

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S. 71-5

MEMORANDUM

To.....Members of Senate

From.....Academic Planning Committee

Subject.....Double Minor Degree

Date.....December 23, 1970

RECOMMENDATION

- A. That Senate approve the introduction of a Double Minor Degree.
- B. That a minor be defined as 14-18 upper division credit hours in a subject area.
- C. That upon successful completion of this program, the Bachelors Degree awarded to the individual to be determined according to the faculty in which the student has taken the majority of his upper division work.
- D. That a student be required to obtain at least one of his two minors in that faculty in which his degree is to be obtained; his other minor may be within or without the faculty in which his degree is to be obtained but in any case will require the approval of the faculty expected to grant the degree.

BACKGROUND DATA:

At the present time, the University offers three types of degrees: honors, general and general studies. Ranked in terms of structure, the three aforementioned degrees could be described as being extreme, high and slight respectively. What is lacking on this scale is any recognition of that student for whom reasonable depth, i.e., something less than fulfillment of a major requirement although something more than the relatively unstructured requirements of the general studies degree, in two subject areas would be desirable. In other words, a "moderate" ranking on the structure scale.

In the paper proposing the establishment of a Bachelor of General Studies, the Academic Planning Committee took the position that additional educational opportunities can and should be provided for those students who do not wish to specialize in one subject area. One alternative to meet this need is the Bachelor of General Studies. A second alternative is the proposal before you now. Such a proposal has several advantages.

Since courses available to such students are those courses presently offered by departments in the Faculties of Arts, Science and Education, together with any courses subsequently developed by the Division of General Studies, the quality of the degree should be comparable to the B.A. and B.Sc. degrees.

Second, since students will be taking courses presently authorized by Senate and offered by departments in their regular programs, this program can be mounted at no additional cost, a factor of considerable significance given the limited amount of money anticipated for new programs in the 1971/72 budget year.

Third, it recognizes the possibility that for certain students and for certain vocational ends, e.g. teaching and social work, reasonable depth in two areas may be desirable.

Fourth, it permits centres and programs proposed for the Division of General Studies to provide a modest but integrated cluster of courses short of a 30 hour major. This becomes particularly important in the establishment of new programs where some period of time before implementation of a full fledged major program is desirable in order to assess both student demand and societal need for such a program.

Finally, it would articulate well with the continuing education program. If Simon Fraser University commits itself to the offering of evening degree programs, the general studies degree may prove unattractive to

adults because it lacks focus; at the same time some departments may be hard pressed to mount 28 upper division hours. The opportunity of a double minor degree may, therefore, prove attractive both to the student in terms of his needs and to the departments in terms of their ability to mount degree programs.

ORGANIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION:

The double minor is envisaged as an alternative to the existing major program now offered as a B.A., B.Sc. or B.Ed. degree. Which of the aforementioned degrees a student obtains will be determined according to the faculty in which the student takes the majority of his upper division course work.

The departments in which a student is taking minor programs will have the responsibility both of ensuring that he, the student, has fulfilled their requirements and of communicating this information to the office of the dean in which the student is seeking his degree. The latter will have responsibility both for ensuring that all requirements have been met and for recommending to Senate for degrees those candidates who have fulfilled the requirements.