

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate

From: Senate Committee
on Academic Planning

Subject: Post Baccalaureate Diploma

Date: October 11, 1988

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Academic Planning at its meeting of October 5, 1988 gives rise to the following motion:

MOTION:

"That Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set out in S.88-36 the proposal to change the name of the Extended Studies Diploma to Post Baccalaureate Diploma."

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on
Academic Planning

From: R. Saunders
Chair, SCUS

Subject: Post Baccalaureate Diploma

Date: September 29, 1988

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

Motion: that SCAP approve and recommend approval to Senate, the proposal to change the name of the Extended Studies Diploma to Post Baccalaureate Diploma.

A Proposal to Change the Name of the Extended Studies Diploma to Post Baccalaureate Diploma

It is proposed that the title Extended Studies Diploma be changed to Post Baccalaureate Diploma. The change is intended to: 1) more clearly indicate the distinctive requisite that this program of study is for individuals who hold at least a bachelor's degree; 2) strengthen recognition and understanding of the diploma by the external community; and, 3) aid in program marketing.

Graduate Diploma and Post Graduate Diploma also were considered as alternative names. However, Canadian Deans of Graduate Studies have established a policy that the term "graduate" should not be used in the title of a program for which formal university credit is granted unless coursework is at the graduate level. Extended Studies Diploma programs consist primarily of courses at the upper division (third and fourth year) level, although they may include some graduate courses.

The Extended Studies Diploma

Senate approved the establishment of the Extended Studies Diploma in September 1977. The program was developed specifically to meet the increasing demand by individuals who had completed a formal university program at least at the bachelor's degree level, and were seeking further formal advanced education not met by traditional degree structures or usual continuing education programs.

Two groups of students were identified as benefiting most from the Extended Studies Diploma: professionals wishing to upgrade or alter their qualifications, and individuals pursuing a coherent and sequential program of liberal studies. The program's advantages were identified as: flexibility, use of existing courses and faculty resources, and adaptability to virtually all areas of study.

The E.S.D. allows both for individual programs of study designed by students in consultation with advisors, and for structured programs developed by departments. Seven structured diploma programs are now offered--Criminology, Environmental Toxicology, Kinesiology, Ethnic Relations, Gerontology, Humanities, and Public History. An Extended Studies Diploma in Social Policy Issues has been approved by Senate and will begin in Fall 1988. Headcount in the Fall Semester 1987 in all Extended Studies Diploma programs totalled 259.

Rationale for the Change

Over the years prospective students and employers have expressed a lack of ready understanding of the Extended Studies designation. Recently other concerns about the name have emerged: the Director of the Gerontology Research Centre has suggested that a title which more clearly defines the

baccalaureate requisite for a diploma would assist in communicating its distinctiveness to potential students. The Dean of Science has indicated that a vehicle such as the Extended Studies Diploma may be a useful option for students from outside Canada; for example, those coming to the University as part of the CIDA/Indonesia project, who seek recognition for formal study beyond the bachelor's level, but for whom a master's degree program is not appropriate. For such students, a designation that clearly indicates the post baccalaureate nature of their study would hold more significance in their home country.

Also, it is expected that new structured Extended Studies Diploma programs designed for the adult student will be proposed by departments and Faculties for Simon Fraser University at Harbour Centre. Of importance for all University programs, and particularly for those directed to an adult student clientele seeking recurrent or mid-career education, is effective marketing. A name which more clearly defines the Extended Studies Diploma as study beyond the bachelor's degree level would strengthen the communications function of marketing to prospective students.

JLH:sml

September 28, 1988