

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S. 83 - 13

MEMORANDUM

As amended at Senate - Jan. 10/83

To..... SENATE

From... SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Subject... CHANGES - SENIOR CITIZENS PROGRAM

Date... DECEMBER 9, 1982

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of November 30, 1982 gives rise to the following motion:-

MOTION:

"That Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.83-13, the proposed

Changes in requirements to the Senior Citizens Certificate Program

- 1) Deletion of the Program Requirements 1, 2, 3 and 4 (given on page 111 of the 1982/83 Calendar)
- 2) New program requirements as follows:
"The successful completion after age 60 of 30 credit hours of study approved by the Program Co-ordinator or other official appointed by the Dean of Arts [redacted]"
- 3) Deletion of Note (ii) (given on page 111 of the 1982/83 Calendar)"

FOR INFORMATION:

At the suggestion of the Steering Committee of the Certificate Program for Senior Citizens the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies approved that the Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Curriculum Committee be given responsibility for the academic curriculum of that program and for recommending candidates for the Certificate.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

SCUS 82-57

MEMORANDUM

To..... Mr. H.M. Evans, Secretary
..... S.C.U.S.
Subject..... Academic Home for Certificate Programs

From..... Sheila Roberts, Secretary
..... Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee
Date..... 1982-11-16

The Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee at its meeting of November 8, 1982 passed the following motion:

That the Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee accepts the responsibility of being the academic "home" for the B.C. Studies and the Senior Citizens Certificate Programs.

The Committee accepted this 'noble work' with the appropriate humility and gravity.



S. Roberts

cc. D. Foth

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To..... Mr. Harry Evans
..... Registrar
..... Changes to the Senior Citizen's
Subject..... Certificate Program

From..... Sheila Roberts
..... Secretary, Faculty of Arts
..... Curriculum Committee
Date..... November 25, 1982

The Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee, at its meeting of May 13, 1982, passed the following motion:

"The Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee approves the changes to the Senior Citizen's Certificate Program as outlined in Dennis Foth's memo of February 22, 1982."

Would you please place this submission on the agenda of the next meeting of S.C.U.S.

Thank you.



S. Roberts

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To..... Chairmen, Faculty Undergraduate
..... Curriculum Committees
Subj. Senior Citizens Certificate Program
Proposed Calendar Changes

From..... Dennis Foth, Director
..... Extension Credit Programs
Date..... February 22, 1982

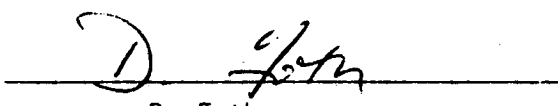
The Steering Committee of the Certificate Program for Senior Citizens recommends two changes to the calendar entry as per the attached memorandum and documentation.

Most programs of the university have a clearly identified Department and Faculty "home". Hence, proposals regarding program changes usually begin at the departmental level and move directly to the appropriate Faculty Undergraduate Curriculum Committee for consideration and approval before being forwarded to the relevant sub-committees of Senate. The Certificate Program for Senior Citizens is one of two programs that is exceptional in this regard (the other being the Certificate Program in B.C. Studies) in that, for want of a better phrase, it can be described as a program of the university generally. It is advised by a Steering Committee (the attached brochure lists the current membership) with recommendations for the award of the Certificate also made through this Committee.

As this is the first time changes are being proposed to the Certificate Program for Senior Citizens, a procedural precedent for moving the recommendations through the Faculties to Senate does not exist. Following discussion with Mr. Evans, Secretary of Senate, I think the most appropriate procedure is to solicit your comments on the recommendations and to relay them to the Steering Committee. The Committee, upon consideration of your comments, would then forward recommendations directly to the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies.

Both Dr. Ames, Chairman of the Steering Committee, and Mr. Conibear, the Program Coordinator are prepared to answer any questions you may have about the proposal or to attend a meeting of your curriculum committee if you think that would be appropriate.

Thank you for your consideration. Comments may be forwarded directly to me or to Dr. Ames.


D. Foth

DF/hn

Enclosures

Distribution: Dr. M. Covell, Arts
Dr. K. Egan, Education
Dr. G. Bhakthan, I.D.S.
Dr. A. Sherwood, Science

cc: ✓ Mr. H. Evans, Registrar's Office
Dr. E. Ames, Psychology
Mr. K. Conibear, Dean of Arts Office

Certificate Program for Senior Citizens
Calendar Changes Proposed
by the C.S.C. Steering Committee

Proposed Change 1

That the Certificate Program for Senior Citizens be revised by deletion of items (1), (2), (3) and (4) on current (1981-82) calendar page 518 in their entirety and substitution therefor of the following item:

The successful completion after age 60 of 30 credit hours of study approved by the Program Co-ordinator or other official appointed by the Dean of Continuing Studies.

The Rationale

The current calendar entry is based on studies made by a committee in 1975, as reported in SCUS paper 76-15. In that paper the courses listed in calendar item (2) are called "core" courses and their selection is explained by a statement that "available data on programs elsewhere suggest that the subjects chosen are of particular interest to older adults." Since those words were written six years have passed and over three-hundred seniors have participated in over twenty-five courses offered to them in community centres or on the downtown campus. SFU therefore no longer has to depend on available data from programs elsewhere. It has its own experience to draw on.

This experience indicates the present list of core courses is unsatisfactory. It reads:

ENGL 101-3 or ENGL 102-3
PHYS 001-3 or CHEM 005-3
PSYC 106-3
PHIL 100-3
POL. 121-3 or CN.S 200-3

The calendar requirement is that the student normally take 15 credits from that list - in effect at least one course from each line. In fact, of the ten off-campus senior citizens who have so far applied for the certificate, none has satisfied that requirement. This was hardly their fault: despite rigorous attempts to use the calendar list as a guide for courses to be offered senior citizens, it has proved impossible ever to mount PHYS 001 and POL. 121 for them, and only once possible to mount CHEM 005, PSYC 106, and CN.S 200 (and CN.S 200 never again: it is no longer in the calendar). All ten have therefore been awarded the certificate as exceptions to the normal requirements, as provided by item (4)(a). So the exception has become the rule, and the chief effect of the list has been to complicate the task of the Steering Committee in its selection of courses.

Question : ses whether any list of core courses is necessary for senior citizens. They are a unique group. Most of them have left the workaday world; few - very few - are preparing to re-enter it or advance themselves in it, and those few have their own special needs, to which the current list is utterly irrelevant. Our senior citizens are indeed perhaps the only pure students we have, seeking knowledge not for what it will do for them or for the benefits

they may derive from proof of their acquisition of it, but for its own sake.

Ours are also capable of reaching general agreement on what subjects they wish to study, and of making their wishes known to us. They tend to hold class meetings at the end of a semester to discuss where they'd like to go next and to pass their wishes on to Continuing Studies through one of their instructors, by petition through the mail, or through the Executive of the Opsimath Club. Enlisting the President of that club to advise them at its meetings, the Steering Committee has had good success in responding to such requests.

One result has been several successions of courses each with a localization and logic of its own. A group of seniors who make Edmonds House their centre specialize in English: they have there taken, along with a few courses on other subjects, ENGL 101, 102, 103, 206, and 221, are taking ENGL 212, will take ENGL 226 next spring, have asked for ENGL 204 and 205 next, and hope then to go on to upper division English courses. Confederation House has similarly, though less spectacularly, concentrated on courses on religion. Item (4) of current calendar regulations permits exceptions from the core courses requirements for "senior students wishing to ... undertake a different program of study". Although this clause was certainly meant to provide for individual programs, its application to group programs is convenient, is generally easy to administer, and produces good results.

They are academically good. The several trends so far developed or emerging lead to academically demanding studies. The special interest in religion has induced the offering in semester 81-3 of CHIN 341, The I Ching, and PHIL 231, Issues in Ethics and the Philosophy of Religion. Two other special interests pursued by groups of the seniors have resulted in the scheduling for semester 82-1 of POL. 323, Provincial Government and Politics, and PSYC 357, The Psychology of Adulthood and Aging. Courses so ambitious as these would never have been ventured within the confines of programs based on a restricted group of core courses.

And there is yet another, and timely, reason to break free of the concept of core courses for the senior citizens program. The recent opening of the Downtown Campus provides an opportunity for the intermixture of young and old students which was not available when senior citizen courses could be given only in senior citizen centres. In this regard a few sentences from the SCUS paper 76-15 are apposite.

Segregation of senior citizens into special courses is understandably a controversial issue. Eventually senior citizens will be integrated into regular courses at Simon Fraser University to complete their Certificates. In the long run, integration will be beneficial to both the individuals and the University. However, in the initial part of the program, some special selection of existing courses for seniors only must be provided to help them learn new skills and gain in self-confidence.

Few who have had class-room experience with older students on campus will dispute that their integration with younger students is beneficial for all concerned. In fact, however, the Certificate Program for Senior Citizens has done little, until recently, to promote such integration. Rather the opposite: by offering courses near their homes it has saved some seniors the inconvenience

of coming up the hill, as some of them might otherwise have done, to take courses with their juniors. Up hill remains inconvenient, but the Downtown campus is not. Few of the Edmonds House group utilize it, but the Brock House and Confederation House groups feed happily into it, and the downtown and North Shore elderlies rejoice in it.

One course for senior citizens only was offered at the Downtown campus in semester 80-3, and two in semester 81-1. They achieved enrollments approximately equal to those of the courses given in the same semesters in senior citizen centres. Three courses are being offered at the Downtown campus in semester 81-3 specifically for senior citizens, but open to all students. (Two of them are financed by Continuing Studies stipends: one is on departmental load.) The initial enrolment particulars run thus, not counting special audit students:

CHIN 341	17 seniors	5 others	total	22
POL. 222	12 "	10 "	"	22
PSYC 101	18 "	14 "	"	32
Totals	47 seniors	29 others		76

This experimental beginning thus provides a measure of age-integration not approached elsewhere on campus. Additionally, it spreads the cost of the Senior Citizens Certificate Program over a wider area; it helps to utilize the Downtown facilities during the day time, when they would otherwise be almost empty; and it increases the number and variety of courses which the university is able to offer to students of all ages on its Downtown campus.

And it would not be feasible, nor would any of the other benefits outlined in this memorandum be attainable, if the courses to be offered to senior citizens were strictly limited to those now listed on page 518 of the current calendar or to any other pre-determined list of "core" courses.

Proposed change 2

That the Certificate Program for Senior Citizens be revised by deletion of Note (ii) on current (1981-82) calendar page 518.

The Rationale

The calendar entry proposed for deletion reads as follows:

- (ii) A maximum of 12 credit hours completed after reaching age 60 or over but prior to formal enrolment in this Certificate Program may be applied toward the Certificate requirements.

This requirement was apparently designed to serve the purpose of preventing students over 60 from shifting from another program into the Senior Citizens Certificate Program if they so wish. It is an unfortunate requirement to impose on a group of people for whom flexibility is particularly important. The most recent student for whom the Steering Committee has recommended the award of the certificate is 77 years old. Certainly it does not seem unreasonable for students of advanced age, because of health changes or changes in interests, to decide on short notice that their original goal of obtaining a B.A. is no longer feasible and that they wish to shift their goal to obtaining a Senior Citizens Certificate. In several cases in the past the Steering Committee has granted exemption of this requirement to individual students on such grounds.

Notes (i), (iii), and (iv), which will be retained, respectively assure that credits applied toward the Senior Citizens Certificate may not be applied toward any other certificate or diploma, that not more than 6 semester hours of transfer credit may be counted, and that program requirements normally must be completed within 5 years. The Steering Committee feels that these three notes are sufficient to guarantee the integrity of the Senior Citizens Certificate.

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

The purposes of the Program are to provide interested members of the senior citizen population (those aged 60 years and over) with opportunities to participate in university life, to undertake a program of study which is relevant to their life goals, and to gain recognition for their academic achievements.

The Program is advised by a Steering Committee. Recommendations for the award of the Certificate are made through this Committee.

Admission

Current admission regulations apply. It is expected that most persons will apply either as secondary school graduates or under the terms of the "Mature Student Entry". (See p. 16 of this Calendar.) Also, applicants shall consult a Program Adviser concerning the demands of the Program and their educational objectives.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- (1) The successful completion of 30 credit hours of prescribed study.
- (2) At least 15 of the minimum 30 credit hours normally from the following courses:
 - ENGL 101-3 Introduction to Fiction, or
 - ENGL 102-3 Introduction to Poetry
 - PHYS 001-3 The Nature of Physical Laws, or
 - CHEM 005-3 The Chemistry of Life
 - PSYC 106-3 Social Issues
 - PHIL 100-3 Human Knowledge, Its Nature and Scope
 - POL 121-3 The Canadian Polity
- (3) An additional 15 of the minimum 30 credit hours selected by the student in consultation with an academic adviser.
- (4) Exception to the above requirements will be made for senior students wishing to complete Certificate requirements on campus and/or undertake a different program of study. In such cases, the following will apply:
 - (a) 30 credit hours of approved and prescribed study completed at age 60 or over;
 - (b) enrolment in the Certificate Program prior to the completion of 12 credit hours being applied to the Program;
 - (c) Program Adviser approval of selection of courses to be completed for the Certificate.

Notes:

- (i) Credits applied toward this Certificate may **not** be applied toward any other Simon Fraser University certificate or diploma, but may **also** be applied toward Major program or Minor program requirements or toward a Bachelor's degree under the normal regulations governing those programs.
- (ii) A maximum of 12 credit hours completed after reaching age 60 or over but prior to formal enrolment in this Certificate Program may be applied toward the Certificate requirements.
- (iii) Normally all courses used toward the Certificate must be taken through SFU and not more than six semester hours of approved transfer credit for university/college work may be applied toward Certificate requirements.
- (iv) Program requirements normally must be completed within five years of admission.