

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.76-109

MEMORANDUM

To..... Members of Senate

From..... K. Rieckhoff

..... Acting Dean of Graduate Studies

Subject Department of Geography Calendar
Changes

Date..... August 24, 1976

MOTION: That Senate approve the attached Graduate Calendar
changes for the Department of Geography.

These Graduate Calendar Changes were approved by the Senate Graduate Studies
Committee on August 23, 1976.



K. Rieckhoff
Acting Dean of Graduate Studies

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SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To..... Ms. M. McGinn, Secretary

From..... Sheila Roberts, Secretary

..... Senate Graduate Studies Committee

..... Faculty of Arts Graduate Studies

..... Committee

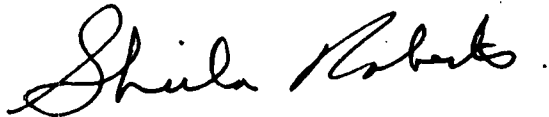
Subject..... CALENDAR CHANGES - GEOGRAPHY

Date..... July 20, 1976

The Faculty of Arts Graduate Studies Committee approved the attached changes to the Ph.D. programme in Geography. The Committee also supported Geography's request that these changes become effective as soon as possible after final approval and that incoming graduate students starting in the Fall 1976 will be informed of these requirements.

Would you please put these changes on the agenda of the next meeting of the Senate Executive Graduate Studies Committee.

Thank you.



S. Roberts

Attachments:

SR:n1

CALENDAR CHANGES GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

During the Fall and Spring semesters, the Graduate Studies Committee of the Department of Geography discussed possible improvements to the Graduate program. The Committee approved amendments to the timing of the Ph.D. qualifying examinations and the intent of the field problem option, as stated in the Graduate Calendar.

Ph.D. Program
Qualifying Examinations

Change in Requirements

From:

"At a time set by the Supervisory Committee, normally at the end of the second year of residence, the candidate will be required to sit written and oral qualifying examination."

To:

"Written and oral qualifying examinations designed to establish the student's competence to proceed with doctoral thesis research will normally be undertaken at the end of the first year of residence and no later than the end of the fourth semester of residence. Students who fail the written or the oral examination may retake each once after a one semester lapse. Both parts of the Qualifying Examination must be successfully completed by the end of the sixth semester of residence."

Rationale: The previous regulation called for the examination to be held no later than the end of the second year of residence. The modification above is designed to speed up a student's progress through the Qualifying Examination stage.

Qualifying Examinations

Change in Regulations

i) Field Problem:

From:

"a) Written: The Candidates will select one of the following two options:

i) Field Problem. The Qualifying Examination Committee will

select a field problem related to the candidate's general research interests.

The student will normally be given two weeks to prepare and present a written report to the Qualifying Examination Committee and his/her performance will be judged on the basis of its clarity of thought and presentation, appropriate reference to relevant literature, satisfactory collection and presentation of field data and depth of understanding portrayed. Attention will be paid to the appropriateness of the methodology and the consistency of the conclusions.

A student who fails the field problem may retake it once, after a one semester lapse."

To:

"a) Written. The candidate will select one of the following two options:

- 1) Field Problems: The Qualifying Examination Committee will select a field problem related to the candidate's research interests. The examination will be designed to establish the ability of a student to perform competently in a field situation. This option will normally be selected by students whose intended research will involve extensive field work.

The student will normally be given two weeks to prepare and present a written report to the Qualifying Examination Committee and his/her performance will be judged on the basis of the clarity of thought

and presentation, appropriate reference to relevant literature, satisfactory collection and presentation of field data and depth of understanding portrayed. Attention will be paid to the appropriateness of the methodology and the consistency of the conclusions."

Rationale: Graduate students sought a clarification of the nature of the Field Problem option. The intent of the regulation is unchanged.

The last sentence 'A student who fails the field problem may retake it once, after a one semester lapse.' has been deleted because a statement specifying the timing of examinations and procedure to be followed if a student fails, has now been included under Qualifying Examinations. (see page 1)

p. 71 ii) Written Examinations

Change in Requirements

From:

"There will be four examinations:

Part One: One examination paper will be devoted to the candidate's field of specialization and will be designed to permit the student to explore extensively a chosen area of research.

Part Two: The other three examination papers will be based upon three topics chosen by the candidate in consultation with the Qualifying Examination Committee.

The student may select all four topics from within one of the recognized three sub-branches. Where applicable one paper may be written in a field outside of Geography.

A student who fails an examination paper may re-sit the paper once, after a one semester lapse.

To: "There will be four examinations:

Part One: One examination paper will be devoted to the candidate's field of specialization and will be designed to permit the student to explore extensively a chosen area of research.

Part Two: The other three examination papers will be based upon three topics chosen by the candidate in consultation with the Qualifying Examination Committee.

The student may select all four topics from within one of the recognized three sub-branches. Where applicable one paper may be written in a field outside of Geography."

Rationale:

This modification makes the requirements of the written examinations more explicit. The regulations remain unchanged.

From:

"Candidates will be expected to present at least two seminars, on topics selected by the candidate in consultation with the Supervisory Committee."

To:

"Candidates will be expected to present one seminar on a topic not directly related to the thesis research prior to undertaking Qualifying Examinations. The topic will be selected by the candidate in consultation with his/her Supervisory Committee, and must be of a standard acceptable to that Committee. The seminar will be presented before interested faculty and students."

Rationale:

Students will now present one seminar rather than two, before writing the Qualifying Examinations. Under the proposed new regulations the Qualifying Examinations are to be sat no later than the end of the 4th semester rather than before the end of 2nd year. The reduction of seminar requirements and the shortening of the interval between the entry into the Ph.D. Programme and writing of the Qualifying Examinations are intended to speed students' progress towards their research. The proposed regulations provide ample opportunity to evaluate students' ability to engage in doctoral research.

Change in Requirements

From:

"The candidate will prepare a thesis proposal which will be circulated to faculty and resident graduate students and will present this proposal at a Department colloquium."

To:

"The candidate will prepare a thesis proposal which will be circulated to faculty and resident graduate students and will present this proposal at a Departmental colloquium. In addition, prior to completion of the thesis, the candidate will be expected to present before interested faculty and students, a report on the progress of his/her research. The timing of this report will be selected in consultation with the candidate's Supervisory Committee."

Rationale:

The proposed requirement of a thesis progress report is intended to serve as a departmental forum for discussion of the research.

ALL THE PROPOSED CHANGES ARE INTENDED TO TIGHTEN-UP EXISTING CALENDAR REGULATIONS. THERE ARE NO FUNDAMENTAL ALTERATIONS IN THE PH.D. REQUIREMENTS.