

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Office of the Vice-President, Academic

MEMORANDUM

To:	Senate	From:	J. M. Munro Chair, Senate Committee on Academic Planning
Subject:	School for the Contemporary Arts - Change to Degree Requirements	Date:	June 15, 1992

Action undertaken by the Senate Graduate Studies Committee and the Senate Committee on Academic Planning (SCAP 92 - 27) gives rise to the following motion:

Motion: "That Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors as set forth in S. 92 - 46, the change to the requirements for the Master of Fine Arts."

J. M. Munro

SFU SCHOOL FOR THE CONTEMPORARY ARTS

MEMORANDUM

To: Chair, Faculty of Arts
Graduate Studies Committee
cc: Marion McGinn, Graduate Records

From: Martin Bartlett
Graduate Program Chair

Topic: Graduate Calendar Changes
Date: October 22, 1991

Our Graduate Program Committee wishes to put forward the following change to the Degree Requirements as listed in the Calendar:

FROM: All of:

FPA 811-5 Interdisciplinary Graduate Seminar I
812-5 Interdisciplinary Graduate Seminar II
898-10 Master of Fine Arts Graduating Project

plus three of the following:

FPA 883-5 Studio in Fine and Performing Arts I
885-5 Studio in Fine and Performing Arts II
887-5 Selected Topics in Fine and Performing Arts
889-5 Directed Study in Fine and Performing Arts

plus five units selected from upper division or graduate courses outside the school.

TO: All of:

FPA 811-5 Interdisciplinary Graduate Seminar I
812-5 Interdisciplinary Graduate Seminar II
898-10 Master of Fine Arts Graduating Project

plus three of the following:

FPA 883-5 Studio in Fine and Performing Arts I
885-5 Studio in Fine and Performing Arts II
887-5 Selected Topics in Fine and Performing Arts
889-5 Directed Study in Fine and Performing Arts

plus five units selected from upper division or graduate courses
outside the student's main area of concentration or outside the School for the Contemporary Arts.

RATIONALE

The original requirement is too restrictive, because

- a. there are relatively few graduate courses outside the School to which our students would be admissible, and
- b. upper level undergraduate courses are usually 3 units rather than 5, which means that a student would have to take two of them to satisfy the requirement.

The change preserves the intent of the original, namely to provide a broadening of academic experience for the MFA student, while increasing the options available. One situation which we can foresee as desirable is the possibility of graduate students taking the upper division Arts-in-Context courses, which provide a cross-disciplinary approach to the cultural study of a particular period. These courses would be especially valuable for those students coming from other institutions where interdisciplinary studies are not emphasized to the extent that they are in our School. Students will still be encouraged to take courses outside the School when appropriate.

Matthew Barton