

Simon Fraser University
Senate Graduate Studies Committee
Annual Report to Senate for 2003
February 2004

For Information

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 2003 is attached as Appendix A.

SGSC is responsible to Senate for admissions (delegated to 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

In 2003 masters programs were offered in each faculty, and doctoral programs in all but Business Administration. Graduate diploma programs were offered in Arts, Business Administration, Education and Science. 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 2003 a number of new graduate programs were at various stages of development, and these are described in Appendix A.

Enrollment and Graduation

Graduate enrollments in degree programs increased steadily from the late 1980's to the mid-1990's, remained relatively stable for a few years, and have seen renewed increases since 2000 (see Appendix B). The recent increases in graduate degree enrollments are probably due to a combination of factors: the development of new programs (such as the Masters of Public Policy or the MBA in Global Asset Wealth Management), the addition of programs at Surrey, the "Double the Opportunities" funding from the provincial government, and the recruitment of graduate students by new faculty members as they establish their research programs. The increase in total graduate headcount is due to the

development of popular graduate diploma programs in Education and Business Administration.

Data on credentials awarded are presented in the second table in Appendix B. We are now seeing an increase in masters degrees awarded, a result of increased enrollments since 2000. There has not been an increase in doctoral degrees, but this should occur in the next few years.

New Programs

Assessment Committee for New Graduate Programs (ACNGP) is a sub-committee of SGSC, responsible for the detailed assessment of new graduate degree programs, of which the most important element is an external review process. In 2003 ACNGP approved a new PhD program in Earth Sciences. Appendix C provides a history of new program development since 1981. Current indications are that 2004 will see a peak in ACNGP activity comparable to 1984 and 1994.

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 and other provincially-funded recruiting incentives. Locally, UBC's announcement of tuition scholarships for most PhD students has caused concerns about SFU's ability to recruit doctoral students.

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.

The most notable events in 2003 concerned the first stages of the Canada Graduate Scholarships program. SSHRC ran its first CGS competition in early summer for the 2003-2004 awards, and over \$500,000 worth of CGS masters awards are currently held by SFU students. A second SSHRC competition was held in the fall, for awards to be held in 2004-2005. NSERC incorporated the CGS program into its program of post-graduate scholarships, and the results of that competition (held in Fall 2003) will be felt in 2004 allocations. CIHR's competition for 2004 allocation was held early in 2004. Both SSHRC and NSERC have incorporated the CGS doctoral awards into their existing doctoral competitions.

The tuition fee increases have resulted in more funds being allocated for graduate student support. Having increased the number of graduate entrance awards in spring 2002, the numbers remained the same in spring 2003. Increases in the scholarships budget were

directed towards improving the value of Graduate Fellowships and President's Research Stipends, and the total number of Graduate Fellowships was also increased for 2003/2004.


In 2002 the Dean created a small working group to examine graduate student funding at SFU. In 2003 the Working Group consulted with the university community on principles of graduate funding, undertook a survey of graduate students, gathered data on graduate student funding, and prepared a draft report. The report has been made public (February 2004) and we are soliciting comments.

Graduate Studies and University Planning

As the University is currently involved in the development of the next three-year plan, this is a useful point at which to discuss some larger issues concerning graduate studies.

Demand for admission to research-intensive graduate programs continues to be strong, and the University's goal of increasing research activity will require well organized, high quality programs. Most academic units either have masters and doctoral programs in place, or are actively planning them. The relatively rapid turnover of faculty members will require re-structuring of some existing programs, as academic units move in new directions. Critical issues will be our ability to provide funding, and action to ensure better rates of completion and times to completion.

There is also strong demand for admission to professional programs (mainly graduate diploma and masters). As was expected, change to provincial legislation has resulted in local institutions such as BCIT and UCFV beginning to develop applied graduate programs. Such developments have two implications for Simon Fraser University. First, we must ensure that all our professional programs are firmly linked to the research strengths of our units. Second, we should be prepared to collaborate with other institutions to design high quality programs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Appendix A Senate Graduate Studies Committee, Activities 2003

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

Changes to existing programs

Graduate curriculum and program changes were approved in Biological Sciences, Business Administration, Communication, Computing Science, Criminology, Earth Sciences, Economics, Education, Kinesiology, Pest Management, Psychology, Resource and Environmental Management,

New programs

There is a two-stage process for approving new degree programs. A preliminary proposal is approved by SGSC and SCUP. The full program proposal is then developed, reviewed by ACNGP (including external review), and then approved by SGSC, SCUP and Senate. Graduate diploma programs are approved by SGSC, SCUP and Senate.

The full program proposal for a PhD in Earth Sciences was approved (ACNGP).

A preliminary proposal for graduate programs in Computing Arts and Design Sciences (to be housed at SIAT) was approved (SGSC).

A preliminary proposal for a Master's degree in Urban Studies was approved (SGSC).

A preliminary proposal for a PhD in Business Administration was approved (SGSC).

A preliminary proposal for the MBA (Global Asset Wealth Management) was approved (SGSC). (This program currently runs as a cohort special arrangements program; the proposal was to make it a permanent program).

The Diploma in Bioinformatics was approved (SGSC).

The Diploma in Quantitative Methods in Fisheries Management was approved (SGSC).

The full program proposal for a Ph.D. in Women's Studies was approved (SGSC).

SGSC also met with the Director of IHRE to advise on a draft proposal for graduate programs in the new Faculty of Health Sciences.

Other

Changes to tuition fee structures required by the migration of the student information system to Peoplesoft were approved, and relevant changes to the Graduate General Regulations and numerous graduate programs were also approved.

A process for approving limited term faculty as senior supervisors of students in non-thesis professional masters programs in Business Administration and Education was approved.

A process for appointing co-supervisors was approved.

A process for the development of graduate certificate programs was approved.

Many forms relating to graduate studies were amended to reflect the need for ethics approval of students' research projects.

The steering committee for Special Arrangements reviewed ten applications for special arrangements. Eight applicants were admitted. In addition, three extra applications were considered later in the year, and all were admitted.

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 | Fall 2003 | Change 97 to 03 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Applied Sciences | 443 | 446 | 466 | 452 | 476 | 574# | 606# | 37% |
| Arts | 751 | 777 | 752 | 730 | 769 | 755 | 817 | 9% |
| Business Administration | 301 | 270 | 296 | 344 | 416 | 438 | 453 | 50% |
| (GDBA only) | 0 | 0 | (57) | (60) | (103) | (130) | (101) | |
| (Degree program only) | (301) | (270) | (239) | (284) | (313) | (308) | (342) | 14% |
| Education | 532 | 468 | 451 | 641 | 1124 | 1279 | 1078 | 103% |
| (GDE only) | 0 | 0 | 0 | (155) | (608) | (721) | (607) | |
| (Degree program only) | (532) | (468) | (451) | (486) | (516) | (558) | (471) | -11% |
| Science | 375 | 377 | 393 | 393 | 432 | 450 | 476 | 27% |
| Total headcount * | 2402 | 2338 | 2358 | 2560 | 3217 | 3445 | 3429 | 43% |
| % change from previous year | | -2.7 | 0.9 | 8.6 | 25.7 | 7.1 | -0.5 | |
| Total degree program headcount ** | 2402 | 2338 | 2301 | 2345 | 2506 | 2594 | 2706 | 13% |
| %change from previous year | | -2.7 | -1.6 | 1.9 | 6.9 | 3.5 | 4.3 | |

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

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

includes the graduate students at SFUSurrey

Credentials awarded by academic year

| Faculty/credential | 96/97 | 97/98 | 98/99 | 99/00 | 00/01 | 01/02 | 02/03 |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Applied Sciences | | | | | | | |
| Masters | 59 | 74 | 56 | 66 | 68 | 72 | 90 |
| Ph.D. | 14 | 20 | 15 | 16 | 22 | 11 | 15 |
| Arts | | | | | | | |
| Diploma | | | | | | | 2 |
| Masters | 103 | 122 | 104 | 138 | 134 | 140 | 139 |
| Ph.D. | 29 | 40 | 26 | 38 | 24 | 28 | 29 |
| Business Administration | | | | | | | |
| GDBA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 27 | 66 | 80 |
| MBA | 99 | 126 | 113 | 132 | 119 | 144 | 164 |
| Ph.D.(SAR) | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| Education | | | | | | | |
| GDE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 287 |
| M.Ed. | 91 | 116 | 151 | 121 | 94 | 104 | 117 |
| Other Masters | 38 | 33 | 48 | 22 | 21 | 20 | 19 |
| Doctoral | 3 | 8 | 13 | 13 | 7 | 13 | 14 |
| Science | | | | | | | |
| Masters | 48 | 55 | 57 | 49 | 51 | 61 | 60 |
| Ph.D. | 25 | 33 | 21 | 41 | 26 | 28 | 23 |
| Total degrees | 510 | 627 | 604 | 636 | 566 | 621 | 671 |
| Total masters | 438 | 526 | 529 | 528 | 487 | 541 | 589 |
| Total Ph.D. | 72 | 101 | 75 | 108 | 79 | 80 | 82 |
| % Ph.D. | 14.1 | 16.1 | 12.4 | 17.0 | 14.0 | 12.9 | 12.2 |

Appendix C. New program activity

| Year of ACNGP approval | Program |
|------------------------|--|
| 1981 | PhD, Education |
| 1982 | PhD, Computing Science |
| 1983 | PhD, Communication |
| 1984 | PhD, Criminology |
| 1984 | MA, Women's Studies |
| 1984 | MEng, Engineering |
| 1984 | MASc, Engineering |
| 1985 | MSc, Statistics |
| 1985 | MBA, Business Administration |
| 1990 | PhD, Engineering |
| 1990 | MPub, Publishing |
| 1992 | MA, Latin American Studies |
| 1994 | MA, Gerontology |
| 1994 | MA, Linguistics |
| 1994 | PhD, Linguistics |
| 1994 | PhD, Resource and Environmental Management |
| 1994 | MSc, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry |
| 1994 | PhD, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry |
| 1995 | MSc, Earth Sciences |
| 1995 | PhD, Political Science |
| 1996 | EdD, Education |
| 1997 | MET, Biological Sciences |
| 2000 | MBA(MOT), Business Administration |
| 2002 | Masters of Public Policy |
| 2002 | PhD, Women's Studies |
| 2003 | PhD, Earth Sciences |

Note: all dates since 1985 refer to the year in which ACNGP approval was given. Dates for final approval and first admission of students may be slightly later.