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*As amended by
Senate Apr 12/10*

MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	Senate	DATE	March 5, 2010
FROM	Bill Krane, Chair	PAGES	1/1
RE:	Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies Direct Admission to BGS (SCUS 10-16g)		

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of March 4, 2010, gives rise to the following recommendation:

Motion:

- That Senate approve the elimination of direct admission to the Bachelor of General Studies for all incoming students to be effective January 2011.

↳ Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences



FACULTY OF
ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

MEMO

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ATTENTION Jo Hinchliffe, Assistant Registrar
FROM Paul Budra, Associate Dean FASS
RE BGS motion at SCUS
DATE March 2, 2010

Would you please add the following motion to the agenda for the SCUS meeting on Mar. 4th, 2010. This motion is to clarify the intent of the motion SCUS 09-45c, passed on Sept. 17th 2009.

Motion: ~~effective immediately~~, that FASS eliminate direct admission to the Bachelor of General Studies for all incoming students, effective January 2011.

Rationale:

- SCUS 09-45c specifies that "Starting Fall 2010, the Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) degree will be available only as a graduation option for Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences students. Students interested in this option must meet with a faculty advisor in Arts Central (AQ 3020) and will be required to complete an application form in order to seek formal approval from the Associate Dean in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences." Students who are applying for admission to SFU will not be in a position to get such approval.
- In general, FASS is trying to dissuade students from the BGS option in favor of the BA (and especially the new BA with two minors). BGS students, because they often have no area of concentration, may not have the prerequisites necessary for the upper division courses they need to complete their degrees. Additionally, students value the BGS less than the BA because it is a less known degree. And, anecdotally, students who do



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register into the BGS often mistake it for a BA in general subjects rather than a different degree.

- If, for whatever reason, a student insists on pursuing a BGS, we would like the opportunity to advise her on how construct a cohesive academic plan and structure her degree to eliminate possible graduation completion problems. Because BGS students have no home departments they are difficult to track and advise; we want to be sure they see the Associate Dean before committing to the degree path.

Thank you.

Paul Budra
Chair, FASSCC