

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.71-114

MEMORANDUM

To SENATE

From JON WHEATLEY

DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Subject CHANGE IN GRADUATE REGULATIONS, 8,

Date SEPTEMBER 15, 1971

8.15 - S.71-114

MOTION: "That the sentence from paragraph 8, 'The Supervisory Committee will make a recommendation to the Departmental Graduate Studies Committee and the Chairman (of the Department) regarding the awarding of the degree,' and the parallel sentence in 8.15, 'The Supervisory Committee may send to the Departmental Chairman on the appropriate form a recommendation for Award of the Degree,' be struck, and the following sentence be inserted in both 8. and 8.15 to replace them:

'The Supervisory Committee will make a recommendation to the Departmental Graduate Studies Committee regarding the awarding of the degree.'"

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The Supervisory Committee will make a recommendation
to the Departmental Graduate Studies Committee and the
Chairman [of the Department] regarding the awarding of
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Chairman on the appropriate form a recommendation for
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both 8. and 8.15 to replace them

The Supervisory Committee will make a recommendation to
the Departmental Graduate Studies Committee regarding
the awarding of the degree."

The proposed motion was passed by the Executive Committee of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee on August 2, 1971 and the Senate Graduate Studies Committee on August 9, 1971.

RATIONALE

The role of Departmental bodies and functionaries in the awarding of higher degrees is variable in the regulations. Suppose a candidate has met all requirements for the degree. Then, in paragraph 8, we have: "The Supervisory Committee will make a recommendation to the Departmental Graduate Studies Committee and the Chairman [of the Department] regarding the awarding of the degree." In paragraph 8.15 we have: "The Supervisory Committee may send to the Departmental Chairman on the appropriate form a recommendation for Award of the Degree".

The awarding of degrees is a faculty and Senate matter not an administrative matter (which is the reason the Dean has no role) so there seems to be no good reason why the Chairman of the Department should have a role at all. In addition, for interdepartmental degrees, there is no Chairman of the Department. Rather than insert someone into the interdepartmental structure with the function of the Chairman of the Department it seems simpler and better to cut the Departmental Chairman out of the formal process of the awarding of the degree altogether. I therefore suggest amending the quoted sentences from the regulations as follows:

The Supervisory Committee will make a recommendation to the Departmental Graduate Studies Committee regarding the awarding of the degree.

There are still oddities (but not inconsistencies) between paragraph 8 and 8.15 but I am not going to propose amendments to change these until I seek a general revision of the regulations.