

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.71-111

MEMORANDUM

To..... SENATE

From..... JON WHEATLEY

DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Subject..... AMENDMENT TO 6.1, 12.1 and 13.4 OF
THE GENERAL REGULATIONS, S.71-111

Date..... SEPTEMBER 15, 1971

MOTION: "That the words 'full-time' be struck from Sections 6.1, 12.1 and 13.4 of the General Regulations for Graduate Studies."

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In the regulations as presently written we have the following three provisions:

- 6.1 To satisfy the academic residence requirements for a graduate degree at this University the student must be recognized by the Supervisory Committee to be actively pursuing an approved full-time program of studies in the number of semesters specified for the degree.
- 12.1 Residence. The Master's Degree requires that a student be registered in an approved program and undertaking full-time study at this University as a Regular Student for a minimum of three semesters.
- 13.4 Residence. The Ph.D. Degree requires that a student be registered in an approved program and undertaking full-time study at this University as a Regular Student for a minimum of five semesters following completion of the Master's Degree. At least eight semesters are required for those students who are permitted to proceed from the Bachelor's First Class Honors Degree level without completing the Master's Degree.

MOTION

MOTION: "That the words 'full-time' be struck from 6.1, 12.1 and 13.4".

This motion passed the Executive Committee of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee on August 30, 1971 and the Senate Graduate Studies Committee on September 13, 1971.

RATIONALE

On any ordinary use of the phrase 'full-time' we have many graduate students at Simon Fraser who are pursuing a worthwhile course of study and who are not full-time. If we wish to keep these students, and we surely do, then we have three possible courses of action: we can so define 'full-time' that, though appearances are to the contrary, the students concerned are technically full time; or we can properly define 'full-' and 'part-time' and re-write the regulations to allow for both types of student; or we can eliminate the requirement that all graduate students shall be full-time. The first alternative is a poor one: having a definition of 'full-time' which is patently not a normal sense of 'full-time' is the sort of attempt at wool-pulling which we should surely avoid. The second alternative looks attractive but is not. Every definition of full- or part-time students I have managed to frame has been clearly bad, or eliminated TAs from full-time status, or had other undesirable consequences. Alternatively, if we eliminate the notion of full- (or part-) time students we emphasize what we surely do care about, which is that a student is "actively pursuing an approved program". This, therefore, is the course suggested.