

S.87-56

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate **FROM:** J.W.G. Ivany,
Chair, SCAP

SUBJECT: Faculty of Arts **DATE:** Nov.19, 1987
Department of Sociology/Anthropology
Reference: SCUS 87-29; SCAP 87-20

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Academic Planning/Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies gives rise to the following motion:

MOTION: "That Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.87-56 the proposed Extended Studies Diploma in Social Policy Issues"

1. INTRODUCTION

The investigation and analysis of social problems and social policy issues has long been an integral part of sociology and anthropology. The recent revision of the undergraduate curriculum of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology has served to underline the significance of these concerns within the teaching and research conducted by members of the department. Faculty expertise spans a variety of substantive fields within which officially recognized and unrecognized social problems and social policy issues feature prominently: these include problems and issues associated with aging, population policy, gender relations, ethnic relations, government administration of native peoples, and issues associated with development in the Third World. Linking these specialized fields of study is a common interest in the manner in which sociological and anthropological theories and methods of investigation can best be applied to those problems and issues that become the object of social policy.

An Extended Studies Diploma Program in Social Policy Issues would offer students who already hold a Bachelor's degree (or higher) an opportunity to pursue an integrated program of studies in this field, whatever their disciplinary background. The intended audience for this program would include professionals working in the social services field, teachers, civil servants, and those who wish to develop their general education background. In keeping with the character of the department, the overall program will seek to provide students with the critical perspectives needed in order to grasp the processes by which social problems are defined, understood, and acted upon both in Canada and in other societies.

The accessibility of this program to prospective students will be enhanced by the offering of a number of existing or currently commissioned DISC courses and through the scheduling of evening courses both at the Burnaby Mountain Campus and at the SFU/Downtown Centre. Efforts will also be made to establish a sense of identity amongst students enrolled in the diploma program by the organizing of one or two special evening seminars, lectures or workshops cum social gatherings each semester which will provide faculty, students, and invited guests an opportunity to learn about each other's interests. A once per semester newsletter will also be prepared and mailed to students in the program as well as to organizations and agencies whose members and personnel may be interested in the diploma program. The steering committee for the Social Policy Issues Extended Studies Diploma Program will also regularly consider the suitability of other upper-division courses offered at Simon Fraser University as optional courses for the program. The full range of courses eligible for credit in the program will be identified and advertised in the newsletter.

2. PROPOSED CALENDAR ENTRY

Extended Studies Diploma in Social Policy Issues

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The Extended Studies Diploma Program in Social Policy Issues offers students an opportunity to apply recent developments in social theory and research methods to the investigation of a range of social problems and social policy issues. As well as featuring courses which examine various substantive social policy issues, the overall program aims to provide the critical perspectives needed in order to grasp the processes by which social problems are defined, understood, and acted upon both in Canada and in other societies.

The program is available through a combination of Directed Independent Study (DISC) courses and evening courses offered at the Burnaby Mountain Campus and SFU/Downtown Centre. The diploma has been designed for persons who have previously completed a Bachelor's degree (or higher) in any field of study, and will be of special interest to those who wish to fulfill or change career goals, professionals who seek new perspectives for analyzing and interpreting social policy issues, and to those who wish to develop their general education background.

Admission Requirements

Normally an undergraduate degree from a recognized university with a graduation GPA of at least 2.5 or equivalent.

A statement of the student's objectives in undertaking the program.

Program Requirements

Thirty hours of 300 and 400 division coursework, or graduate level courses if appropriate.

Of these 30 credit hours, at least 16 are to be taken from the set of core courses described below.

Program completion within five years of admission. Most students are expected to finish within two or three years. Students must maintain a GPA of 2.5 on courses used for the diploma.

Students will be expected to attend occasional special lectures, seminars and professional development workshops organized for those enrolled in the diploma program.

Core Courses

Students are required to complete at least four of the following courses, one of which must be SA 340-4:

- SA 303-4 Ethnic Conflicts
- SA 316-4 Tourism and Social Policy
- SA 320-4 Population and Society
- SA 331-4 Sociology of the Family
- SA 333-4 Schooling and Society
- SA 335-4 Gender Relations and Social Issues
- SA 340-4 Social Issues and Social Policy Analysis
- SA 363-4 Processes of Development and Underdevelopment
- SA 386-4 Native Peoples and Public Policy
- SA 420-4 Sociology of Aging

Optional Courses

An additional four courses from the following list would complete the requirements for the program:

- SA 300-4 Canadian Social Structure
- SA 304-4 Social Control
- SA 321-4 Social Movements
- SA 325-4 Political Sociology
- SA 362-4 Social Change in Modern Industrial Societies
- SA 369-4 Political Processes in Social Life
- SA 400-4 Canadian Ethnic Minorities
- SA 402-4 The Uses of Anthropology
- SA 463-4 Problems in Third World Studies
- Pol. 321-3 The Canadian Federal System
- Pol. 351-3 Canadian Urban Government and Politics
- Pol. 451-3 Public Policy Analysis

To fulfill the optional course requirement, students may instead take additional core courses or, upon the recommendation of the Program Steering Committee, select a course not included among listed options, but with content appropriate to the Program.

3. OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- with one exception, all of the courses required to mount the program are part of either the existing undergraduate curriculum or the revisions being made concurrently to the sociology program. The only entirely new course needed in order to offer the diploma is SA 340-4 Social Issues and Social Policy Analysis.
- three of the core courses already exist or have been commissioned for presentation in DISC format: (SA 303, 386, and 420.)
- students without any background in sociology or anthropology would be permitted to use any two lower division courses in sociology and/or anthropology as prerequisites for the 30 hours of upper division courses. Three lower division courses (SA 150, 201 and 250) are available in DISC format.
- the steering committee for the diploma program would include the following members:
 - Departmental Co-ordinator, Social Policy Issues Diploma Program
 - Departmental Chairperson, S/A
 - Undergraduate Studies Chairperson, S/A
 - A representative of the Department of Political Science
- additional costs for operating the program would be modest. Some funding will be required for staging occasional special lectures, seminars and workshops, and to publish and distribute a newsletter each semester
- The steering committee for the Social Policy Issues Extended Studies Diploma Program will also regularly consider the suitability of other upper-division courses offered at Simon Fraser University as optional courses for the program. It is intended that the program will seek to utilize, wherever appropriate, the expertise of faculty members from various departments and faculties. The full range of courses eligible for credit in the program will be identified and advertised in the newsletter.