

MEMORANDUM

To..... Members of Senate.....

From..... Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies.....

Subject..... Graduate Curriculum Changes -
Day MBA Program.....

Date..... November 13, 1985.....

Action undertaken by the Senate Graduate Studies Committee at its Meeting on November 12, 1985, gives rise to the following motion:

MOTION:

"That Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.85-63 the proposed changes to the Day MBA program:

i) Change in credit requirements

From: Project Option: 9 courses totalling at least 36 credits plus a major research project (4 credits)

Thesis Option: 6 courses totalling at least 24 credits plus an original thesis (16 credits)

To: Project Option: 8 courses plus a research project

Thesis Option: 6 courses plus a thesis

ii) Delete from the approved list of Accounting courses:

Bus 876-4 Decision Support Systems

Delete from the approved list of Organization Behavior courses:

Bus 833-4 Trends and Issues in Micro Organization Behavior

Bus 834-4 Macro Perspectives on Organization

iii) That the minimum number of courses in a supporting field will be two under the project option and one under the thesis option"

Rationale for these changes is outlined in the attached paper.



Bruce P. Clayman
Dean of Graduate Studies.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

NOV 4 1985

DEAN OF GRADUATE
STUDIES OFFICE

To..... Bruce Clayman, Chairman
..... Senate Graduate Studies Committee
Subject... Proposed Changes to Day M.B.A.

From..... Bertram Schoner
..... Director, Graduate Program
..... Faculty of Business Administration
Date..... November 1, 1985

The Faculty of Business Administration passed the following modifications to the day M.B.A. program at a meeting of the faculty on October 31, 1985. These modifications are designed to make the program more attractive to potential students without prejudicing the essential nature of the program.

The difficulties we have encountered in the first two years of the program are twofold. First, excellent students with undergraduate degrees in Business Administration or Commerce can generally have the first year of an M.B.A. program waived at virtually any university in Canada, and graduate in a year. We require two years and, as a consequence, have lost some excellent candidates. Second, although our program has a provision for students without undergraduate business degrees to enter by taking qualifying courses, we have done little to make this a feasible option.

The proposed modifications to the program are designed to address these two difficulties.

Changes to the Program

- (1) Change the credit requirements as follows:

FROM

Project Option: 9 courses totalling at least 36 credits plus a major research project (4 credits)

Thesis Option: 6 courses totalling at least 24 credits plus an original thesis (16 credits)

TO

Project Option: 8 courses plus a research project

Thesis Option: 6 courses plus a thesis

- (2) No field of concentration will require more than 3 courses. As a consequence BUS. 876-4 is dropped from the approved list of Accounting courses, BUS. 833-4 and BUS. 834-4 are dropped from the Organization Behavior offerings.
- (3) The minimum number of courses in a supporting field will be two under the project option and one under the thesis option.

Rationale

These changes make it possible for a student with a BBA or B.Comm. to complete the program in three consecutive semesters provided that the student is not also a teaching assistant during the period. (A truly exceptional student may be able to do both.) The student who requires financial support in the form of a TAship or the part-time student will take longer to complete the program.

The omission of reference to required credit hours in item (1) above is intentional. We are less concerned with credits assigned to a course than with the question of whether or not a particular course fits a student's program. For example, most finance students take ECON 802 because understanding micro-economics is considered to be essential to understanding modern finance. Although our own courses are four credits and ECON 802 is three credits, the programs of many students would be negatively affected were they to not take ECON 802 for this reason.

The changes to the program do not affect its fundamental character. While the course requirements are dropped, they remain respectable in comparison with other programs in the university and other MBA programs across the country.

Duration of Program

We propose to modify the calendar entry as follows:

The calendar will indicate that students who are not TA'ing or engaged in other outside work should be able to complete the program in three consecutive semesters. Students who are TA'ing should complete within two years. Part-time students may take longer.

This change is really editorial in nature.

Program Admission for Non-Business Graduates

The calendar now permits entry into the program for non-business graduates provided that they have completed a business core. We propose to rewrite this section to identify courses that the student should take prior to acceptance as a qualifying student, and courses which can be taken as a qualifying student.

Non-business majors who already have the equivalent of the following SFU courses completed may be eligible to enrol as qualifying students. These courses are:

- (1) Computer Programming: CMPT 100 or CMPT 101
These are introductory courses in computer operation and programming.
- (2) Calculus: MATH 157 and MATH 158
These are introductory courses in differential and integral calculus.

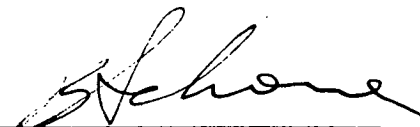
- (3) Statistics: BUEC 232 and BUEC 333
These are introductory probability and statistics courses with business and economics applications. Major topics covered are descriptive statistics, probability, estimation, hypothesis testing and regression analysis.
- (4) Accounting: BUS. 251
An introduction to Financial Accounting.

Students accepted as qualifying students who have not taken the following courses will normally take them in the summer semester preceding entry into the regular program in the fall. Completion of these courses with a grade of B or better is necessary to proceed in the program.

- (1) Managerial Economics: BUS. 307-3 or ECON 301-5
- (2) Business Finance: BUS. 312-3
- (3) Accounting for Management: BUS. 328-3
- (4) Introduction to Marketing: BUS. 343-3
(Note: Students who wish to take a major field in marketing will be required to take BUS. 347-3 Consumer Behavior instead.)
- (5) Organization Behavior: BUS. 342-3
- (6) Management Science: BUS. 336-4

Students may also be required to take undergraduate courses relevant to their area of specialization concurrently with graduate course to overcome deficiencies.

BS:jml


Bertram Schoner
Director, Graduate Program