

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S 75-161
updated.

MEMORANDUM

To SENATE

From

Subject SENATE REFERRAL - FACULTY OF ARTS
REGULATIONS - S.75-161

Date DECEMBER 18, 1975

MOTION:

"That Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors the changes in requirements for the B.A. degree General and Honors programs as set forth in S.75-161.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S75-161
updated

MEMORANDUM

Mr. H.M. Evans, Secretary of

From L. Boland, Chairman

Senate

Arts Curriculum Committee

Subject *Senate Referral - Faculty of Arts
Regulations - S75-161*

Date December 5, 1975

Attached are materials relating to the recent Senate action concerning the proposed changes in the Faculty of Arts' curriculum. At a special meeting of the Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee, held on December 3rd, the Committee reconsidered its initial recommendation, as approved by SCUS, and elected to forward it again to Senate without change. In so doing, the Committee did not wish to appear to be unresponsive to the concerns expressed by Senate, but felt that the original recommendations continued to reflect validly their collective judgment on the matter. In addition, however, the Committee instructed a small sub-committee consisting of Professors Swartz, Boland and Smith to prepare a statement of rationale and a chronology of events which would be forwarded with the original recommendations to Senate in the hope that they would speak to Senate's concerns. There was also an opportunity at the special meeting for comment from the student representative. In presenting the results of several student surveys, the general opposition to the mandatory science requirement was underscored.

While it is the hope of the Arts Curriculum Committee that this matter might be considered again at the special meeting of Senate to be held on Monday, December 8th, it is recognized that the shortness of time has not permitted opportunity for major additional consultation with interested groups. However, as the attached chronology will indicate, the Committee feels that in the preparation of the original materials, sufficient consultation did occur.


L. Boland

cc. All Members, Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee

CHRONOLOGY OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS'
RECOMMENDATIONS OF FACULTY REGULATIONS

May - July

FACC over a period of 5 lengthy meetings, examined the present Regulations and drafted a new set of Regulations.

Representatives were present from all Arts Departments, the Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies, and the Faculty of Science.

Although the Terms of Reference provide membership for a student representative on the Committee, with full voting rights on curricular matters, apparently no student representative chose to attend any meeting during this time.

July 31st

FACC approved a draft of the new regulations by a unanimous vote and distributed the draft 12 days later to all academic departments and student unions and asked that comments and reactions be forwarded to the Committee within 5 weeks, i.e., by September 19.

Sept. 18th

Various academic departments asked for a bit more time to discuss our proposals with their department Curriculum Committees and to submit their reactions to the draft. The FACC agreed to postpone discussions until October 2.

Oct. 2nd

Every Arts Department, * the Deans of Education and Science, and some individual faculty members submitted comments. The FACC deliberated on all of the comments and suggestions and modified the draft in light of them. Subsequently the final version of the regulations was put to the vote. The faculty members on the Committee approved them unanimously. A new student representative, who was attending his first meeting, abstained.

The proposed new regulations were placed on the agenda for discussion at the Faculty of Arts meeting, and copies were distributed to all faculty members in Arts.

Oct. 7th

At the Faculty of Arts meeting there was a lengthy and productive debate on the proposals. When put to the vote, the proposals passed with very strong support.

* Some of whom had student representation on their Departmental Curriculum Committees.

Oct. 14th

Having been duly passed by the Faculty, the regulations were sent to SCUS. There, student members asked that they might be allowed more time to study the proposals. The debate was put off for 3 weeks. This delay prevented the proposals from reaching Senate for the November meeting.

Nov. 4th

SCUS debated the new proposals, and in due course approved them by a vote of 9-3-1. From SCUS, the proposals were transmitted to Senate and were placed on the Agenda for December 1.

BRIEF RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED CHANGES IN
THE FACULTY OF ARTS CURRICULUM

The current regulations in the Faculty of Arts have grown piecemeal over the ten years of the University's existence. In contrast to the requirements of the other Faculties, the Arts' regulations are baroque and unwieldy. For example, the Science faculty is able to state their total requirements in one-half of a page; the Arts faculty presently requires 2½ pages in the Calendar. So lengthy are they in fact, that few students and few faculty members, even those that are most familiar with them, that is, the faculty members who are advisors, know them thoroughly and are able to avoid their pitfalls.

This summer the Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee set itself the task of trying to bring order out of the chaos in the Regulations. This time, however, the repair was to be no mere patchwork. The Committee set about to re-think and re-evaluate the total package; in effect to try to come up with integral set of regulations which captured its professional view as to what a liberal arts education should consist of in the late 1970's. No part of the current regulations were to be automatically preserved; each and every part of the new proposals were to be individually justified; no part was to have a guaranteed place simply because of tradition or its former entrenchment in the regulations.

Working papers were drawn up discussing each item in the current program. The Committee addressed itself to the question as to which parts still had academic justification and viability, and gave careful and long deliberation to each of the alternatives which it could imagine or find precedent for it elsewhere.

It quickly became apparent that several parts of the present regulations could no longer be justified. The Committee could find no compelling reasons to continue the imposition of the following restrictions:

- (1) The requirement that Arts majors take 45 hours of lower division courses;
- (2) that upper division courses taken in students' lower levels would not be counted toward their major requirements;
- (3) that a student could not begin a major until his/her upper levels.

All of these very considerable restrictions were removed. Students were to be given much more freedom of choice than in the former regulations: they could take as few lower division courses as they liked commensurate with the pre-requisite structure of courses; they could take, and have counted, upper

division courses in their lower levels; and they could begin a major as soon as they had met the prerequisites for it, thus making it easier to take two majors or a major and a minor, etc.

What was deadwood and needlessly restrictive in the present regulations was readily agreed upon and eliminated. But having decided what was no longer to be required in the Arts program, the Committee then faced the more difficult problem of specifying what it thought ought to be included. On this score many proposals were examined minutely and at great length. These included such things as: a language requirement, especially French; an English requirement, in particular a course in English grammar or composition; a requirement that a student take one course in each of the Arts departments; a requirement that students take at least one course in each of 10 different departments in the University; etc., etc.

In reaching its final consensus, the Committee often returned to the following unanimously held principle: that Canadian Universities should provide two kinds of education in a liberal arts program, (1) generalist or broad education and (2) a concentration in a particular field.

As to the specific content of the concentration in a particular field, this was readily agreed to be best decided by the individual academic departments, subject only to some broad outlines stipulated by the Faculty. (The examination of these outlines, e.g., total number of pre-requisite hours in a Major, is still to be undertaken by the Committee. But any decisions reached in these matters are academically and administratively independent of the proposed changes in the Arts' Regulations.)

The Committee then addressed itself to the question of how to secure breadth in an Arts program and just what specifics should be required. This question, as expected, was the single lengthiest item in the entire exercise of re-examining the Regulations.

The question arose as to whether the traditional tri-otomy, Humanities, Social Science, and Natural Science, was still a valid classificatory scheme in the 1970s, or whether these sorts of conceptual divisions were no longer useful or meaningful. In the professional opinion of the Committee, these distinctions are significant: there is, for example, a very real difference between English on the one hand and Mathematics on the other. Of course, persons may argue as to

whether or not, this ought to be; that is, argue whether these sorts of distinctions ought to be preserved; but this is not to deny that they exist; it is rather to point up the very fact that they do.

Given that the Arts program is a structured one, what specifically was to be included in it? The Committee fairly readily came to the conclusion that every liberal arts student ought to have some exposure to each of the three areas of knowledge just mentioned. In a way, this conclusion was reached by way of the view that human knowledge is becoming, and ought to be, more interdisciplinary; that students in English, Psychology and Philosophy (to mention just a few areas) ought to have some appreciation (although not necessarily expertise) in the methodologies of other fields as well, e.g., Mathematics, Physics and/or Biology. In short, the Committee felt that if Liberal Arts students were to be given a degree, in effect if they were to be certified as being university-educated, and had not been exposed to a diversity of disciplines, then they would have been done a disservice; that the Faculty would have shirked its responsibility to construct a program of academic integrity.

In the end, the Committee decided to recommend a program which would ensure that each arts student has some exposure in each of the fields, Humanities, Social Science and Natural Science. This recommendation has the effect of adding Natural Science to the already existing requirement for courses in the Humanities and the Social Sciences. But although this is the effect, it was not its motivation. For there was no prior decision, intention, or even expectation, that the Committee would reaffirm the requirement for courses in the Humanities (i.e., the so-called Group A requirements) nor that we would reaffirm the requirement for courses in the Social Sciences (the so-called Group B requirements). The Committee was totally open-minded on these matters and was motivated only by the question as to what, in our professional judgment, constituted an academically viable Liberal Arts degree. As it turned out, the Committee endorsed the principle that students have courses in each of the three areas. But this wasn't simply an accretion upon the present requirements; it was the proposing of a total integrated package.

As mentioned, the effect of this decision is to require future arts students to take some natural science courses whereas present students need not. But this requirement is neither innovative or reactionary. A random perusal of the Calendars of some 31 other Canadian Universities has subsequently revealed that 15 of them now require Natural Science courses of their Arts majors. In short, the proposal that Arts students have some mandatory exposure to natural science is not unusual Canadian practice. And it is, in the professional judgment of the Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee, (a judgment which was subsequently endorsed by the Faculty) of genuine academic value.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.75-161

MEMORANDUM

To SENATE

From SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Subject Requirements for the B.A. degree

Date 10th November, 1975

At its meeting of November 4th, 1975, the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies approved the motion:

That the changes and requirements for the B.A. Degree General and Honors Programs, as set forth in SCUS. 75-42a, be approved and recommended to Senate for approval.

It was noted that the requirement that 60 and 72 semester hours be taken in Arts subjects in the major and honors programs respectively represented an increase of only one hour over existing requirements rather than ten, since the hours required under separate existing regulations come to 69 and 81 for the two programs.

Members of SCUS focused considerable attention on the group requirements and specifically on the requirement for two science courses. Three arguments were brought to bear in support of this requirement:

1. that basic scientific "literacy" is essential to an understanding of today's society;
2. that balance in a liberal education requires at least some work in science; and
3. that demystification is important if the non-scientist is to avoid placing undue credence on science.

Moreover it was noted that 86% of the 218 arts graduands in the 74-1 semester had enrolled in courses that would meet the science requirement being proposed and that fifteen of thirty-one Canadian universities surveyed have a science requirement for arts students. Several members of SCUS argued strongly against the science requirement primarily on the grounds that most of the proposed revisions to B.A. requirements represented a liberalizing of requirements whereas the science requirement represented undue compulsion.

It was noted that departments in the Faculty of Science offer a number of courses for the non-scientist, primarily courses relating science to society. In addition, each science department includes in its regular curriculum courses which have no science

.....2

prerequisites other than those required for admission to the University. Furthermore, the Faculty of Science Curriculum Committee has indicated its willingness to encourage the development of additional courses of particular interest to Arts students. Finally, the Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee is prepared to consider for recognition for credit in group C (Science) some courses outside the Faculty of Science in such Departments as Kinesiology, Psychology, and Geography.



Daniel R. Birch

:ams

att.

FACULTY OF ARTS

Change in Requirements

From :

Faculty of Arts Requirements for the B.A. Degree

Lower Levels General and Honors Program

80

(For a complete outline of General University Requirements please refer to Section 6.4 of the Calendar).

Faculty of Arts Requirements for the B.A. Degree

The Faculty of Arts requirements fall into three categories: 1. The distribution of the total credit hours among the Faculties of the University as well as the various departments within the Faculty of Arts (see Group Requirements). 2. Requirements for acceptance into and continuance in degree programs. 3. The establishment of minimum academic standards via the Grade Point Average (GPA) for successful completion of the various degree programs.

1. Distribution of Total Credit Hours

All Levels General Degree Program	A minimum of 120 credit hours of which at least 60 hours must be taken within the Faculty of Arts.
All Levels Honors Degree Program	A minimum of 132 credit hours of which at least 72 hours must be taken within the Faculty.

Note: Lower division courses include all credit courses numbered between 001 and 299. Upper division courses include all undergraduate credit courses numbered 300 and above.

Lower level courses are those courses completed within the first 60 hours of credit. Upper level courses are those courses completed within credits accumulated after completion of the first 60 hours.

Lower Levels	<p style="text-align: center;">General and Honors Program</p> <p>At least 60 credit hours of which:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> At least 24 must satisfy the appropriate Faculty of Arts Group A & B requirements (see Group Requirements on page 82). The lower division requirements for at least one Arts major degree program should be completed. At least 45 credit hours must be in lower division courses. NOTE: Any upper division courses will not count towards the upper level requirements if taken prior to admission to the upper levels. No more than 16 may be taken in any one semester without the written consent of the Dean.
--------------	--

80

p. 81

Upper Levels General Program

From

General Program

At least 60 credit hours of which:

Upper Levels

1. At least 45 credit hours must be in upper division courses. Of that 45, a minimum of 30 upper division hours must be completed in the Arts major subject. At least 15 upper division hours are required for a minor in an Arts subject (see Majors, Double Majors and Major/Minors on pages 83 and 84.)
2. At least 15 credit hours must be in upper and/or lower division courses outside the major subject area. *This requirement is automatically fulfilled when a student completes requirements for an approved double major or major/minor program.*
3. At least 45 credit hours must be taken within the Faculty of Arts and be used for credit toward the degree. *This restriction does not apply in those cases where a student is enrolled in an approved degree program involving two or more Faculties such as a double major or major/minor degree program.*
4. No more than 18 credit hours may be taken in any one semester without the written consent of the Dean.

To :

Students in their first 60 credit hours may not take more than 16 credit hours in any one semester and students in their final 60 credit hours in the General Program or 72 hours in the Honors Program may not take more than 18 credit hours without the written consent of the Dean.

GENERAL PROGRAM

To:

At least 120 semester hours of credit which includes:

- a) A minimum of 12 semester hours in courses in Group A, including courses from at least two different Group A departments;
- b) A minimum of 12 semester hours in courses in Group B, including courses from at least two different Group B departments;
- c) A minimum of two courses in Group C;
- d) A minimum of 30 semester hours outside one's Arts major program. (Note: courses taken outside one's major program as part of the Group Requirements, i.e., a, b, and c above, may be counted towards Requirement d);
- e) The lower division prerequisites for at least one Arts major program. (Note: these semester hours may be counted towards the appropriate Group Requirement above);
- f) A minimum of 45 semester hours in upper division courses including a minimum of 30 hours in an Arts major program;
- g) a minimum of 70 semester hours in Arts subjects.

* A department may designate up to 8 credit hours of Upper Division courses offered by other departments as being acceptable in fulfilling part of this requirement.

Change in Requirements

p. 81

Upper
Levels

Honors
Program

From:

	Honors Program
Upper Levels	<p>At least 72 credit hours of which:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. At least 60 credit hours must be in upper division courses. Of that 60, at least 50 must be in one subject.*2. At least 15 credit hours must be in upper and/or lower division courses outside the major subject area. <i>This requirement is automatically fulfilled when a student completes requirements for an approved double major or major/minor program.</i>3. At least 57 credit hours must be taken within the Faculty of Arts and be used for credit towards the degree. <i>This restriction does not apply in those cases where a student is enrolled in an approved degree program involving two or more Faculties such as a double major or major/minor degree program.</i>4. No more than 18 credit hours may be taken in any one semester without the written consent of the Dean. <p>*A department may designate up to 12 credit hours of upper division courses offered by other departments as being acceptable in fulfilling part of this requirement.</p>

To:

HONORS PROGRAM

At least 137 semester hours of credit which includes:

- (ii)
- a) A minimum of 12 semester hours in courses in Group A, including courses from at least two different Group A departments;
 - b) A minimum of 12 semester hours in courses in Group B, including courses from at least two different Group B departments;
 - c) A minimum of two courses in Group C;
 - d) A minimum of 30 semester hours outside one's Arts honors program. (Note: courses taken outside one's honors program as part of the Group Requirements, i.e., a, b, and c above, may be counted towards Requirement d);
 - e) The lower division prerequisites for at least one Arts honors program. (Note: these semester hours may be counted towards the appropriate Group Requirement above);
 - f) a minimum of 60 semester hours in upper division courses including a minimum of 50 hours in an Arts honors program;*
 - g) a minimum of 82 semester hours in Arts subjects.

*A department may designate up to 12 credit hours of upper division courses offered by other departments as being acceptable in fulfilling part of this requirement.

Rationale

p. 81 Faculty of Arts Re-quirements The Regulations in the Faculty of Arts have grown piecemeal during the ten years of the University's existence. They have gradually evolved into a system which is riddled with pitfalls for the hapless student and for the unwary faculty advisor. Then, too, some of the regulations, although enforceable, are never in fact enforced. Just what sanctions, for example, is the Faculty of Arts prepared to impose in the case of a student who does not complete his 'Group Reuirements' in his lower levels? As it turns out, the Faculty has never imposed sanctions in cases of transgression against this regulation. Why, then, not remove the regulation?

During the course of several meetings this Summer, the Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee undertook to review the Faculty's Regulations and is herewith reporting its recommendations for revising the Regulations. It is hoped that these proposals will be discussed both in Departments and in Student Unions and that reactions can be returned to the Committee by September 19.

The major changes proposed are these:

1. The distinction between lower level and upper level students is to be abolished. A student may take any course at any time provided he meets the specific course pre-requisites. Thus a student need not wait until his sixtieth hour to begin the upper division courses required for a major. A student may enter a major degree program as soon as he has satisfied the specific lower division pre-requisites for that program. (This is the longstanding practice in the Faculty of Science.)
2. Currently we require students to take at least 45 credit hours in lower division courses. This requirement is simply to be abolished.
3. Greater diversity in course selection will be required. Under the present regulations it is possible for a student to get a B.A. degree by taking courses in only two departments. Under the proposed new regulation, students would be required to at least sample the wares of five departments, including at least one in the Faculty of Science.

Rationale (cont.)

81 Faculty
of
Arts
Requirements

C O M M E N T S

- a) Currently students need sample the wares of only one Group A Department.
- b) Currently students need sample the wares of only one Group B Department.
- c) Under present regulations, students are not required to take any science courses. The Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee recommends that students have some mandatory exposure to science.
- d) Present regulations ensure only that a student will have 27 of a total 120 hours outside his major. Increasing this number to 30 is a modest change.
- e) No change.
- f) No change.
- g) Current regulations require a minimum of 69.

The Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee supported the change to allow major students to count courses taken outside the major towards their major requirements. The Committee felt that this change would allow departments to respond to individual students' programmes and goals.

Change in Requirements

Group Requirements

From :

"Students entering with Advanced Credit (Grade XIII, B.C. or equivalent)

Upon written authorization of the Academic Advice Centre, certain Group E subjects (designated by the Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee) may be applied up to a maximum of 6 hours towards the Arts Group Requirements. Normally it is desirable that courses fulfilling group requirements be spread more or less equally over the first four levels."

To :

"All students registered in the Faculty of Arts must have a minimum of 12 semester hours courses in Group A, including courses from at least two different Group A departments; a minimum of 12 semester hours in courses in Group B, including courses from at least two different Group B departments; a minimum of two courses in Group C.

Rationale

In accordance with two changes in the Group Requirements, firstly that students no longer are required to take them in Lower Levels, secondly, that 2 courses in Group C (the Faculty of Science) are required, it was decided that the six hour exemption was no longer desirable. As Arts students transferring from another institution would have satisfied the requirements of one Group, and usually the Group C requirement, it is felt that the completion of the remainder of the courses is not a heavily restrictive requirement. Students transferring from Science will have completed the Group C requirement and most likely 6 hours of Group A or B requirements. As they must take a total of 70 hours of Arts subjects, the completion of Group requirements would not force them to take additional courses. It was felt that 12 hours of courses in each Group was a minimum requirement which should not be waived.

Change in Regulations

p. 84 Requirements for Acceptance
and Continuance

2.1 General Program

From:

"Upon registering for that semester in which he will take his 61st credit, the student enters upper levels work in his degree program at this time he must formally declare on his registration for the specific degree program he wished to pursue. This formal declaration establishes the exact requirements for graduation as they appear in the Calendar in force at the time of the declaration. Students are urged to keep a copy of this Calendar known as their "Graduating Calendar" for reference."

To:

"Prior to or upon registering for that semester in which the 61st credit is taken students must formally declare a major program. This formal declaration establishes the exact requirements for graduation as they appear in the Calendar in effect at the time of declaration. Students are urged to keep a copy of this calendar, known as their "Graduating Calendar" for reference."

Change in Regulations OMIT: "Although students may indicate their intentions to pursue a specific degree program prior to entering the upper levels and seek advice concerning the program within the appropriate department(s), this does not have formal validity and a formal declaration must be made at the proper time on the registration form."

2.2 Honors Program

Change in Regulations

From:

"Upon registering for that semester in which he will take his 61st credit, a student may apply for admission to the Honors program of a particular department."

To:

"Prior to or upon registering for that semester in which the 61st credit will be taken a student may apply for admission to the Honors program of a particular department."

Rationale

Abolition of the distinction between upper and lower levels makes 60 hours an arbitrary time for each student to declare a major. Some students will be pursuing a major program prior to reaching 60 hours, therefore they should be permitted to formally declare a major when they begin their upper division studies, so that they are governed by the Calendar which they are following.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

SCUS 75-42A
addendum.

MEMORANDUM

Dr. Dan Birch, Chairman, S.C.U.S.

From Norman Swartz, Acting Dean *NS*

Faculty of Arts

Subject Science Requirement - Faculty
of Arts

Date November 3, 1975.

Paper C 96-23, distributed to the F.A.C.C. at its meeting of July 17, 1975, presents a survey of 218 students* with respect to the completion of Group A and B requirements and Math and Science courses. The following trend is reflected. Of the 218 students surveyed, 99 were enrolled in Science courses while 89 had enrolled in Math courses. On a percentage basis, 86% of the 218 students surveyed were enrolled in courses that would meet the science requirement currently being proposed by the Faculty of Arts.

*All Arts Graduands 74-1

C.C. Mr. H. Evans

FACULTY OF ARTS SCIENCE REQUIREMENTS AT CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES

NAME OF UNIVERSITY	SCIENCE REQ.	SPECIFICS
1. Brock	Yes	One science course
2. Calgary	Yes	Two science courses
3. Carlton	Yes	2 of English, Math or other language & 3 from Humanities or science
4. Guelph	Yes	Two science or math
5. Lakehead	No	6 credit hours sciences
6. Manitoba	Yes	6 credit hours sciences
7. Acadia	No	6 credit hours from science or math
8. Brandon	Yes	6 credit hours from science or math
9. Bishops	No	6 credit hours from science or math
10. Loyola	No	6 credit hours from science or math
11. Kings College University	Yes	One course from science
12. McMaster	Yes	Honors B.A. requires Math
13. McGill	Yes	No Faculty requirement, some departments have science or math requirement
14. New Brunswick	No	Minimum one science course
15. Ottawa	Yes	Minimum one science course
16. Mount Allison	Yes	One science course
17. Prince Edward Island	No	One science course
18. Queens	No	One science course

FACULTY OF ARTS SCIENCE REQUIREMENTS AT CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES

Name of University	Science Req.	Specifics
19. St. Francis Xavier	No	
20. St. Mary's	No	
21. Sir George Williams	Yes	2 semesters math or scienc
22. Saskatchewan	Yes	One course
23. Sherbrooke	No	
24. Toronto	No (1969 calendar)	
25. Trent	No	
26. Waterloo	No	
27. Victoria	No	
28. Western	Yes	One course
29. Winnipeg	Yes	One course
30. Windsor	No	
31. U.B.C.	Yes	One course