Little, *Report of the Committee to Review the Academic Job Market for Ph.Ds in Political Science*, (Ottawa: Canadian Political Science Association, 1991).

Assistantships so as to orient non TA funding towards incoming students and TA funding towards finishing students. The Department has successfully implemented the addition of a non-thesis option at the MA level and has taken many steps towards improving the average completion time required for a degree.

The general thrust and attainments of these efforts are set out in a letter from the Dean of Graduate Studies contained in Evaluation #2 below.

While these reforms to graduate programs have been taking place, the number of permanent faculty has risen from 16 at the time of the External Review to 18 faculty members of different ranks now supervising graduate students (See Figure V below). These have included additional appointments in the three areas of specialization -- political economy, public policy and governance -- which the department has developed and proposes to extend at the Ph.D. level.

Figure V - Graduate Supervisions, Department of Political Science 1995

Name	THESIS		NON-THESIS		Total
	Senior	Second	Senior	Second	
(weight)	1.00	0.50	0.30	0.10	
A. Ciria	1	2	1	0	2.3
L. Cohen	0	0	1	2	0.5
M. Cohen	1	1	1	2	2.0
T. Cohn	0	1	1	1	0.9
M. Covell	1	2	1	3	2.6
L. Dobuzinskis	1	1	2	2	2.3
L. Erickson	0	1	1	2	1.0
A. Heard	0	1	3	2	1.6
M. Howlett	2	1	3	5	3.9
T. Kawasaki	1	0	2	4	2.0
D. Laycock	0	0	1	1	0.4
S. McBride	1	0	2	1	1.7
P. Meyer	1	1	4	3	3.0
A. Moens	1	1	4	1	2.8
D. Ross	3	2	2	1	4.7
P. Smith	3	4	0	2	5.2
A. Somjee*	2	0	0	1	2.1
P. Warwick	0	0	1	1	0.4
(Non-Dept.)	0	2	0	0	1
Total	18	20	30	34	40.4
	Total CFL			AVG	2.24

\*Professor Emeritus

The outstanding research performance of the departmental faculty noted by the External Review has been retained and augmented by contributions from new and older faculty. On a per capita basis, the Department ranks first among similar sized Canadian universities in articles published in the flagship Canadian Journal of Political Science. In addition, faculty members have dramatically increased their success in national and international research competitions, now sit on the editorial boards of several major journals, have responsible positions in many national and international scholarly associations, and have won major prizes for research work awarded by those associations.

The SFU library has collections in the fields emphasized in our proposed program which already are being taught at the Master's and undergraduate levels. Our Library Collections Manager, after a thorough review of our holdings, concluded that they were more than adequate to support the type of



program envisioned (See Evaluation #1). The one cost which he mentions -- \$140.00 per year for a subscription to *International Security* -- will no longer be necessary since the Library already has subscribed to this journal to support our new undergraduate and M.A. courses. Our library also encourages and supports faculty and student use of interlibrary loan to access the collections of other libraries, not just in British Columbia but also outside it.

The costs of the new program, direct and indirect will be modest. Currently we are admitting an average of 15-20 Masters students per year. Adding two new Ph.D. students per year to this program should not greatly increase the administrative burden. Due to the small number of students involved, the costs of the Ph.D. program will be borne by the existing graduate program and can be covered by a reallocation of resources occasioned by calibrating Ph.D. entrants with those to the existing M.A. program.

There will be no net increase in the department's operating budget as a result of the Ph.D. program other than the \$450 identified in Figure VI below. There will be no net increase in the department's use of space or any other resources as a result of the Ph.D. program. Other costs will be covered by internal efficiencies in office operation stemming from office re-organisation, re-organisation of jobs, and improved use of technology. Many of these changes have already been made, and the process is continuing.

Sufficient space will be made available by better management of sessional instructors' timetables and office hours so more sessional instructors can be accommodated in each office. In the later stages of their Ph.D. program, some Ph.D. candidates will replace non-Ph.D. program sessional instructors, creating additional space for Ph.D. candidates.

Increased funds made available to Ph.D. students in the form of Teaching Assistantships or, for senior Ph.D. students, sessional instruction stipends, will be accompanied by decreased resources for M.A. level Teaching Assistantships on the one hand, and reduced sessional slots for non-Ph.D. students, on the other. The new Ph.D. program will have a positive impact on the existing B.A. program. Rather than draw resources from the undergraduate level, the creation of a Ph.D. program will augment the resources available to the Department to teach and tutor students. Unlike M.A. students, Ph.D. students will be qualified to tutor third year classes, thus removing a long-standing impediment to their expansion in class size.

Existing graduate courses will accommodate Ph.D. students. The projected number of graduate offerings will remain the same whether the Ph.D. program is approved or not, i.e., resources assigned to graduate teaching will remain constant. Additional reading courses for Ph.D. students will be made available by faculty without teaching credit. The Ph.D. seminar, an important tool for integrating the distinctive focus of the department's Ph.D. into each student's program of studies, will likely be team taught. In any case no teaching credit will be given. Hence the additional teaching costs associated with the program will be absorbed entirely by the faculty.

As a result, it is the Department's expectation that the new Ph.D. program can be mounted and be successful while utilizing existing administrative, faculty and library resources.

Figure VI - New and Emergent Programs Budget Format

<b>Ph.D. Budget</b>		
<i>Recurring Direct Operating Costs</i>		(\$)
	Faculty Salaries	0.00
	Secretarial	0.00
	Teaching Assistantships	0.00
	Technical Staff	0.00
	Supplies and Services	300.00
	Other	0.00
	Overhead (50%)	150.00
	<b>Total Recurring Direct Operating Costs</b>	<b>450.00</b>
<i>Non-Recurring Costs</i>		
	Equipment	0.00
	Renovations	0.00
	Library Collections	0.00
	Recruitment Expense	0.00
	Moving Expense	0.00
	Other	0.00
	<b>Total Non-Recurring Costs</b>	<b>0.00</b>
	<b>Total New Program</b>	<b>450.00</b>
<i>Capital</i>		
<i>(for information only)</i>		
	Building	0.00
	Equipment	0.00
	Renovations	0.00
	<b>Total Capital</b>	<b>0.00</b>

#### V. Evaluations

1. Letter From Bennett Library Collections Manager Ralph Stanton Re: Library Costs
2. Letter From Dean of Graduate Studies Bruce Clayman Re: MA Program in Political Science
3. Letter From Dean of Arts Evan Alderson Re: BA Program in Political Science

#### VI. Appendices

1. Calendar Entry
2. Graduate Course Outlines
3. Faculty Vitae

Attachments

Attachment 1.: Letter from Ralph Stanton re: Library Costs

MEMORANDUM

W.A.C. Bennett Library, Simon Fraser University  
Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada V5A 1S6

Date: 13 April, 1995

From: Ralph Stanton (Collections Librarian)

To: Michael Howlett, Chair, Graduate Studies Committee,  
Department of Political Science

Re: Political Science Ph.D. Programme

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Thank-you for your memorandum of April 6, 1994. Here is our assessment of the impact on the Library of this new programme:

The Ph.D. programme in Political Science has, according to your memo to A. Lebowitz dated April 6, 1994, the following characteristics which are relevant to this assessment.

1. The programme requires six courses, with a minimum of 4 from Political Science, including a theory/methods course.
2. 2 new students per year will be admitted.
3. The programme will use existing courses and course materials.
4. This will be a "specialized" programme.
5. A 300 page thesis is part of the programme.
6. Advanced study in the department is in the fields of Canadian Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Public Policy.
7. There are 3 special topics Ph.D. students in the Department at the moment.

Process:

Normally a new course or programme proposal comes to our office complete with course outlines and bibliographies. In this case existing courses are being used. The Department Graduate Studies Committee Chair indicates he will recommend a review and possible revision of graduate offerings beginning in 94-3 after which it is possible that additional costs may be added and/or deletions of material from the collection, and cost savings, may be made.

Books:

The monograph collection is adequate to support the programme as presently structured based on brief comparisons to UBC Library and the use of the OCLC Amigos Collection Development CD.

Journals:

The Library currently has an urgent request from Douglas Ross for the journal *International Security* which he describes as "... a very important publication for both my graduate teaching and forth year courses in ... international conflict resolution and Canadian international security relations ...", and further notes that "... it is simply incredible that the Library is without it." This journal appears to be important to subjects covered by this programme. This publication should be purchased for \$140 per year.

COSTS:

*International Security* \$140 per year.

SUMMARY OF COSTS:

RECURRING COST FOR THIS PROGRAMME ARE \$140 PER YEAR.

Please call me if you have any questions.

U

RS

MEMORANDUM  
OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT, RESEARCH

TO: John M. Munro  
Vice-President, Academic

FROM: Bruce P. Clayman  
Vice-President, Research and  
Dean of Graduate Studies

RE: Ph.D. Program in Political Science

DATE: October 17, 1994

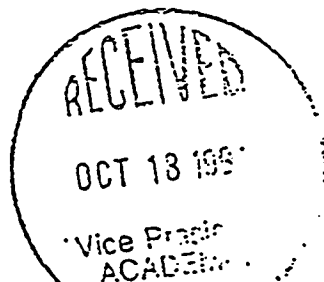
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I have had a chance to read over the latest Department Ph.D. proposal and would concur with the Department view that significant improvements have been made to the MA program in Political Science since the receipt of the last External Review in 1992.

The Department has moved forward in the implementation of a non-thesis option to its MA program which promises to continue the trend toward a significant improvement in completion times at the MA level in the Department over the past several years. In addition, the Department has made a major effort to clarify supervisory duties, and instruct incoming graduate students with respect to the expectations of the Department and my office concerning thesis length and completion times.

The Department has this year admitted a record number of students into its MA program and is offering a record number of courses. Incoming students are of excellent quality and have won major University entrance scholarships and prizes. Non-University examiners have commented very favourably on several recent MA theses and students from the SFU program have been accepted into major Ph.D. programs in Canada and abroad on a regular basis.

The Department appears to have surpassed the expectations of the External Review with regards to the re-organization of its MA program and has developed considerable expertise in the three fields mentioned in the Ph.D. proposal. To this end, the establishment of a small, specialized Ph.D. program would be in keeping with the evolution of the Department towards the front rank in Canada.



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts  
MEMORANDUM

To: Jock Munro  
Chair, SCAP

From: Evan Alderson  
Dean of Arts

Subject: Proposed Ph.D. in Political Science

Date: 2 November 1994

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I am writing to you to comment on the current state of the undergraduate program in Political Science in relation to the department's re-submission of its request to SCAP that its proposed Ph.D. be approved for further development.

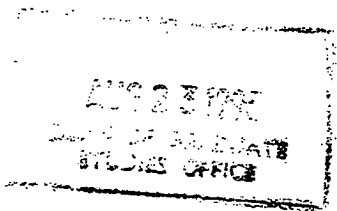
I have been impressed by the changes in the Department's undergraduate program since the last external review. Following the review, the Department undertook a major re-examination of its curriculum, clarifying the streams of study and simplifying the prerequisite structure. Moreover, following the appointment of the present Chair, there have been major efforts to increase teaching efficiency in the department while retaining quality of instruction. I hold the view that the undergraduate program is now academically sound and well managed.



Evan Alderson  
Dean of Arts

EA/hj

cc: S. McBride



# The UNIVERSITY of WESTERN ONTARIO

*Local Government Program • Department of Political Science • Social Science Centre*

August 21, 1995

Professor Phyliss M. Wrenn  
Associate Dean of Graduate Studies  
Simon Fraser University  
Burnaby, BC  
V5A 1S6

Dear Phyliss:

Thanks for sending me the additional material in connection with my review of the proposed PhD in political science.

I enclose my review. I hope it meets your needs.

I have enjoyed this opportunity to learn more about political science at SFU and am especially pleased that you and I have been able to renew our old acquaintance.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Sancton  
Professor and Program Director

encl.

REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED Ph.D. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AT SIMON FRASER  
UNIVERSITY

Andrew Sancton  
Professor of Political Science  
The University of Western Ontario

August 1995

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I have reviewed the "Political Science Ph.D. Proposal" dated May 25, 1995, taking into account the guidelines contained in a letter to me dated July 5, 1995 from the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, Phyliss M. Wrenn.

My conclusion is that the political science department at SFU is sufficiently strong to launch and maintain the program at levels consistent with high academic standards. I do, however, have some questions about the content of the Proposal document.

The Proposal calls for the creation "of a small, specialized Ph.D. program which is distinctive in Western Canada (p.2)." Despite the usual (for these kinds of documents) rhetoric about "being on the cutting edge of developments in the discipline," close analysis uncovers nothing especially "distinctive." This is a proposal for a Ph.D. program focussing on three well-established sub-fields within the discipline: Comparative Politics, Canadian Politics, and International Relations.

The other two political-science Ph.D. programs in western Canada are at UBC and Alberta. The UBC program is referred to in the Proposal as being "omnibus." The Alberta program appears similar to the proposed SFU one, except that it also includes political philosophy. In my view, the potential virtues of the SFU proposal rest not on any claims to uniqueness but on the strengths of the faculty members in the designated fields.

At least one statement in the Proposal concerning Ph.D. programs in other Candian universities is wrong. It is stated on p.3 that the Ph.D. program at my University (Western Ontario) has been established "over the past five years." It is true that we added a new sub-field recently, but the Ph.D. has been accepting students in other sub-fields for at least twenty years. This error in itself is not serious, but it did lead me to wonder about the credibility of some of the data relating to other universities with which I am not so familiar.

The Proposal leaves me somewhat confused about future graduate course offerings. Apparently (see p.7), the offerings are being revised regardless of the fate of the Ph.D. Proposal. Yet Figure III (p.7) presents graduate teaching loads from 1993-7 for existing courses. In light of the impending changes, this Figure seems quite useless. If teaching assignments can be



projected to 1997 for existing courses, why can the same not be done for the new courses?

In my view, the quality of the faculty is more important for a Ph.D. program than is the structure of its courses. For the designated fields of Ph.D. study, the relevant faculty must have proven records of recent research. They must be working in areas that are likely to be of interest to students. There must be a sufficient number of faculty in each sub-field such that the occasional resignation, sabbatical and other leave does not mean that there is nobody left to supervise affected students. In regard to these criteria, the current Proposal succeeds admirably.

I am personally familiar with the work of many of the faculty; for others I was extremely impressed by the vitae contained in Appendix IV. Naming particular individuals in this review is unlikely to be helpful. Hopefully it is sufficient to state that the relatively recent appointments of both junior scholars and more established ones are extremely impressive. They join others who have been at SFU for longer and who have built solid reputations for themselves, especially in the three designated sub-fields.

Impressive as these people are, I would not agree with the Proposal's assertion (p.5) that they have "the unique ability...to teach and research in a more than a single field of the discipline." Such ability is common in political science departments across the country. The quality of the SFU faculty in the three designated fields is, in my view, quite sufficient to merit approving the Ph.D. Proposal. Dubious assertions about unique versatility add nothing to a case that is already strong.

Apart from faculty, the other essential ingredient for any graduate program is a good academic library. There is nothing in the Proposal giving any indication about library resources and facilities.

Ph.D. students require financial assistance and office space. The Proposal is silent on these matters. On August 9, Professor Wrenn sent me additional information that helps explain existing policies for M.A. students. I assume that Ph.D. students will be given priority for financial assistance and offices but this is not explicitly stated in the Proposal.

I cannot claim to have much expertise about student demand or about demand for potential graduates. My own experience at Western suggests that the number of genuinely committed, well-qualified potential Ph.D. students likely to want to become part of a small Ph.D. program is very limited. The great danger is not that there will be no demand from students but that the program will end up admitting people who are barely capable of

Ph.D.-level research. Such people can cause massive problems for all concerned. It is one thing to fail the weakest of ten students sitting their Ph.D. comprehensives; it is quite another to fail one of one, two, or three. The admissions process in a small program is, therefore, absolutely crucial.

Demand for graduates is an even more difficult issue. I was puzzled by the statement that approval of the Proposal "will improve the capacity of SFU to train future legislators, civil servants, and academics in British Columbia, Canada, and abroad (p.9)." The prospect of our legislatures at all three levels of government being full of political-science Ph.D.s is quite frightening! Surely the market for graduates is among the (declining) ranks of civil services, the (growing) ranks of specialized private-sector consulting firms, and in traditional academic positions. Given the number of impending retirements in Canadian political-science departments in the next two decades, I should think that the academic market would be quite good, especially in the sub-fields in which SFU has chosen to specialize.

I recommend that the Ph.D program at SFU, as proposed, be approved. If the actual document needs to be re-submitted to other committees prior to final approval, consideration might be given to amending it in respect to some of the relatively unimportant matters that I have raised.

ACNSP



Dalhousie University

Department of Political Science

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DEAN OF GRADUATE  
STUDIES OFFICE

**Denis Stairs**  
**McCulloch Professor**

August 23, 1995

Dr. Phyllis M. Wrenn  
Associate Dean  
Faculty of Graduate Studies  
Simon Fraser University  
Burnaby, B.C.  
V5A 1S6

Dear Dr. Wrenn:

As previously arranged, I am writing in response to the materials that you were kind enough to send me last month in connection with the proposed Ph.D. programme in your Department of Political Science. My comments are arranged in accordance with the four headings identified in your covering letter of July 5.

**Academic Merit and Structural Integrity of the Programme**

The formal structure and academic requirements of the programme, as defined in the draft calendar entry, are broadly consistent with those in use elsewhere in Canada, and present no significant difficulty. This is a detail, but I am not sure that it will prove practicable to review applications for admission only "once each year," and the Graduate Studies Committee may find it necessary to have follow-up iterations during the later stages of the admissions period. I was also a little surprised by the comment under "Time Limits" to the effect that "it is the expectation of the Department that the Ph.D. program may [should this read "will"?] be completed within six years of entrance." This is probably a realistic empirical judgment, but most observers (both inside and outside the university environment) would presumably regard a period of 4 to 5 years as a more appropriate target. We keep our graduate students in harness too long, and I am not sure that it is wise to give formal calendar encouragement to an already-powerful tendency to procrastination. These, however, are very minor matters.

More substantively, I offer the following observations, not in any particular order:

... 2

(1) The Department defines the proposed programme as "small" and "specialized." The "smallness" is to be ensured by imposing careful limits on admissions. Given the Department's relatively modest size, it will certainly be important for it not to take on too much. But the admissions process is an annual one, and in the absence of clear bench-marks (e.g., quotas) there may be a natural tendency over time to allow the numbers to escalate -- especially if individual faculty members begin to press for the admission of students in support of their respective fields. I am not sufficiently familiar with the Department's internal culture to know whether this is likely to be a problem, but it should be kept in mind as a possible source of lack of restraint.

With regard to the question of "specialization," I have to say that the programme does not appear to me to be as narrowly defined as a superficial reading of the Department's account of the matter would suggest. The Department says that it expects "to focus on the fields of Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Canadian Politics and Public Policy." But there is a sense in which this includes everything in Political Science except Political Philosophy (or Theory) -- depending, of course, on the range of countries that are included for analysis under the rubric of "Comparative Politics". The listed specialties are compared with the "11 fields" that are commonly identified in the reference tools provided by the Canadian Political Science Association. But a close analysis of the Department's documentation would suggest that in practice all 11 of these fields would be incorporated in the three areas that the Department has marked out for itself. The categories, in short, are malleable, and their boundaries are opaque, and it is not clear to me that, taken by themselves, they will have a markedly controlling effect on what the Department actually does.

This impression is heightened by the first paragraph in the proposed calendar entry, in which the three areas of specialization are clearly identified, but are then followed by the observation that "the department also offers opportunities for advanced study in other fields of political science, subject to the availability of faculty research expertise." This means, in the end, that the range of subjects that will be regarded as suitable for departmental supervision will depend entirely on the aspirations -- and the will -- of the Department's members at any particular time. Perhaps this is always true. But it does mean that the onus for being "responsible" will rest almost completely with the Department, and that the programme regulations themselves will not provide the Faculty of Graduate Studies with very much by way of a transparent instrument for limiting the Department's ambitions.

In response to this comment, the Department might point to its assertion, at the bottom of p. 5 of its proposal, to the effect

that the programme "would be distinctive in that students would be encouraged to explore the overlaps between these fields in areas such as International Political Economy, Governance and Comparative Public Policy." And it is certainly true that the Department has a particularly heavy concentration of expertise in the "political economy" tradition. But of course this kind of overlap can serve to broaden, as well as narrow, the points of entry into the discipline, and once again everything will depend on the Department's willingness to police itself.

I say all this, not by way of criticism, but simply to make it clear that the proposal, as described, is not so tightly focussed in relation to substance as the uninitiated might assume. In practice, it will offer the Department's faculty members a very wide supervisory latitude.

(2) The existing and proposed graduate courses provide an interesting and stimulating array (although I notice that some of the descriptions of the former are a trifle long in the tooth; for example, the accounts of Political Science 824 (Canadian Federalism) and Political Science 843 (Canadian Foreign Policy) both date to the Summer of 1981). They offer good coverage of Canadian politics and public policy at all levels, reasonable (if somewhat eclectic) exposure to comparative politics, and expanding opportunities in international relations. The display obviously -- and appropriately -- reflects the interests of the Faculty, and it is presumably this that accounts for the absence of a clear "area" specialization in the comparative field, as well as in "IR". If the Department were being built up de novo, I might have been inclined to suggest that it would have been better to identify sub-specialties in both the comparative and international areas as a means of giving the programme a more distinctive flavour. Over the longer term, I still think it might be worthwhile developing a strategy of this sort. But in the short run you will have to work with the team you already have in place, and the pattern before you is not uncommon in cases where departments are introducing advanced programmes after many years of serving undergraduates and Master's students. The available resources reflect the teaching requirements typical of the initial phase of departmental development.

(3) My conclusion from all this is that the programme is academically and structurally sound, but is not so unique in conception as the Department seems to be claiming. If there is a distinctive flavour, it comes from the "political economy" orientation of many of the Department's members -- an orientation that is not (I would agree) the most obvious characteristic of other Political Science departments in western Canada. But the political economy perspective is matched by alternative approaches, and it is not clear that it will be the dominant feature of the Department's doctoral-level work.

This leads to an obvious question, which you may well think lies outside my terms of reference. But I raise it anyway, scarred as I am by my own experience of senior academic administration in a province that is often thought to be unhappily afflicted with too many universities chasing too few resources. If the programme proposed by the Department is actually more "omnibus" (and, ipso facto, less specialized) than it appears on the surface, does it really make sense to offer it in such close proximity to UBC? Put another way, does British Columbia really need another doctoral programme in Political Science? I understand very well that the academic potential of the Department itself may be difficult to develop as fully as you would like without doctoral-level students in place, and I also understand that the presence of such students offers real advantages in expanding the supply of personnel available for undergraduate teaching. I realize, too, that the mere mention of this issue may have a dampening (if not an infuriating!) effect. But it does seem to me nonetheless that the proposal should be evaluated in the context of the university structure in British Columbia as a whole. I cannot make such an evaluation from this great distance. But someone should.

#### Adequacy of the Faculty and Other Resources

The Department's faculty is certainly competent to teach at the doctoral level, and many of its members have genuinely impressive records of scholarly publication. In a few cases, the persuasiveness of the c.v.s has been unnecessarily weakened by the inclusion of routine journalism, works of advocacy and exhortation, and other forms of ephemera. But the padding of resumes is currently a widely prevalent academic disease, and is not peculiar to Political Science in general or to this department in particular. For this phenomenon, the academicians and their administrators are probably responsible in roughly equal measure!

The "quality-control" procedures at both the Department and Faculty levels appear to be appropriate. The Department itself is relatively small (my own is smaller, as the Department points out), but not unreasonably so if restraints are exercised in relation to both the number of students admitted, and their areas of substantive interest (see comments above).

I gather that the Library feels that the collection at its disposal is adequate for the purposes of the programme. In the absence of supporting information, I am not in a position to offer an independent judgment, but I assume in any case that students will have access to the library resources at UBC as well as at Simon Fraser -- either directly, or through inter-library loan.

Having said that, I confess to being a little surprised by the Department's assertion that the programme can be offered for less than \$1,000. (additional) per year (\$550. is the precise figure). It is easy, of course, to draw such conclusions if the calculations are done only from the Departmental perspective. The Department does not feel that it will need to hire more people, and (as always in these cases) the extra load seems to be manageable on the departmental "front line" without much additional sacrifice. Such assessments are often strengthened by the prospect of having a new supply of qualified talent to help carry undergraduate programme responsibilities.

But does the Department really believe that the communications and other costs of handling doctoral admissions, processing the paperwork that will follow each student through the programme, arranging for external examiners, etc., etc., will be covered by an increase in supplies and services of no more than \$300. per year?

That amount will be consumed by the FAX machine alone -- and very quickly, too! And I am at a complete loss (not having seen the Librarian's evaluation) to know what essential (but sufficient) improvement in library collections can be introduced for a one-time expenditure of \$100.!

In addition, I notice that no money has been budgeted for TAs. Perhaps the assumption is that the money will be moved from the Master's to the doctoral level. Or perhaps Simon Fraser does not pay its TAs. Or perhaps TAs are paid from someone else's envelope, and the Department has good reason to think that the contents of that envelope are in surplus and are available for the asking. Or perhaps the availability of doctoral-level TAs will permit an increase in undergraduate enrolment that is expected to raise fee revenues in a way that will offset the cost. In short, there may well be some sort of explanation of which I am not aware. But in the absence of one, I certainly have to raise the question, noting in the process that it will be very difficult to attract first class doctoral candidates in competition with other institutions unless supportive funding of this kind is available.

The same sort of issue arises in relation to scholarships. I note from your calendar that Simon Fraser has a considerable array of possibilities for providing financial assistance to graduate students. So does my own university. Without such resources, our graduate programme would probably collapse, since graduate support is NOT provided by the Nova Scotia government. In this connection, the arrival of doctoral candidates in Political Science will constitute a new source of demand -- and that demand will have to be met either by additional funding, or by intensifying the competition for such funding as is currently available. In the first case, there is a cost-increase. In the second case, programmes elsewhere in the institution will incur a sacrifice

... 6

equivalent to the resources allocated to the new students in Political Science.

It should also be observed that the addition of a new programme of this sort, with the ongoing obligations that it generates, automatically creates a further constraint on the budget process in the event that financial contractions are required in the future. Perhaps Dalhousie is perverse in this respect, but my own experience has been that programmes that seem to cost very little "going in" become transformed into recalcitrant financial monsters should economies have to be introduced at a later stage.

I assume that your office is very aware of these realities, but the Department itself may need to be reminded that the lunch is never free. Somewhere, somehow, someone always pays! And my guess in this case is that the office that is responsible for allocating the Department's operating resources will, within a year of the start-up of the programme, find itself confronted with a request for a departmental budget increase -- even if the request is explained by reference to some uncontrollable force of financial darkness that is superficially related to something else!

#### Demand for the Proposed Programme among Prospective Students

This is very difficult for me to assess. The Department reports that it receives some 100 inquiries per year from students interested in pursuing doctoral work. That does not surprise me, but of course we would need to know much more before we could assess the potential significance of the pattern. How many of such students would actually meet admissions standards? Are most of them from British Columbia, or do the inquiries come from farther afield? To what extent have the communications been directed specifically to Simon Fraser, as opposed to reflecting little more than the students' routine preliminary canvassings of a variety of potential opportunities for graduate work?

But having said all that, I am quite sure that the Department would be able to attract a few well-qualified students to the programme each year. It would be important, I think, for it to insist on a reasonably high standard, since the reputation of the programme over the long haul will be determined in significant measure by the calibre of its early graduates.

#### Demand for Graduates

This is even more difficult to assess. The Department is quite right in observing that Ph.D.s in Political Science are increasingly engaged in non-academic occupations -- notably in

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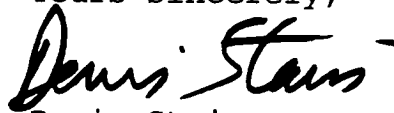
government and in other public service agencies. To what extent this is a function of their own interests (or those of their employers), and to what extent a result of the relative scarcity in recent years of university vacancies, is extremely difficult to assess. Both factors are probably at work. In any case, the demographics of the professoriate would suggest that there will be a resurgence of demand for young university teachers at the end of the 1990s and during the first decade of the third millenium (even taking into account the probability that current university programming will be to some extent re-structured in response to changing societal need). If this assumption is correct, the first graduates of the programme would be entering the academic "labour market" at a very opportune time. The so-called "globalization" of the international economy and related technological developments, moreover, are certainly creating an environment in which there is an increasing requirement for expertise in international affairs and in the internal politics of overseas environments.

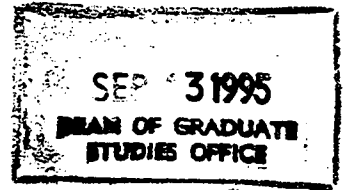
Having said that, it is obviously difficult for me to assess whether Canada (or British Columbia) really needs more doctoral programmes in Political Science. On a per capita basis, Canada is reputed to have more political scientists than any other country in the world. It would be pleasant to think that this is partly responsible for the civility with which we are usually able to conduct the intricate affairs of our complex and diversely composed federation (our politics appear disheartening only when they are examined without reference to politics anywhere else!). But I doubt that Canada's political scientists can really take the credit for such accomplishments as Canadian political life represents. In any case, I assume that this sort of question lies beyond your purview. At a more immediate and practical level, I have no reason to think that graduates of the programme would be unable to find employment. Certainly the market looks more inviting down the road than it has been over the past few years.

I hope these comments are helpful, but if I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to let me know. I will keep the materials that you sent to me on file for a short time in case you have further inquiries. After that, I will see to it that they are destroyed, unless you indicate that you would like to have them returned.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

  
Denis Stairs



# Université d'Ottawa - University of Ottawa

Faculté des sciences sociales  
Science politique

Faculty of Social Sciences  
Political Science

September 1, 1995

Phyllis M. Wrenn  
Associate Dean  
Graduate Studies  
Simon Fraser University  
Burnaby, B.C.  
V5A 1S6

Dear Phyllis Wrenn,

Enclosed please find my review of the proposed Ph.D. Programme in Political Science. I'm sorry to be slightly late with this review.

Thank you for the opportunity of reviewing the document.

Yours truly,

Caroline Andrew  
Chair

## Review of proposed Ph.D. in Political Science at Simon Fraser University

### 1. Academic Merit and Structural Integrity

I feel that the proposal for the Ph.D. in Political Science deserves to be supported. The primary basis for this judgment is the quality of the faculty and their capacity to carry out a programme that is destined not only to produce university teachers and researchers but also skilled analysts capable of working in governments, with private groups and in the private sector. I also support the Programme because its successful understaking will continue the development of the Department into one of the best Political Science Departments in the country. The Department has worked hard and the Ph.D. programme would demonstrate University support of the departmental effort.

The overall form of the programme seems to me sound - course work, two comprehensives, a second language requirement. However, the description given raises a certain number of points that I feel need to be explained in greater detail. Some of these may well be settled in the minds of the Department but they do not appear clearly in the document.

The first of these points touches the question of the general nature of the programme being proposed - "omnibus" or "specialized". The description given on p. 5 suggests that of 11 major sub-fields the Department will concentrate on three of these. However, as the description of teaching areas of the Department on the same page suggests, the proposed programme will in fact cover  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the major sub-fields of Political Science. Political Theory is the only sub-field not included and even in this case I am not sure that the document explicitly indicates that prospective students will be clearly told that they will not be accepted if their area of interest is not within the area of defined strength of the department - Comparative politics, International Relations, and Canadian Politics and Public Policy.

Therefore despite the description of the proposed programme as being specialized, it could be seen to be very close to an omnibus programme - with the exception of Political Theory. The document describes the specificity in terms of departmental expertise in areas such as Political Economy and Public Policy (p. 2) and in terms of encouraging students to explore the overlaps (p. 5) such as International Political Economy, Governance and Comparative Public Policy. These are interesting possibilities but I see nothing in the description of the programme that suggests how these will be done concretely. Will students be required to take courses in more than one area? Will they be required to take at least one course in Political Economy or International Political Economy and in Public Policy or Governance? If overlaps are to be encouraged will this be systematically done in the Ph.D. seminar?

These are important questions for the Department to be clear about, because it is too late to make decisions once students have been admitted. If the Department really wants to have a programme that will lead not only to university teaching but also to

public and private sector policy analysis etc. (which is almost a necessity in today's economic climate), I think it would make sense to require students to take courses in more than one area and in Political Economy and Public Policy.

Another related point is that the document (and, perhaps more importantly, the proposed course descriptions) say nothing about the ways in which doctoral students will be combined with MA students in these courses. I think it would be important to indicate somewhere in the document (or at least for the Department to be very clear on this point) how this is to be done - what kind of extra work or different work this would involve. It is important both for the Ph.D. students and the MA students that this be very clear - and this can also help to clarify the nature of the intended links between the course work and the comprehensive exams. It would also be useful to have an indication (in the section on the comprehensive exams) of what the Department would see as the normal progress of when students would write the first and second comprehensive exams. Again this seems to me important for the students to know what the expectation is but also for the Department to know what their collectively agreed upon expectation is. Not setting fixed dates has some advantages but it also has disadvantages in that students may well drag this process on longer than the Department intended.

Indicating expectations might help. And the Department should also develop a description about whether the exams are based on the reading lists from the courses taken, on a reading list drawn up by the student and the supervisor or some other format based on material drawn from other sources. It is important to be able to give very clear guidelines to the students.

2. Adequacy of the faculty ad other resources

As I stated earlier, the quality of the faculty is certainly the basis for my support for the programme. The Department has research and teaching strength in Comparative Politics, International Relations and Canadian Government and Public Policy.

Having said this I would also like to point out that the c.v.'s sent with the document need to be put into better shape. A few of them date from 1992 (at least 1992 publications are listed as forthcoming) and none of them are more recent than 1994. I can appreciate how irritating it is over the long process of developing a proposal for a new programme to have to continually ask colleagues to update their c.v.'s (and perhaps standardize the format somewhat more but this is perhaps a different question) but it is not easy to come to an evaluation about the departmental capacity to direct Ph.D. students if c.v.'s are not up to date. If someone has done almost no research and publishing in the last three years, their ability to direct Ph.D. students is considerably less than those of people whose recent research activity is flourishing.

But despite this problem it is evident that the Department has a very high proportion of its members who are actively engaged in researching and the disseminating of this research through conferences, publications and a whole variety of mechanisms

including community and government work. Indeed the range of ways research findings are being communicated to a broader public is a very positive sign of the vitality of the Department and a very promising factor for the Ph.D. programme.

Obviously the levels of research and scholarly activity are unequal across the Department but there is good strength in each of the three areas described for the Ph.D. - Comparative Politics, International Relations and Canadian Politics and Public Policy. It did seem to me in looking at the c.v.'s that there were more people involved in public policy research than those indicated for that area of p. 5. If the Department wants to indicate its strength in this area (as it presumably does) and in particular if it wants to indicate that its strength in this area in fact bridges international and Canadian perspectives, this could be done by more clearly highlighting those people (at least Cohn, Covell and McBride in addition to the people listed on p. 5) whose research work includes public policy oriented work both in a Canadian and non-Canadian context. Some ways of visualizing (perhaps a matrix-type diagram) the areas of expertise of the faculty that included both the traditional sub-fields but also the overlaps the Department wants to emphasize would be useful. This, plus the kind of precisions I was calling for earlier, would make far clearer how the Department sees itself giving a specialized training to the Ph.D. students. The Department does have strength in these "bridge" areas but unless it is concretized in the document, one does not really get a good idea of this strength and prospective students might not get a clear sense of what this programme would offer them. In the "bridge" areas of governance, public policy and political economy, it would be important to describe these areas in somewhat more detail and in ways that connect the research work being done on Canada and that being done on international topics. The Department contains some very productive scholars who are working in these "bridge" areas but unless these are highlighted in more specific terms, the proposal appears much more conventional than it might be in reality.

### 3. Demand for proposed programme

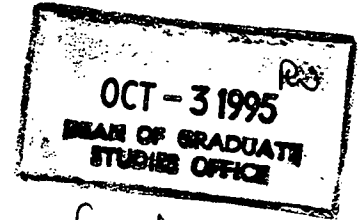
I have no doubt that the proposed Ph.D. programme will attract top quality candidates. There are a lot of students who want to do a Ph.D. in Political Science and a programme that explicitly talks about preparing students not only for university teaching but for research and analysis in the public and private sectors will have interest for a number of students. In addition, a number of the members of the Department have reputations and are involved in research that will attract students. I would strongly recommend that the Department keep the numbers very small in the first years in order to establish the programme and make sure that it is running smoothly and that the Department feels comfortable with the requirements of supervision. It is also important to do this in order to be able to choose really good quality students and also to be able to choose students who want to work in areas of departmental strength. The Department must be willing to turn down students who want to work in areas where there is not sufficient strength in the Department. This is essential if the Programme is to acquire a real focus and therefore attract students on the basis of this focus.

4. Demand for graduates

I agree with the proposal when it underlines that a programme such as the one described can produce graduates destined not only for academic positions but also for policy and administrative positions. Graduates from Political Science Ph.D. Programmes are finding employment in increasingly diversified settings and for a Programme to explicitly recognize this is an advantage (both in general terms but also, as I suggested earlier, in concrete terms within the requirements of the programme). As long as the programme remains small I feel confident that the graduates will find useful outlets for applying their training in academia, in consulting, in policy analysis, in administering non-governmental organizations, etc.

In summary I think the proposal has academic merit. I would suggest some departmental discussion about how the specialized nature of the programme can be better translated into programme requirements. I feel confident that the Department will be able to carry out these discussions successfully. There has been a real effort to develop and improve the Department over the past few years and obtaining the doctoral programme would be a proper recognition of the success of the Department efforts.

YORK UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES  
Office of the Dean



faxed copy  
received Sept 25/95

MEMORANDUM

TO: Phyllis M. Wrenn, Associate Dean

FROM: David Leyton-Brown, Dean

SUBJECT: Proposed Ph.D. program in Political Science at Simon Fraser University

DATE: September 25, 1995

I am pleased to submit these comments on the proposal for a Ph.D. program in Political Science at Simon Fraser University. In doing so I must make clear that I am fundamentally supportive of the proposal - the Department has a more than adequate complement of faculty to deliver such a program; the proposed fields are appropriate to the concerns of the discipline and the competence of the faculty; the initiative is a natural outgrowth of the academic plans and developments of the Department in recent years. Any questions I raise are offered with constructive intent, to suggest ways in which the proposal might be strengthened, or are matters that might easily be clarified if I had the opportunity to speak with members of the Department and University rather than simply to read the written proposal. As well as general observations, I will also offer some specific comments on matters that are unclear to me, although discussion might easily have been able to answer them.

The Academic Merit and Structural Integrity of the Program

Overall structure - The academic structure of the program is at the moment minimal. The proposal (calendar entry pp. i-ii) says that 30 credit hours of graduate course work are required (including a theory/methods requirement, and of which at least 20 hours must be in courses offered by the Department), along with two comprehensive exams and a thesis. However, since there are to be no net additional courses, and every course is to serve the needs of the MA program as well as those of the limited number of Ph.D. students, it is not apparent that the doctoral course work will prepare students for the comprehensive examinations, and for thesis research, better than MA students in any qualitative way beyond the sheer number of courses taken. Many Ph.D. programs have a dedicated doctoral course, either as preparation for the comprehensive exams, or as preparation for the design and development of the thesis proposal, to speed progress through the program. Has such a course been considered here? Would the proposed low enrolment levels make such a course viable if it is considered academically desirable?

The proposal (pp. 2, 5) says impressive things about the emphasis on new and growing concerns within the discipline ("the interaction between institutions, organizations and policy, governance, and political economy"), or on the overlaps between the identified fields. However these emphases are not explicitly reflected in the structure of the program (i.e. its field structure, the absence of requirements for cross field course selection, no specification that the comprehensive examinations will address these interactions and overlaps, etc.) or its curriculum (descriptions of existing courses reveal no explicit attention to these themes, but are for the most part traditional in scope and content, and only two or three of the proposed new courses have these explicit themes). Either this rhetoric seems overblown, or more attention should be given to build the program explicitly around these defining themes.

The characterization (p. 3) of several; other Ph.D. programs across the country as "omnibus" rather than as specialized by fields is somewhat misleading. It is not only new programs which specify their fields - under the OCGS appraisal system, every university in Ontario (including the purported omnibus program at the University of Toronto, must specify their fields, and operate only within them; a smaller university like Dalhousie may not designate fields formally, but has clear and recognized areas of concentrated expertise. This really strengthens the point being made in the proposal, that it is appropriate for this proposed program to specify its fields.

Fields - It is a minor quibble, but the "11 fields of Canadian Political Science" specified on p. 5 are not universally recognized as such. Many universities combine one or more of these into larger fields, and so would generate different lists.

The SFU MA program is constructed around five fields (Figure II, and p. 6), but the Ph.D. proposal repackages them into three without explanation. The combining of the Canadian Politics and Public Administration and Policy fields into Canadian Politics and Policy is easily understood, but no explanation is given as to why Political Theory is dropped as a field. Is this an implicit commentary on the scholarly quality of the faculty listed in Figure II as members of the Political Theory field (and if so what does it say about their contribution to their other fields)? Is it an implicit commentary on the anticipated student demand and employment prospects for graduates in this field? Is it an implicit commentary on the place on political theory and its contribution to the defining themes of this proposed program? Is there some other reason for the change? And finally, though it goes beyond the scope of this proposal, if the three fields identified for the Ph.D. program make sense for the department at the doctoral level, do they not also make sense at the MA level, and will the number of fields in the MA program be adjusted accordingly (and if not, why not)?

Curriculum - I have already mentioned above that the curricular requirements seem to suggest that doctoral students will take only 4-6 more of the same courses than do MA students. Might it have been helpful to define somewhat more fully a program of Ph.D. study, and the ways (if any) in which it differs from MA study? This becomes particularly relevant when one examines the actual course descriptions (which parenthetically are not consistent as regards level, intended enrolment, basis for evaluation, etc.). It is not clear at



what level the graduate curriculum is pitched - one course for example is described as a "general introduction" (830-5), while another is an "overview ... and intensive introduction" (841-3), while a third is "an introduction ... at the graduate level" (844-5). While recognizing that the word "introduction" may have very different meaning at the undergraduate and graduate levels, is it appropriate for doctoral students to take introductions, especially in their major field? Are some course more advanced than others, and intended to be taken only after completion of the graduate-level introduction? And what course offerings will be available for Ph.D. students who were members of the MA program in the same department, and who therefore will already have taken many of these courses?

One proposed new course (856) estimates an enrolment of 15, which raises a question about the number of students needed to make any course academically (and financially) viable. Is there a minimum enrolment needed for a course to continue? If so, what provisions are made to make the course work available for a displaced student who needs the material (e.g. in preparation for comprehensive examinations, which cannot be put off until the next time the course might be offered)?

It appears that there will be no net additions to the curriculum, because the proposed new courses will be matched by courses removed from the curriculum. However two of those (863-5 and 864-3) do not appear to have been offered since 1983 and 1985 respectively, so their removal may be more apparent than real. The more substantive question would be whether there is any change to the number of courses offered in any given year.

Timing - The proposal (calendar entry) states that the comprehensive examinations are to be taken upon completion of coursework, but there is no indication of whether there is a requirement as to how soon after the completion of coursework the exams must be done. Similarly after completing the comprehensive examinations candidates are required to present a seminar to the Department on their research interests, and then to submit a formal thesis proposal, but again there is no indication of whether there is any requirement as to how soon each of these is to be done. I expect that drafters of the proposal could easily answer these questions, but the proposal itself is silent on them. Many programs elsewhere have found that specification of maximum times for completion of each of these stages has had beneficial effects on the time to completion of the entire doctoral program. Incidentally I should comment positively that I think the departmental seminar presentation could be a valuable assistance to the student in formulating the thesis proposal, and thus in moving on more quickly and successfully to the actual thesis research. To speed completion further, some universities incorporate such a discussion in the comprehensive examination, and I wonder if any thought has been given to doing so.

#### Adequacy of Faculty and Other Resources

Faculty - I have some complaint about the fact that the CVs were not in uniform format, which made it difficult to assess some qualifications - e.g. the research funding (if any) received by some faculty is unclear, and only five indicate any previous graduate supervisory

experience, even at the MA level. This latter point is surprising given that the Department has graduated 47 MAs since 1974, and currently has 50 MA students enrolled (p. 6). I am confident that there is more supervisory experience in the Department than the CVs indicate, but the written materials given to me make it impossible to assess that.

I paid particular attention to the scholarly activities of the faculty in the past seven years, because of my conviction that those teaching and supervising doctoral students should themselves be actively and continuously engaged in research and scholarship. The scholarly records of all of the faculty range from adequate to good over that period.

Experience in the OCGS appraisal system has shown that a bare minimum of four and preferably five faculty members are essential to offer a viable field at the doctoral level, to allow for continuity of teaching and supervision with inevitable sabbaticals, administrative leaves, etc. The three fields proposed here exceed those minimum numbers.

There are some inconsistencies in the data and CVs presented. For example, P. Falkenheim is included among the CVs, but is not listed among the faculty in Figure II, nor shown as expected to teach in the graduate curriculum in Figure III. On the other hand, P Meyer is included in Figures II and III, but there is no CV. Nor is there a CV for C. Szafnicki, who presumably teaches the only required graduate course in theory and methodology.

There is no discussion of anticipated retirements, and if I had had the opportunity I would have asked how many faculty are expected to retire within the next five to seven years, and what impact those retirements would have on the viability of the fields in which they teach and supervise. I trust that the University will be mindful of this point, because I am unable to comment one way or another about it.

Finally, the self-congratulatory comments (p. 5) about the unique ability of the SFU faculty to teach and research in more than a single field of the discipline seem unnecessary, especially to non-SFU eyes.

Other Resources - The proposal asserts (p. 2) that the program can be mounted with minimal new expenditures, and Figure VI shows a total anticipated cost of \$550. I fear that this is a serious underestimate of the actual costs which will be incurred. The largest potential cost for any new program is faculty salaries, and the proposal asserts that this cost will be zero, and that existing resources will be reallocated. It may in future become academically desirable to mount a Ph.D. course, which would involve new faculty time. Even if not, I cannot determine if in fact there will be constant or increasing teaching resources in the graduate curriculum. Different credit weighting makes it hard for me to interpret Figure III, which shows nine courses offered in 93-3, 94-1 and 94-2 (if I have matched the 93-94 academic year properly), nine courses in 94-3, 95-1 and 95-2, but eleven courses in 95-3, 96-1 and 96-2, and twelve planned for 96-3, 97-1 and 97-2 (the first intended year of the doctoral programme). It is possible that with different course weightings these could all amount to the same allocation of teaching resources, but this is not clear to me.

A second area of cost will be teaching assistantships. Figure VI shows zero for this amount, but the proposal (p. 10) rightly comments on the availability of Ph.D. students to tutor third year classes, and of Ph.D. students near completion to be sessional lecturers. These useful activities will not come without cost.

In addition to teaching assistantships there will have to be some provision for student assistance funds, such as scholarships and bursaries.

The proposal presumes zero additional secretarial costs (apart from a modest amount for supplies and services and overhead). There will be real additional work to be performed (in every area from admissions through registration to advising and convocation), and even if the costs are small, they cannot be ignored.

A non-recurring amount of \$100 for library collections seems impossibly low. A Ph.D. programme will require more than the one or two books that \$100 could buy in its first year of operation.

Finally there is no indication of costs for office space for the Ph.D. students. At 2-4 per year for up to six years, there could be potentially as many as 24 Ph.D. students who will have to be accommodated.

In short, I cannot believe that any Ph.D. program could be mounted without more costs than are contemplated in this proposal. This is not to say that the proposal should therefore be refused - quite the contrary. Rather it is to say that the costs should be recognized and the necessary resources committed.

#### Student Demand

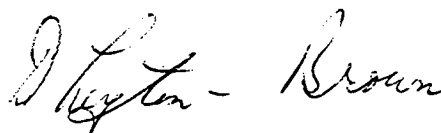
The enrolment levels contemplated are low, and I do not anticipate difficulty in reaching those targets.

The proposal states (p. 9) that there will be a high GPA requirement (3.5) to ensure that the program remains small. This at least implies that the high if the GPA requirement is volitional, and was chosen to achieve this end. However my reading of the SFU Calendar suggests that a 3.5 GPA is the minimum requirement for admission to any doctoral program.

#### Demand for Graduates

I find the discussion in the proposal (p. 10) on this point weak. The academic job market is declining, and many programs in many disciplines are questioning the wisdom of continuing to educate the same number of Ph.D. students in the past to face a dwindling range of career prospects at the end. The proposal puts great weight on the prospects for positions in policy and administration, but the current global pattern of government deficit reductions and downsizing can hardly fill one with confidence for continued expansion in these career opportunities.

However, it would be wrong to conclude that there will be no demand for graduates, and so there should be no program. Manpower estimates are notoriously unreliable, especially as far off as six or more years. Even with continued downsizing and budget cuts, there will continue to be a need to replace those who retire, and to undertake new activities. A small and well designed program should be able to contribute graduates to meet that market.



David Leyton-Brown, Dean  
Faculty of Graduate Studies

# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE



BURNABY, BRITISH COLUMBIA V5A 1S6  
Telephone: (604) 291-4293 DEAN OF GRADUATE  
Fax: (604) 291-4786 STUDIES OFFICE

RECEIVED

SEP 22 1995

Prof. Phyllis Wrenn,  
Associate Dean of Graduate Studies  
Simon Fraser University

September 22, 1995

Dear Phyllis:

I have enclosed the Department of Political Science's response to the external review of our proposed Ph.D. program. We understand that the comments of the External Review Committee and our response will be discussed at the October 2nd meeting of the Assessment Committee for New Graduate Programs. Professor Stephen McBride will represent our Department at that meeting since I will be teaching at that time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peggy Meyer".

Peggy Meyer  
Graduate Chair  
Political Science

Encl.

RESPONSE TO THE EXTERNAL REVIEW OF THE PROPOSAL FOR A  
PH.D. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

I am writing on behalf of the Department of Political Science in response to the external review committee's comments on our proposed Ph.D. program. We are grateful to the members of the Review Committee for the time and careful attention they have given to their task.

We are very pleased that the external reviewers unanimously endorsed the creation of a Ph.D. program in our department and recognized the high quality of our faculty members. We note with particular satisfaction Professor Caroline Andrew's comments that our proposed Ph.D. program "will attract top quality candidates" and "will continue the development of the [our] Department into one of the best Political Science Department's in the country". We also welcome Professor Andrew Sancton's remark that he was "extremely impressed" by the vitae of faculty members in our department, both new appointments and "others who have been at SFU for longer and who have built solid reputations for themselves, especially in the three designated subfields".

Employment opportunities.

We welcome the external reviewers' assessment that there will be a growth in employment opportunities for the graduates of our program in private sector consulting, in nongovernmental organizations, in the civil service and especially in academia where there will be a large number of retirements and renewed demand for Ph.D's, particularly in the fields emphasized by our program. We anticipate that in British Columbia this will include opportunities both in universities and in the colleges where retirements and the growing pressure to teach first and second year university courses will increase the demand for faculty with Ph.Ds.

Program size.

We reiterate our commitment to establish a small Ph.D. program with 2-4 entrants per year. The Department is opposed to including formal limits in the calendar but we anticipate that

Response to External Review of Proposed Political Science Ph.D.

the high GPA required for admission plus our own strong determination to keep the number of entrants small and to avoid establishing an omnibus program will serve as adequate limits. While we have designated Canadian Politics and Public Policy, Comparative Politics and International Relations as the approved fields for our program, our firm intention is to maintain a focus on political economy, governance and public policy. We do not want an omnibus program. The culture in our department is opposed to one.

Program distinctiveness.

We believe that the small, specialized nature of our program will differentiate it from the much larger, omnibus program at UBC. In this regard we note the following assessment of the unique strengths of our faculty that was expressed in the March 1992 External Review of our department: "The emphasis on questions of governance (institutions and the administration of policy, particularly in the interrelations of politics and the economy) gives a particular thrust to the Department and one that is quite different from the areas of strength of the UBC Political Science Department (which, within Canadian politics, is much stronger on questions of 'politics' than of 'policy' and/or 'governance')." We believe that British Columbia can support one omnibus and one small, focused Ph.D. program when Ontario, with three times its population has seven political science Ph.D. programs and Alberta, with a smaller population, has two political science Ph.D. programs. Our program's focus on public policy, political economy and governance will be an asset to British Columbia in an era of increasing globalization.

Our smaller program not only will have the academic benefit of bringing together students and faculty with shared research interests Its small size also will help ensure that the students get the individual attention and supervision they expect and deserve. In this regard, we welcome and strongly endorse Professor Caroline Andrew's comments that the Department should clarify what kinds of extra work or different work would be expected of Ph.D. students

Response to External Review of Proposed Political Science Ph.D.

taking the same courses as Master's students, the nature of the intended links between course work and the comprehensive exams, our expectations regarding when these exams will be taken, and the procedures for drawing up the reading lists for comprehensive exams. It is our intention to establish clear and concrete procedures and expectations before the program begins. We also intend to follow up on Professor Andrew's suggestion that the information sent to prospective students should highlight the "bridge" areas of governance, public policy and political economy and the work being done in these areas by the "very productive scholars" [her words] in our department. We recognize that lack of clarity regarding such matters can be annoying to graduate students. We accept that the time limit for the program should be 3-5 years, not 4-6 years in order to encourage students to complete the requirements as expeditiously as possible.

Professor Andrew has raised a legitimate question about how the specialized nature of the proposed program is reflected in program requirements. We believe that the required course work should ensure that the students have a broad background in their general areas of interest and that they are capable of teaching in at least two sub-fields in the discipline. Students will be required to specialize during the thesis research and preparation phase which will take the bulk of their time in the program. Each candidate has to go through a thesis proposal process which requires approval of the thesis topic by the supervisory committee and its presentation to the Department. The composition of students' supervisory committees and their expectations will encourage the kind of specialization and overlap between sub-disciplines that are the focus of our proposed program.

We agree that Professor Maureen Covell, Professor Theodore Cohn and Professor Stephen McBride should be included in the list of faculty members specializing in the fields emphasized in our program. We regret that we did not include more up-to-date curriculum vitae with the proposal. If we had done so, they would have demonstrated the continued high research



Response to External Review of Proposed Political Science Ph.D.

productivity of our department.

Program costs.

We recognize that the external reviewers have legitimate concerns about the costs of our program. There will be modest, incremental costs which can easily be covered in our existing operating budget. We believe that the costs will be modest even if the indirect costs are included. Currently, we are admitting an average of 15-20 Masters students per year. Adding two to four new Ph.D. students per year to this program should not greatly increase the administrative burden.

Our Ph.D. students will be able to tap into sources of funding not available to our Master's students. We anticipate that some of our Ph.D. students will receive SSHRC fellowships for which our Master's students are not eligible and that some, for example, college faculty seeking upgrading, may even come with their own funding. In some cases, Ph.D. students may be qualified to serve as research assistants for externally funded projects run by members our department for which there is no qualified M.A. student. Some advanced Ph.D. students may serve as sessional instructors whom our department needs to mount its program. These various sources of funding should allow us to admit Ph.D. students with little or no negative impact on our Master's students.

Ph.D. students also would be qualified to serve as teaching assistants for third year courses which would enable our department to accommodate a larger number of students at this level. At the moment, the Department does not assign teaching assistants to third year courses because we are not convinced that Master's students are qualified to perform this function. Yet the enrolment pressure in third year courses has been increased by the growing tendency for students in B.C. to complete their first two years of university training at one of the colleges and to transfer to our program for their third and fourth years. The admission of Ph.D. students would allow a more rational distribution of the teaching assistant resources already

Response to External Review of Proposed Political Science Ph.D.

allocated to the department.

Library.

The SFU library has collections in the fields emphasized in our proposed program which already are being taught at the Master's and undergraduate levels. Our Library Collections Manager, after a thorough review of our holdings, concluded that they were more than adequate to support the type of program envisioned. Our library also encourages and supports faculty and student use of interlibrary loan to access the collections of other libraries, not just in British Columbia but also outside it.

In summary, we are pleased with the strong unanimous support that the external review committee voiced for our proposed Ph.D. program and their conviction that there will be strong and growing employment prospects for its graduates. We reiterate our commitment to keep the program small and to admit only high quality applicants which will be guaranteed by the high admissions standards which we have set for the program.

**APPENDIX I**  
**CALENDAR ENTRY**

50.

## Appendix I - Calendar Entry

### Title

Graduate Studies - Political Science  
Ph.D. Program  
Degree Requirements

### General

Prospective candidates should be advised that the Department offers specialized research resources in the fields of Canadian Politics and Public Policy, Comparative Politics, and International Relations with a focus within each field on issues of political economy, public policy and governance. However, the department may be able to offer opportunities for advanced study in other fields of political science, subject to the availability of faculty research expertise.

### Admission

In addition to the minimum admission requirements established in the Graduate General Regulations section (1.3.3.), the department also requires a completed MA in political science normally with a minimum 3.67 GPA in graduate courses taken towards the MA degree. A written statement of current research interests indicating two areas of proposed specialization, three letters of reference from qualified referees, and a sample of the candidate's written work are also required. How well the proposed research of the applicant coincides with the department's focus on political economy, public policy and governance is an important consideration for admission. Any deficiencies in a student's background must be met by taking appropriate courses in addition to work normally required for the Ph.D.

Applications for admission are reviewed once each year by the departmental Graduate Studies Committee with the program commencing in September.

### Supervisory Committee

In accordance with Graduate General Regulation 1.6., upon admission into the program, the departmental Graduate Studies Committee shall assign a Senior supervisor and two second supervisors to each student. This supervisory committee shall be responsible for monitoring, aiding and evaluating the student's progress through the Ph.D. program. Each supervisory committee will be structured to reflect the department's focus on issues of political economy, public policy and governance and to ensure that these constitute an integral part of each student's program.

### Program Requirements

The program leading towards the Doctor of Philosophy degree in political science consists of 30 credit hours of graduate course work beyond the requirements of the MA degree plus a second language requirement, two comprehensive exams and a thesis.

## **Course Work**

Students enrolled in the Ph.D. program are required to successfully complete 30 credit hours of graduate level course work of which at least 20 credit hours shall be attained from courses offered by the Department. All course choices must be approved by the student's Supervisory Committee and reflect the student's areas of specialization within the fields of political economy, public policy and governance as identified in the student's letter of intent. All students must complete Politics 801 - Scope and Methods or an equivalent course. All courses must be completed prior to completion of any other component of the program.

## **Language Requirement**

Students will be required to demonstrate a reading ability in one language, other than English, that is acceptable to the student's supervisory committee. Students proposing to study a topic related to Canadian politics must demonstrate an ability to read French. Ability will be determined by successful completion of a time limited examination consisting of a dictionary aided translation of a passage from the political science literature written in the language selected.

## **Comprehensive Examinations**

Upon completion of course work and prior to the commencement of thesis research, students must successfully complete a comprehensive examination in two selected fields. By the end of the second semester of a student's enrollment in the program, that student's Senior Supervisor must notify the departmental Graduate Studies Committee of the two fields of study within the discipline of political science which will serve as subjects for comprehensive examinations. Each examination will consist of a three hour written examination and a one hour oral examination held one week after the completion of the written exam. The examinations will be established, conducted and evaluated by a Comprehensive Examination Committee selected by the department Graduate Studies Committee. The Comprehensive Examination Committee shall be composed of one member of the student's Supervisory Committee, an additional faculty member from the department, and one from outside the department. The Comprehensive Examination Committee will be chaired by the department Graduate Studies chair.

Students will receive a grade of Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory from the Comprehensive Examination Committee following completion of the written and oral component of each field. Students who receive a failing grade shall be permitted one retake of that exam following a one semester lapse.

## **Thesis**

Candidates successfully completing both Comprehensive Examinations will be required to complete POL 890 the department's Ph.D. seminar designed to assist students with the preparation of a formal thesis topic and to relate it to issues of political economy, public policy and governance. POL 890 will culminate with the presentation by each student of a seminar to the Department outlining his/her research interests. This will be done prior to submission of a formal thesis proposal to the Graduate Studies Committee.

Following the Departmental seminar and after consultations with the Student's Supervisory Committee, the student shall prepare a thesis proposal for approval by the Graduate Studies Committee. The proposal shall state the thesis title, topic, general intent, methodology and selected bibliography. It will be accompanied by a detailed research plan and timetable for the completion of each chapter of the thesis. The thesis proposal should not exceed 25 pages in length, excluding bibliographic references.

The Thesis itself should be no more than 300 pages in length and must represent an original contribution to the development of the discipline. The completed thesis must be successfully defended at an oral defence established in accordance with Graduate General Regulations 1.9. and 1.10.

### **Performance Evaluation**

In accordance with Graduate General Regulation 1.8. the progress of each student towards the Ph.D. degree shall be reviewed periodically by the Graduate Studies Committee. At least once each year the student's Supervisory Committee shall submit a written report on the student's progress to the Graduate Studies Committee to aid its deliberations. Students judged to have maintained unsatisfactory progress by the Graduate Studies Committee may be asked to withdraw from the Program.

### **Time Limits**

Although Graduate General Regulation 1.12 establishes an eight year time limit for the Ph.D., it is the expectation of the Department that the Ph.D. program may be completed within three to five years of entrance.

## APPENDIX II

### GRADUATE COURSES

POL 801	The Scope and Methods of Political Science
POL 812	Political Theory
POL 814	Normative Political Theory
POL 821	Canadian Government and Politics
POL 825	Canadian Political Economy
POL 826	Political Parties and Ideologies In Canada
POL 827	Issues in Canadian Government and Politics
POL 830	Comparative Government and Politics
POL 832	Government and Politics of Communist Countries
POL 839	Government and Politics of Developing Countries
POL 841	International Relations
POL 842	International Law and Organizations
POL 843	Canadian Foreign Policy
POL 844	International Political Economy
POL 845	Foreign Policy Analysis
POL 846	International Security Studies
POL 851	Public Policy in Canada
POL 852	Urban Government and Politics
POL 853	Public Administration
POL 856	Issues in Social and Economic Policy
POL 861	Political Development

#### OTHER COURSES

POL 829	Legislative Internship
POL 891	Master's Seminar
POL 893	Readings in Political Science
POL 897	Master's Field Exams
POL 898	Master's Thesis Research

(Detailed course outlines available on request)

## APPENDIX III

### FACULTY VITAE

(Faculty Vitae available on request)