

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S. 71-13

MEMORANDUM

To..... Mr. H. M. Evans,
..... Secretary of Senate.

From..... D. H. Sullivan, Dean,
..... Faculty of Arts.

Subject Upper Level Electives - S.447

Date..... December 21, 1970

As requested at the Senate meeting of December 7, 1970, the Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee is enclosing herewith further documentation and rationale for its recommendation relative to 'credit towards the B.A. Degree for courses outside the Faculty of Arts'.

The question being considered is what provisions can be made for prescribing elective requirements outside the Faculty of Arts. This question has been debated in the Arts Curriculum Committee over a period of several months. (A summary of the main points of discussion is attached as Addendum A.) A number of ad hoc rules have been made to cover individual courses including PF 451, and the Individual Study Semesters in the Faculty of Education. (A summary of the action taken on the Individual Study Semester is attached as Addendum B, and on PF 451 attached at Addendum C.)

There is an obvious need to clarify the Faculty of Arts policy on "outside" courses in the next edition of the Undergraduate Calendar, so that students and faculty advisors may plan programs accordingly.

In outlining the policy for the Calendar entry, the Curriculum Committee was faced with two alternatives.

- I The Curriculum Committee could accept the existing policy that had evolved from ad hoc rules, and indicate in the Calendar that

"No credit would be allowed towards the Arts degree for PF 451 and the Individual Study courses BSF 498 and 499, SPF 498 and 499, PF 498 and 499, C&A 498 and 499."

This, however, would not cover the possibility of requests for credit towards the Arts degree for an Individual Study Semester course in the Faculty of Science, e.g. Biological Sciences Individual Study Semester course approved in the Senate meeting of November 9, 1970. Further, on the matter of Individual Study Semesters, it had not yet been resolved whether the Faculty of Arts in fact did not wish to allow credit for these courses. In Addendum B it can be seen that the ruling quoted above had resulted from no decision being made on the motion tabled in Senate on October 7, 1968 and again on November 12, 1968.

With regard to PF 451, Senate had approved on September 14, 1970, in the new B.Ed. Degree program the elimination of PF 451 as a course effective April 30, 1971. To make mention of this course in the 71-72 Calendar was therefore no longer necessary.

From the above, then, it can be seen that this alternative was not a satisfactory one.

- II The Curriculum Committee could alternatively propose a policy statement that would clarify once and for all the limitations on "outside" courses. After due deliberation, the Committee took this course of action. It considered all the courses that had been questioned in the past; i.e. the Individual Study Semesters, and in addition considered the courses that were replacing the PF courses that would be deleted from the course offerings in April, 1971.

The Committee reaffirmed that it strongly favoured students in Arts receiving elective credit for any course in the University approved by Senate as a credit course. The definition of "elective" had always been interpreted by the Committee as any course of the student's choice outside his major subject area, and these electives could be selected from any of the groups of the University.

On the other hand, a student pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree should naturally concentrate his program of study in the Arts Faculty, in the same way that students pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree would take the majority of his courses in the Faculty of Science, and for the B.Ed. degree in the Faculty of Education. The Curriculum Committee therefore believes that a reasonable

limitation should be placed on the number of hours of electives outside the Faculty of Arts. It seems reasonable that the number of electives the student may be allowed to take outside the Faculty in the upper levels should not exceed the number of electives taken within the Faculty of Arts; hence the limitation of 15 credit hours. It should be made clear that this limitation refers to electives as defined above; and if, for instance, the Major department requires a certain course in the Faculty of Education or the Faculty of Science, it would no longer be called an elective. Because no limitation has been specified to date, it is possible at present for a student to take 30 of his required 60 hours in the last four levels of his degree program outside the Faculty. While few cases have actually arisen where a student wishes to take 30 hours outside the Faculty of Arts, many students have wanted to take 20 and some 25 in, for instance, the Faculty of Education.

The Curriculum Committee, after carefully considering all the above points, recommended the following policy statement. This statement was approved by the Faculty of Arts by Referendum Ballot #20, dated November 4, 1970 and was submitted to Senate for its approval in Paper S.447.

"In the upper levels a student may take no more than 15 hours in the Faculty of Education and/or the Faculty of Science. Within these limitations a student may take any credit course approved by Senate at SFU as an elective in his Bachelor of Arts Degree."

"Upper levels" refers to those credit hours accumulated after the completion of the first 60 hours to make a total of at least 120 hours for the General degree and at least 132 hours for an Honors degree. For purposes of the Calendar entry, the first sentence of this policy statement was changed at a subsequent meeting of the Curriculum Committee to read: *"An upper levels student may take ..."* If this policy statement is approved by Senate, it will appear in the appropriate section of the 71-72 Undergraduate Calendar.

It is understood in the above regulation that students may count towards their B.A. degree the 15-credit "Individual Study Semester" courses and all other Senate-approved credit courses offered by the Faculties of Education and Science providing they do not exceed the limitation of 15 hours outlined in the new regulation. This principle will, of course, exclude those courses credited towards the Professional Teaching Certificate only: EDN 401-8, 402-7, and 405-15.

D. H. Sullivan

D. H. Sullivan, Dean,
Faculty of Arts.

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