

S.77-04

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To Members of Senate

From Dean of Graduate Studies Office

Subject Ph.D. Language Requirement

Date January 19, 1977

MOTION: That the Faculty of Science requirement for a language other than English in the Ph.D. programme be removed and appropriate changes be made in the graduate Calendar."

This change in the language requirement for the Faculty of Science was approved by the Senate Graduate Studies Committee on January 17, 1977.

Jon Wheatley

Jon Wheatley
Dean of Graduate Studies.

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SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To..... Marian McGinn, Secretary

Senate Graduate Studies Committee

Subject..... Ph.D. Language Requirement

From..... J.M. Webster, Dean

Faculty of Science

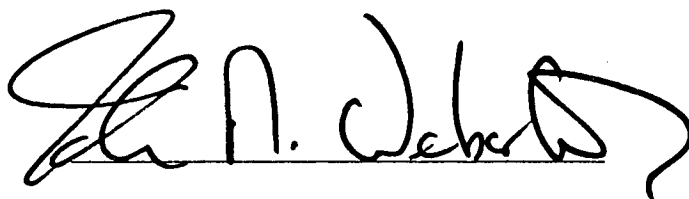
Date..... December 10, 1976

The Faculty of Science, at its meeting of December 2, 1976, passed the following motion:

"That the Faculty of Science requirement for a language other than English in the Ph.D. programme be removed and appropriate changes be made in the graduate calendar."

The rationale for the motion is provided below. This proposal is hereby forwarded to the Senate Graduate Studies Committee for consideration.

Rationale: The requirement of a language other than English in the Ph.D. programme has always been a contentious issue, but changing times are such that the Faculty Graduate Studies Committee considered it necessary that the Faculty address itself to this problem. It is clear that the present requirements do not ensure a useful or necessary learning experience for all students, and do not generally ensure a real reading knowledge of a second language. Historically this type of requirement has appeared to give added strength to a degree, but contemporary translation services and language use suggest that we would better serve the students' needs to have the Faculty requirements more closely related to the real skills needed by all students in the Faculty. It should be stressed that members of the Committee felt that individual departments, and particularly the senior supervisors, would still be free to require an appropriate second language, if necessary.



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SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To..... Dr. John Webster.....

..... Dean of Science

Subject.....

From..... Jon Wheatley.....

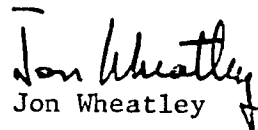
..... Dean of Graduate Studies

Date..... December 21, 1976.....

You will be pleased to hear that your proposed change of the Language Requirement passed the Executive Committee Senate Graduate Studies Committee on December 20, 1976. However, there was some confusion in the Committee as to what exactly was intended. I accordingly made the following rulings:

- a) That this changes the Faculty regulations but not the departmental regulations, which could only be changed on the recommendation (through the Faculty Committee) of the individual departments.
- b) That, notwithstanding the rationale offered, it is not within the power of a Senior Supervisor to require a second language. If the department does not require a second language, then a second language could only be required in designing the student's program of study under 6.4 of the General Regulations.

I offer it as a personal opinion that, if a second language will probably be required, there should be an entry in the Calendar to that effect under the appropriate departmental listing.


Jon Wheatley

JW:jm

cc: Mr. H. Evans, Registrar
Ms. M. McGinn, to be distributed to Executive
Committee with the next agenda