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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION: Senate

TEL

FROM: Peter Keller, Vice-President, Academic and Provost, and Chair, SCUP

 RE: Title Change of the French Cohort Program in Public Administration and Community Services
 (SCUP 17-17)

DATE: April 21, 2017

TIME

At its April 19, 2017 meeting, SCUP reviewed and approved the title change from French Cohort Program in Public Administration and Community Services to French Cohort Program in Public and International Affairs within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Fall 2017.

Motion:

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the title change from French Cohort Program in Public Administration and Community Services to French Cohort Program in Public and International Affairs within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Fall 2017.

c: C. Murray
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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Senate Committee on University Priorities **DATE** March 3, 2017
FROM Wade Parkhouse, Acting Chair **PAGES** 1/1
Senate Committee on Undergraduate
Studies
RE: Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (SCUS 17-12b)(7) 

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of March 2, 2017, gives rise to the following recommendations:

Motion

That SCUP approve the title change from the "French Cohort program in Public Administration and Community Services" to the "French Cohort Program in Public and International Affairs" within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

The relevant documentation for review by SCUP is attached.

French Cohort Program in Public Administration and Communities Services

Creation of the French Cohort Program in Public Administration and Communities Services (referred below as “French Cohort Program” - FCP) at SFU: Background

In June 1998, the *Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique* (FFCB) appointed a Working Committee that studied the state of post-secondary education in French in British Columbia. Following the report of this Working Committee, a study was conducted by the FFCB to measure the education needs and level of interest among the potential post-secondary student clientele. Serge Corbeil, FFCB Coordinator of Government Relations and Research, presented the results of the study in *Post-secondary Education in French in British Columbia: What do Students Think?*¹ supporting the development of an undergraduate program primarily taught in French.

In September 2002, an action plan was proposed by Dr. Jean Watters, former superintendent of the *Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique* (CSFCB) which included programs and university activities for Francophones and Francophiles in BC. In the document entitled *University Level Programs and Activities for Francophone and Francophile Students in British Columbia: A Call to Action*, the future French Cohort Program is described as following: “The program will enable students to use their degree in a variety of ways. The degree will prepare them to assume positions in public administration or in various fields of community development for which French is an advantage. (...) In addition, the program will open avenues toward further studies through which they might enter professional callings in the federal government or international agencies.”²

In 2003, the Honourable Stéphane Dion oversaw the publication, by the Federal Liberal government, of *The Next Act: New Momentum for Canada’s Linguistic Duality, The Action Plan for Official Languages*, which recognized the importance of access to post-secondary education in French outside Québec.³ This action plan was essential to British Columbia’s progress in terms of post-secondary education in French as the governments of British Columbia and Canada signed the bilateral *Canada-British Columbia Auxiliary Agreement for the Development of Postsecondary Education in French at Simon Fraser University, 2003-2004 to 2007-2008*⁴, along with an “Action Plan” in February 2004.

¹ La Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique, “Post-secondary Education in French in British Columbia: What do Students Think? Final Report” (2000) [FFCB Report]; Office of Francophone and Francophile Affairs, *SFU and la Francophonie*, online: Simon Fraser University <<http://www.sfu.ca/baff-offa/en/about-sfu.html>>.

² Jean Watters, “University Level Activities and Programs for Francophones and Francophiles in British Columbia: A Call to Action” (2002), online: Simon Fraser University <http://www.sfu.ca/content/dam/sfu/baff-offa/English/History-%20A_Call_to_Action.pdf>.

³ Government of Canada, “The Next Act: New Momentum for Canada’s Linguistic Duality, The Action Plan for Official Languages” (2003), online: <<http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/244759/publication.html>> at 18 [The Next Act].

⁴ Government of British Columbia, *Canada-British Columbia Auxiliary Agreement for the Development of Postsecondary Education in French at Simon Fraser University, 2003-2004 to 2007-2008*, online: Government of British Columbia <<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/french-funding/13-18/2013-2018-canada-bc-agreement.pdf>> [*Canada-British Columbia Agreement*].

In September 2004, the first students registered in the multidisciplinary Program in Public Administration and Community Services, part of a bachelor degree taught predominantly in French.

Proposed Name Change

The proposed name change from “French Cohort Program in Public Administration and Community Services” (*Administration publique et services communautaires*) to “French Cohort Program in Public and International Affairs” (*Affaires publiques et internationales*) results from:

- 1) continued consultations with students (current and alumni) and careful consideration by the OFFA-FASS Associate Director responsible for coordinating the delivery of the program and the FCP Student Advisor;
- 2) a curriculum review of the program by the FCP Ad Hoc Curriculum Committee composed of faculty members teaching in the program (Political Science, History and French), as well as current and former students. Over the years, the program has gone through a number of curriculum reviews to better answer the needs of students as well as adapt the program taking into account requirements related to regular curriculum changes initiated by departments involved following internal and/or external reviews.

Note that the proposed name change received formal approval from the members of the FCP Ad Hoc Curriculum Committee on November 30, 2016 and was presented to the members to the OFFA Advisory Committee (www.sfu.ca/content/dam/sfu/baff-offa/English/OFFA_Advisory_Committee_Mandate_2012.pdf) on December 2, 2016.

It is also important to take into account that the French Cohort Program requires that students participate in an exchange program (1 or 2 semesters) at a Francophone institution in Quebec or Europe (France, Belgium, Switzerland) in order to graduate. The great majority of students choose to attend a European university demonstrating an interest in studies involving international affairs.

The proposed name also aligns with recent intellectual developments in Political Science, as well as better reflects program content, including overall goals and course offerings.

Intellectual Developments in Political Science

Since the creation of the French Cohort Program in 2004, Political Science has witnessed important intellectual developments, particularly in relation to state-society relations. For one, there is the shift from public administration to public policy. Public administration as an academic discipline is focused on the machinery—the nuts and bolts—of government. It studies the structure and organization of government as well as internal processes of policy formulation and implementation. Public policy aims to better understand the ‘state in action.’ Its focus is on state-society relations, which includes the study of the policy cycle, policy instruments and policy networks. A related development is the shift from ‘government’ to ‘governance.’ Western democracies have designed a number of structures and processes that aim to foster collaboration between government and various non-elected interest and pressure groups. Governance refers to

these structures and processes, particularly how policy formulation and implementation now involves a wider set of actors either locally or globally.

Public and International Affairs (*Affaires publiques et internationales*) captures these intellectual developments in Political Science related to public policy and governance. The proposed name is used by various institutions in Canada and elsewhere. For instance, the University of Ottawa, the Université de Montréal, York University/Collège Glendon, Princeton University and Columbia University have undergraduate or graduate programs in Public and International Affairs (*Affaires publiques et internationales*). The proposed name has thus the benefit of aligning the program with shifts in Political Science all the while maintaining the clear focus on state-society relations.

Better Reflects Program Content

At the time of its creation, the name Public Administration and Community Services (*Administration publique et services communautaires*) was chosen to reflect the focus on state-society relations. This focus continues to guide the program. The main objective remains the education and training of the next generation of policymakers, policy analysts, program officers and community organizers that can work in Canada's two official languages. The core courses examine immigration, language and foreign policies and their effects on local and international communities. The roles of community-based groups in policy formulation and implementation are explored in the upper-level course on community development. The proposed name also captures the focus on governance mechanisms and processes.

In many ways, the French Cohort Program was always about Public and International Affairs (*Affaires publiques et internationales*). The name captures the focus on public policies and the roles of community-based groups in policy formulation and implementation. More generally, the proposed name better reflects the comparative nature of most Political Science courses as well as the required student exchange program.

The proposed name represents an important added value for SFU students. By emphasizing the international nature of the program, including the core courses, the students' degree will open doors to graduate and professional programs and create opportunities on the job market in Canada and elsewhere. In contrast, as reported by FCP students, the current title sows doubt for admission committees and potential employers, and moreover undersells the knowledge, training and skills of SFU students.

Finally, as SFU is admitting an increasing number of international students, the proposed name will help attract students from the World Francophonie who are interested in studying in Canada, and about Canada, bring their own international perspective and eventually contribute to increasing the Francophone immigration into French language minority communities in BC and throughout the country.