

Simon Fraser University
Senate Graduate Studies Committee
Annual Report to Senate for 2002
February 2003

Submitted by Dr. Jon Driver, Dean of Graduate Studies

Composition and Mandate of the Committee

The current membership of SGSC is the Dean (chair), Registrar (or designate), Librarian (or designate), chairs of the five faculty graduate program committees, one other faculty member from each of the five graduate program committees, two graduate students, the Graduate Issues Officer of SFSS, and the Assistant Director Graduate Records (non-voting).

SGSC has established a regular monthly meeting schedule, in an attempt to spread the workload of the committee more evenly over the year. A list of meetings and activities for 2002 is attached as Appendix A.

SGSC is responsible to Senate for admissions (delegated to the Registrar and the Dean), maintenance of academic standards, changes to existing programs, evaluation of new programs, and administration of the graduate general regulations. SGSC approves admissions under Special Arrangements (via a subcommittee), and may act as an appeal body for student progress reviews.

Graduate Studies at Simon Fraser University

Masters programs are offered in each faculty, doctoral programs in all but Business Administration, and graduate diploma programs in Arts, Business Administration and Education. In addition, the Dean of Graduate Studies office administers the Special Arrangements Program that provides a home for students with individual interdisciplinary programs of study and research. Summary statistics on enrollments and award of degrees are available from the Analytical Studies web site (see Appendix B of this report for data on enrollments and credentials awarded).

During the calendar year 2002 a number of new graduate programs were at various stages of development. The Masters of Public Policy was approved by Senate, and will begin in fall 2003. A cohort special arrangements program (MBA in Global Asset and Wealth Management) was approved and has already enrolled students. A Ph.D. program in Women's Studies received a full review, and was approved by SGSC early in 2003. Graduate programs from the former TechBC were incorporated temporarily as cohort special arrangements programs.

In 2002 the Dean participated in a number of external reviews of SFU's academic programs. Generally there have been positive assessments of graduate programs. A common concern of many reviews in smaller programs is the lack of courses dedicated to graduate students, and an attempt to address this issue will be made in 2003.

Enrollment and Graduation

Graduate enrollments in degree programs increased steadily from the late 1980's to the mid-1990's, and have remained relatively stable since then (see Appendix B). This stability is the result of a number of factors. There were relatively few new graduate programs approved in the late 1990's, and the number of faculty members available for graduate supervision did not increase significantly in the mid to late nineties.

Furthermore, funding levels for graduate students have increased slowly, while employment opportunities outside the university were relatively good.

There was a significant increase in graduate enrollment in 2002, as measured by graduate headcount in 2002-3. This is mainly because of the development of graduate diploma programs in Education and Business Administration, as well as the incorporation of graduate programs from the former Technical University of B.C. Enrollment in Masters and Doctoral programs across the campus has also seen a modest increase over the previous year.

Data on credentials awarded are presented in the second table in Appendix B. There has been no clear trend in the number of degrees awarded, but there will be an increase in the future as the current enrollment increase has an impact on graduation. It should be noted that the proportion of doctoral to masters students remains relatively low (less than 20%). SFU figures are consistent with the national average (15% based on 1998 data). The SFU figures are comparable to Victoria, Calgary, and Saskatchewan, while UBC, Alberta, Toronto, Waterloo, McMaster and Guelph have slightly higher percentages of Ph.D. graduates.

Assessment Committee for New Graduate Programs

This committee is a sub-committee of SGSC.

In 2002 the ACNGP met three times, and recommended approval of the Ph.D. in Women's Studies and the Masters of Public Policy.

Funding for graduate students

Financial support for graduate students continues to be a concern, particularly as we have to compete for students with universities in provinces that provide a provincial scholarship plan. Unfortunately, late in 2002 the Science Council of BC announced the cancellation of the GREAT awards program that funds students involved in university/industrial partnerships. However, at the national level there continues to be recognition from the federal government of the importance of graduate education. Increased funding to the national granting agencies results in more graduate funding through research assistantships (from faculty member research grants) and through direct funding in the form of scholarships and fellowships. The granting agencies have stressed the importance of graduate training as a component of faculty research grants, and one way to increase graduate support at SFU is to encourage more faculty members to apply for research grants and to include graduate student support in their budgets.

In 2002 the Dean created a small working group that is examining graduate funding at SFU. Some proposals from this group can be expected in 2003.

The tuition fee increase that commenced in 2002-3 added more funds to the internal awards budgets for the 2002/2003 academic year. We increased the number of entrance scholarships for fall 2002, and added more graduate fellowships.

Appendix A Senate Graduate Studies Committee, Activities 2002

Meetings were held in January, February, April (two meetings), May, June, September, October, November

Graduate curriculum changes were approved in Biological Sciences, Business Administration, Communications, Computing Science, Earth Sciences, Economics, Education, Gerontology, History, Linguistics, Mathematics, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, Political Science, Psychology, Resource and Environmental Management

A program committee (a subcommittee of SGSC) was established to oversee the individual Special Arrangements program.

Approved Masters in Public Policy

Approved MBA (Global Asset and Wealth Management) as cohort special arrangements program.

Approved masters and doctoral programs in Computer Arts and Design Sciences as cohort special arrangements programs. (NB these were pre-existing graduate programs at the Technical University of British Columbia. This mechanism was used to temporarily transfer these programs to SFU while the long term plans for the Surrey campus were under development).

Ten individual applications for admission under Special Arrangements were considered and eight were approved. One student transferred from a departmental program to Special Arrangements.

SGSC developed policy on an approval process for new professional masters programs and a policy on cosupervision (the latter coming to Senate in 2003).

Appendix B. Graduate Enrollment and Credentials Awarded

Note: figures refer to headcounts; no allowance is made for full-time, part-time and on-leave status

Graduate enrollments

Faculty	Fall 1997	Fall 1998	Fall 1999	Fall 2000	Fall 2001	Fall 2002	Change 97 to 02
Applied Sciences	443	446	466	452	476	523#	18.1%
Arts	751	777	752	730	769	755	0.5%
Business Administration	301	270	296	344	416	438	45.5%
(GDBA only)	0	0	(57)	(60)	(103)	(130)	
Education	532	468	451	641	1124	1279	140.4%
(GDE only)	0	0	0	(155)	(608)	(721)	
Science	375	377	393	393	432	450	20.0%
Total headcount *	2402	2338	2358	2560	3217	3445	43.4%
% change from previous year		-2.7	0.9	8.6	25.7	7.1	
Total degree program headcount **	2402	2338	2301	2345	2506	2594	8.0%
%change from previous year		-2.7	-1.6	1.9	6.9	3.5	

* total of all graduate students, including those enrolled in diploma programs

** total of all graduate students enrolled in masters and doctoral programs

includes the addition of 51 graduate students at SFUSurrey

Notes:

- if diploma enrollments are excluded, the %change from 1997 to 2002 in the Faculty of Business Administration is 2.3%
- if diploma enrollments are excluded, the %change from 1997 to 2002 in the Faculty of Education is 4.9%

Credentials awarded by academic year

Faculty/credential	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02
Applied Sciences						
Masters	59	74	56	66	68	72
Ph.D.	14	20	15	16	22	11
Arts						
Masters	103	122	104	138	134	140
Ph.D.	29	40	26	38	24	28
Business Administration						
GDBA	0	0	0	26	27	66
MBA	99	126	113	132	119	144
Ph.D.(SAR)	1					
Education						
GDE	0	0	0	0	0	3
M.Ed.	91	116	151	121	94	104
Other Masters	38	33	48	22	21	20
Doctoral	3	8	13	13	7	13
Science						
Masters	48	55	57	49	51	61
Ph.D.	25	33	21	41	26	28
Total degrees	510	627	604	636	566	621
Total masters	438	526	529	528	487	541
Total Ph.D.	72	101	75	108	79	80
% Ph.D.	14.1	16.1	12.4	17.0	14.0	12.9