

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.75-126

MEMORANDUM

To SENATE

From SENATE GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

Subject CHANGE IN PHYSICS M.SC. REQUIREMENTS

Date AUGUST 13, 1975

MOTION:

"That Senate approve, and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, the request to reduce the minimum coursework requirements for the M.Sc. in Physics to 18 hours, of which at least 14 must be at the graduate level."

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

To: Members of Senate

From: Office of the Dean
of Graduate Studies

Subject: Change in Physics M.Sc.
Requirements

Date: August 13, 1975

MOTION: That Senate approve the request to reduce
the minimum coursework requirements for
the M.Sc. in Physics to 18 hours, of which
at least 14 must be at the graduate level.

This change was approved by the Senate Graduate Studies Committee
on August 11, 1975:

H. E. Rieckhoff

~~Jon Wheatley~~
Dean of Graduate Studies.

mm/

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To Senate Graduate Studies Committee

From Marian McGinn

Registrar's office

Subject M.Sc. Course Requirements - Physics

Date July 28, 1975

The Executive Committee of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee has recommended to the Senate Graduate Studies Committee that the request to reduce the minimum coursework requirements for the M.Sc. in Physics to 18 hours, of which at least 14 must be at the graduate level be approved.

lg/

F.R.S. 75-88

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

to Jon Wheatley, Dean
Graduate Studies
Subject: Physics M.Sc. Course Requirements

From: B.P. Clayman, Chairman
Faculty of Science Graduate
Studies Committee
Date: June 10, 1975

The Faculty of Science Graduate Studies Committee has unanimously approved a reduction in the minimum coursework requirements for the M.Sc. degree in Physics. The present 20 semester hours of graduate courses would be reduced to 18 hours, of which at least 14 must be at the graduate level.

The change is embodied in the following revised Calendar entry:

"The minimum requirement for the Master's degree consists of 18 semester hours of course credit of which at least 14 must be at the graduate level."

Would you please place this matter before the Senate Graduate Studies Committee?



B.P. Clayman

BPC/dg

Encl.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

Physics Faculty

From..... B.P. Clayman, Chairman

Graduate Program Committee

Subject. Graduate Course Requirements

Date..... March 24, 1975

I propose a reduction in the minimum course-work requirements for the M.Sc. degree. The twenty hours now required is, I feel, excessive and is demonstrably well out-of-line with current practice at most Canadian universities. It effectively prevents all but the brightest, best-prepared students from completing their course-work in two semesters as well as placing new students under a workload that some find intolerable. Finally the heavy course requirements put us at a distinct disadvantage in attracting new graduate students.

The reduction which I propose would change the calendar entry to the following:

"The minimum requirement for the Master's degree consists of 18 semester hours of course credit of which at least 14 must be at the graduate level."

The intention is that all students take the three core graduate courses (Quantum Mechanics, E & M, and Statistical Mechanics) and the student seminar. Most students would still take the graduate Solid State course in addition. However, the proposed change allows more flexibility in selection of the fourth course: it may also be a 400-level undergraduate course taken to repair deficiencies in the student's

background, or it may be a course in some interdisciplinary area.

The reduction to 18 hours reduces the minimum course-work requirement from 4 1/2 graduate courses to 4 courses of which 3 must be at the graduate level. I believe that this is certainly adequate for M.Sc. students. Ph.D. students are required to take at least 10 additional semester hours and any deficiencies perceived by their supervisory committees can be remedied there.

I welcome any and all comments to this proposal. I shall call a departmental meeting to discuss it and possibly act on it in about three weeks.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bruce", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bruce P. Clayman