

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
Senate Committee on University Priorities
Memorandum

TO: Senate

FROM: John Waterhouse
Chair, SCUP
Vice-President, Academic

RE: Master in Urban Studies

DATE: January 21, 2005

At its January 12, 2005 meeting the Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP) recommended the following motion:

Motion

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the proposal for a Master in Urban Studies program in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

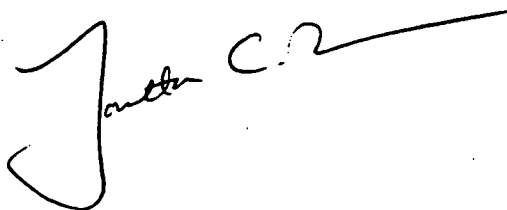
encl.

c: J. Driver
J. Munro
G. Nicholls

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES
MEMORANDUM

TO: SCUP
FROM: Jonathan Driver, Dean of Graduate Studies
SUBJECT: Master in Urban Studies
DATE: 7th December 2004
cc: Dr. J. Munro, Urban Studies

At its 6th December 2004 meeting Senate Graduate Studies Committee unanimously approved the enclosed proposal for a Master of Urban Studies program in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. I am therefore forwarding this to SCUP, with the recommendation that it be approved. In addition to the full proposal and course outlines, I also enclose copies of relevant correspondence and external reviews of the program.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Driver', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

PROPOSAL FOR MASTER'S PROGRAM IN URBAN STUDIES

11 June	2003	Approved "in-principle" by Senate Committee on University Priorities
25 March	2004	Approved by Faculty of Arts
20 April	2004	Received by Dean of Graduate Studies
26 May	2004	Reviewed by Assessment Committee for New Graduate Programs
8 July	2004	Received revised program proposal from Urban Studies
19 Aug	2004	Sent proposal to six external reviewers by Dean of Graduate Studies
30 September	2004	Received 5/6 external reviewers' reports by Dean of Graduate Studies
18 October	2004	Sent external reviewers' reports to Urban Studies by Dean of Graduate Studies
9 November	2004	Received Urban Studies' response to external reviewers' reports
18 November	2004	Reviewed and approved by Assessment Committee for New Graduate Programs
22 November	2004	Submitted to Senate Graduate Studies Committee
06 December	2004	Reviewed and approved by SGSC

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES
MEMORANDUM

TO: Jon Driver, SGSC

FROM: Trude Heift, ACNGP

SUBJECT: Master's in Urban Studies

DATE: November 19, 2004

At the ACNGP meeting of 18th November 2004 the committee unanimously recommended that the proposed Master's Program in Urban Studies be forwarded to SGSC, with the recommendation that it be approved, pending minor modifications. These changes have now been made and the concerns raised by ACNGP have been addressed.

Trude Heift



EXTERNAL REVIEW FOR MASTER'S PROGRAM IN URBAN STUDIES

Response of the Urban Studies Program, Harbour Centre

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Urban Studies Program

MEMORANDUM

TO: T. Heift, Chair,
Assessment Committee for
New Graduate Programs

FROM: J.M. Munro,
Director

SUBJECT: Response to Reviews of the
M.URB. Proposal

DATE: November 18, 2004

The Urban Studies Steering Committee has considered the five external reviews of the Master of Urban Studies (M.URB.) proposal and the discussion today with the Assessment Committee for New Graduate Programs and offers the following response.

1. We are pleased that all five reviewers recommended approval of the M.URB. proposal. They believed that the proposal met all four criteria set out by ACNGP in the review request. We respond below to the major criticisms and questions raised by four of the reviewers (Robert Lake had no criticisms or questions).
2. Caroline Andrew (CA) is confused by the differences between M.URB. and a Master's program in planning. Planning programs have a curriculum focussed more on the practice of urban planning and on urban design while the M.URB. is more interdisciplinary and focussed on social science approaches to understanding cities. CA asks whether we intend to "form planners" - we do not, but we expect that some persons who are working in urban planning occupations will wish to pursue the M.URB. in order to expand their understanding of cities and how they function.
3. CA suggests that the M.URB. should have more program structure with area requirements that ensure the development of core competencies for students. While there could be some value in adding more structure, the problems in offering courses in all areas according to a systematic timetable would be quite substantial and would increase difficulties for what we expect will largely be a part-time student body. It is, of course, possible that the advantages of structure would outweigh its disadvantages at some later stage of the M.URB.'s evolution.
4. CA suggests that we should include a course on urban diversity. This is indeed an important area but some of this topic is already subsumed in URB 620 (Urban Communities and Cultures). Other courses with significant diversity content include URB 645 (Urban Sustainable Development), URB 650 (Urban Governance), URB 685 (Health Status and Health Policy in Urban Canada) and URB 690 (The City in Art, Culture, and Politics). We would prefer to leave the introduction of a specialized course on urban diversity to a later revision of the program where other courses that reflect the interests of the two new faculty that we expect to hire will likely be added to the program.
5. CA concludes by asking for a sharper statement of the objectives of the program. We believe that the rational statement (pages 1 and 2) identifies program

objectives such as deepening the theory, policy and resolution of the many urban trends, problems and experiments in Canada (and internationally).

6. Larry Bourne (LB) says that the program needs "a distinctive culture" and suggests that it should emphasize "sustainability". He bases this choice on the first course in the list of new courses but the list is numerically ordered and the program will also use eight courses already approved for the Graduate Diploma in Urban Studies. Our focus on the city from a multitude of perspectives is unique in Western Canada and draws together the diverse disciplines represented on our steering committee. To create a multidisciplinary masters program in Urban Studies in Vancouver is itself the creation of a distinctive culture. It may well turn out that sustainability issues will be pre-eminent in M.URB. since several of our faculty members have this as a major interest and sustainability is an important urban policy issue generally and especially in Vancouver. However, we are not sure that choosing a focus is necessary or desirable, especially at the inception of a program that is still hiring faculty and not yet able precisely to ascertain student interests.
7. LB complains that there is no information in the proposal on the credit hour requirements of other SFU Master's programs. This information was not included, but when we were designing the program we used the credit hour requirements of other professional Master's programs as a guide. These included M.Pub. - 33 hours and M.A. (GERO) - 28 hours plus project. The 32 hours proposed for M.URB. is similar to the requirements for academic Master's programs. The MPP and MRM programs have substantially more credit hours than other Master's programs at Simon Fraser.
8. LB raises a number of other *questions* concerning the proposal.

4. *Part-time/outreach character of M.URB. should have been stated explicitly.* We are not sure what LB means by "outreach" but M.URB., while available on a part-time basis, is not restricted to part-time students.

5. *How long to complete the program?* In a program with many part-time students, this is difficult to estimate. A full-time student (12 hours per semester) could complete in three semesters, but might find the required course sequence (URB 670, 696, 697) difficult to finish in three semesters.

6. *Course sequencing not stated.* M.URB. has only a limited number of course prerequisites and all these are associated with the research requirement. With a limited number of course offerings per semester and a mixed full-time/part-time student body, a complex prerequisite structure would be inefficient.

7. *Financial support not clearly stated.* The proposal could have said more about this, but we believe the statement on page 11 is sufficient and meaningful for internal SFU purposes.

8. *Insufficient information on the faculty complement.* The teaching requirements of M.URB. (12 courses per year) are spelled out on pages 8-9 of the proposal. We believe this provides adequate support for the indicated budget.

9. *Insufficient mention of links to other units.* We do mention links to the four social science departments that "founded" graduate courses in urban studies at the beginning of the proposal and there are discussions of the City Program on page 2 and various SFU urban research centers on page 3. Also, page 9 notes possible sharing of courses with the MPP program.

10. *Why two Directed Readings courses? Why two project courses?* The two Directed Readings courses have different credit-hours. The two research project courses (697 and 699) were included at the instruction of the Dean of Graduate Studies.

11. *Why only two letters of reference? What TOEFL/TWE requirement?* We have changed Appendix B (Proposed Calendar Entry) so that it specifies three letters of reference. The minimum University English-language competence requirements are stated in Graduate General Regulations 1.3.12. We intend to use these, but would change if this standard was found to be unsatisfactory for M.URB. admissions.

9. Anne Vernez Moudon (AVM) asks why a Ph.D. program is not part of the proposal. This might well be a desirable evolution for the Urban Studies Program, but not at this time. Discipline-based Ph.D. study of urban topics is available elsewhere at Simon Fraser and the Special Arrangements Ph.D. could be used for inter-disciplinary Ph.D. study.
10. AVM would like employment opportunities for M.URB. graduates to be spelled out in more detail. The proposal does this on pages 1 and 2; we do not think that more is required at this stage.
11. The organizational structure of the Urban Studies program is unclear to AVM. The proposal does not give a specific description of organizational structure, but the status of the Urban Studies Program governed by an Urban Studies Steering Committee appointed by the Dean of Arts and Social Sciences establishes that Urban Studies is a stand-alone graduate program within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.
12. AVM recommends that the M.URB. include more "professional skill development" courses. Actually, apart from the research course sequence, there are no skills courses in the M.URB. If needed, these could be added, or students could take courses offered in other programs.
13. AVM would like to see letters of support from the local professional community. We are in the process of adding these, but we would note that a broad survey of the urban professional community was carried out as part of the School of Urban Studies study.
14. An Advisory Board for the program is suggested by AVM together with other involvement of the professional community. The Urban Studies Program is forming such a board in connection with the Urban Observatory project but a different board to advise on the future development of Urban Studies is a good idea. We will move to create one once the M.URB. is approved. We are already using local urban professionals in various teaching roles and would expect this to expand.

15. Ian Skelton (IS) would like the curriculum to include a survey course dealing with Canadian cities. We do not believe this would be appropriate, in part due to our desire not to limit study to Canadian cities but as well to deal with comparative international perspectives. Canadian urban material is already dealt with in several courses. "Contextualization" of the program will occur near its end and is one of the objectives of URB 696 (Research Seminar) and URB 697 (Research Project).
16. IS also (like CA) proposes the addition of a course dealing with urban diversity. Again, this is a worthwhile candidate for consideration when we first consider expanding the curriculum.
17. The emphasis on quantitative research in the Urban Research Methods course is criticized by IS. We agree that mastery of qualitative research techniques will be important for our students and we expect that this course will in fact have a good balance between these two approaches.
18. IS believes that there is insufficient diversity among our faculty and urges that diversity also be an objective in recruiting students. The issue of diversity in faculty recruiting is addressed by the University's Appointments Policy and we will observe the requirements of this Policy. The flexible, part-time structure of the MURB proposal, open to working professional students, and conveniently located in downtown Vancouver, has already been effective in attracting and retaining a diverse student body. We would expect this to continue to be the case without any special efforts on our part.
19. IS makes suggestions for additional Library resources. In fact, everything that he suggests has long been part of the Library's collection and we believe that acceptance of the Report from the Library on the M.URB. proposal (Appendix C) should be sufficient for the Library resource needs of the program.

COPY

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES
MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. John Munro

FROM: Trude Heift, ACNGP

SUBJECT: Program Proposal - Master's
in Urban Studies

DATE: November 18, 2004

Dear Dr. Munro:

Thank you for your presentation at today's ACNGP meeting. The committee recommends the following modifications of the graduate program proposal in Urban Studies for it to go forward to SGSC:

1) In the proposal, please change the required number of letters of reference from two to three.

2) In your response letter to the comments made by the external reviewers, please address the following:

a) diversity

On p. 4, #16, please list the courses that deal with diversity issues, e.g.:

"There is significant content of diversity in the following courses:..."

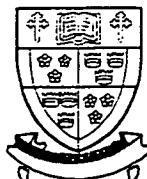
b) contextualization

On p. 3, # 15, please state that contextualization of the program is achieved in Urban Studies 696 and 697 which students are required to take at the end of the program.

Please send us a copy of the revised documents and I will forward the recommendation to SGSC. Thank you very much for your hard work on the proposal.

Best regards,

Trude Heift



9.

DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES

MEMORANDUM

TO: JOCK MUNRO
URBAN STUDIES PROGRAM, HARBOUR CENTRE

FROM: TRUDE HEIFT, ASSOCIATE DEAN

SUBJECT: MASTER'S PROGRAM IN URBAN STUDIES

DATE: OCTOBER 18, 2004

CC: ACNGP MEMBERS

You will find enclosed reports of five external reviewers on the proposal for the **Master's program in Urban Studies**. Prior to meeting with the Assessment Committee for New Graduate Programs, I would appreciate a written response to issues raised by the external reviewers, if possible by **Monday, November 8, 2004**.

For your information, the reviewers were asked to respond to the following points:

- The academic merit and structural integrity of the proposed program
- The adequacy of the faculty and other resources available to the proposed program for achieving its intended goals
- The demand for the proposed program among prospective students
- The demand for graduates of the proposed program

A meeting will be scheduled for further discussion of the Master's program in Urban Studies proposal. I will ask you or a representative of the Urban Studies Program, Harbour Centre to attend the meeting in order to answer any questions which the committee may have.

TH:vb

Enc.

**EXTERNAL REVIEW FOR MASTER'S PROGRAM
IN URBAN STUDIES**

**Dr. Caroline Andrew
Faculté des sciences sociales
Université d'Ottawa
Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5**

//.

From: Jonathan Driver [driver@sfu.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2004 8:29 AM
To: vivian_blaker@sfu.ca
Cc: Trude Heift
Subject: Fwd: Review of the proposed Masters in Urban Studies
Attachments: Review Masters in Urban Studies-S.Fraser U.doc

From: "Graciela Dancose" <gdancose@uottawa.ca>
To: <driver@sfu.ca>
Subject: Review of the proposed Masters in Urban Studies
Date: Tue, 28 Sep 2004 09:09:55 -0400
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 6.00.2800.1106
X-Virus-Scanned: by antibody.sfu.ca running antivirus scanner
X-Spam-Checker-Version: SpamAssassin 2.61 (1.212.2.1-2003-12-09-exp) on
antibody3.sfu.ca
X-Spam-Level: Spam-Level

September 28, 2004

Jonathan C. Driver
Dean of Graduate Studies
Simon Fraser University
Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6

Dear Dean Driver,

I am sending you, as an attachment, my assessment of the proposed masters in Urban Studies program. Thank you for the opportunity of reviewing this proposal.

Yours truly,

Caroline Andrew
Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences
University of Ottawa

Graciela Dancose
Adjointe administrative / Administrative Assistant
Cabinet de la doyenne / Office of the Dean
Faculté des sciences sociales / Faculty of Social Sciences
Université d'Ottawa / University of Ottawa
tel: 613-562-5800 poste/ext 1702
fax: 613-562-5106

12.

Masters in Urban Studies Program

I should start my comments right away by saying that I am favourable to the development of this program. As the document indicates, there are few, if any, programs similar to this proposal existing in English-speaking Canada. The French language programs in Montreal have produced both research and skilled graduates who have added enormously to our knowledge of urban development, policy and management, but primarily in relation to Montreal. I would expect that the Simon Fraser program would do this same thing in terms of expanding our knowledge about Vancouver and the Vancouver region. Given the importance of cities to Canadian life, as argued in the proposal, an urban studies program at Simon Fraser is timely and the proposal is appropriate in that it both builds on institutional strengths and develops them.

Academic merit and structural integrity

Having stated my basic approval of the idea of the program, I do have some questions about its nature and its structure. In terms of its basic thrust, I find that the document is not clear in terms of the relationship of the proposed program to a planning program. At the beginning of the rationale section, the document argues that urban studies programs started because there were students whose interests in cities went beyond physical planning. But then the document describes the types of student interest in ways that relate to planning (mid-career planners or pre-planning). This confused me – is the intention to form planners or to offer on-going training to planners? Or, as the document also suggests, is the intent to form urban analysts, capable of working in different sectors?

This question of the basic orientation of the program is linked to questions I have about the structure of the program. In the proposal, the basic structure is 32 credit hours, including three required courses oriented around research and the carrying out of a group project and an individual project. In addition to this block of required courses, students simply take their choice of courses.

My preference would be to have a bit more structure, by grouping courses and making students take courses in at least two of the streams. For instance, at the moment, the courses seem to fall into three categories; the analysis of cities and culture (610, 620, 690), urban policy (630, 645, 655 according to the description, 660, 665, 685) and urban governance and management (640, 650, 680). I would suggest that there be a discussion of the relationship between the specific nature of the program and the way in which this could get translated into requiring students to take at least one course within a grouping.

For instance, if the intent of the program is basically to form urban analysts, requiring students to take a course from those on urban policy would be appropriate. Or, given the set of required courses around research, it might be more appropriate for the goals of the program to get students to choose a stream (urban policy, urban governance, urban analysis) to go with the required research courses.

Leaving choice for students is a good idea but some structure would seem to me to better reflect the idea that the goals of the program can, and should, include a vision about core competencies for the kind of person the program wants to form.

The choice of courses offered appears to reflect a basic list that has emerged over time, partly in relation to other programs and partly in terms of professors' areas of research and expertise. These are legitimate constraints on developing a program but at the same time the new program offers the opportunity of looking at the overall list in terms of appropriate grouping of courses and core competencies in terms of program objectives. I may well have grouped courses inappropriately as it was largely done in terms of course titles but I think that greater precision about the nature of the program should be linked to somewhat more structure in course groupings.

I was somewhat surprised that there seemed to be no course that looked specifically at ethno-cultural diversity in cities, either as a governance and/or management issue (The Management of Diversity) or as a public policy issue. Given the multicultural aspect of Canadian major urban centres, and specifically Vancouver, a course that deals primarily with this focus would be an important addition to the program. There are always choices in terms of courses to be created, again recognizing the constraints of existing expertise and links to other programs, but the question of diversity seems to me central.

Adequacy of faculty

The faculty is certainly adequate, and much more than that, in terms of realizing the goals of the proposed program. There are some very strong scholars in the group. One might feel that it was over weighted to geographers but the different geographers are quite varied in their areas and approaches. If new resources are added it would seem to me more appropriate to go outside geography and strengthen either the policy area or the governance area.

Demand for the program from students

I found that the proposal discussed this question thoroughly and that the argument for student interest seemed to be convincing.

Demand for graduates

I think that there will be a slowly growing demand for graduates of this kind of urban studies program. I say "slow" because past experience has shown that the understanding of the value of an urban studies program takes time to develop into employment possibilities. But the increase in job opportunities will occur, both as public sector analysts but also analysts with the private sector and non-profit sector. The graduates of the program will have opportunities to do relevant work.

Conclusions

I think that the program should be approved. As is clear from my suggestions, I think that a sharper focus (which doesn't mean a narrow program but being clear about what the objectives of the program are) to the description of the program and some limited additions to the structuring of the program to reflect the objectives would improve the program. Simon Fraser certainly has the resources to support the program and I do believe that there will be an increasing demand for the sort of graduates that the program will produce.

**EXTERNAL REVIEW FOR MASTER'S PROGRAM
IN URBAN STUDIES**

**Dr. Larry S. Bourne
Department of Geography
University of Toronto
100 St. George Street, Sidney Smith Hall
Toronto, ON M5S 3G3**

From: Jonathan Driver [driver@sfu.ca]
Sent: Thursday, September 02, 2004 11:42 AM
To: vivian_blaker@sfu.ca
Subject: first review of urban studies
Attachments: SFUReview.doc

From: "Larry Bourne" <larry.bourne@utoronto.ca>
To: <driver@sfu.ca>
Subject: Masters in Urban Studies review
Date: Thu, 2 Sep 2004 09:53:00 -0400
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 5.00.2615.200
X-Virus-Scanned: by antibody.sfu.ca running antivirus scanner
X-Virus-Scanned: by antibody.sfu.ca running antivirus scanner
X-Spam-Level: Spam-Level S
X-Spam-Checker-Version: SpamAssassin 2.61 (1.212.2.1-2003-12-09-exp) on
antibody3.sfu.ca

Dear Dean Driver:

Attached is a copy of my review of the proposal for the Masters of Urban Studies program at SFU.

Please let me know if you require more detailed information, or a copy printed on letterhead.

Regards.

Larry S. Bourne
Professor of Geography and Planning
University of Toronto

Jonathan C. Driver
Dean of Graduate Studies
Professor of Archaeology
Simon Fraser University
8888 University Drive
Burnaby, British Columbia
V5A 1S6
driver@sfu.ca
Telephone: 604-291-4255 Facsimile: 604-291-3080

<http://www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies>

17.

To:
The Dean of Graduate Studies and
The Assessment Committee
New Graduate Programmes
Simon Fraser University
Burnaby BC

2 September 2004

Comments in Review of the Proposed Masters in Urban Studies Program

As requested, I have reviewed the proposal for a new Masters Program in Urban Studies and offer the following comments under two headings: a general evaluation and then specific comments and questions.

General Evaluation:

This programme is clearly justified. There are to my knowledge few MA programmes explicitly in urban studies in Canadian universities, other than those at Concordia and York, and therefore little potential competition or overlap (except perhaps with planning). The academic programme as outlined does have internal coherence, and a logical and well thought out structure. There also appears to be a demand for the programme, and for its graduates, based on the recent experience of the urban Diploma programme. I also have no doubts regarding the competence and commitment of the faculty to mount and manage the programme. I know all but two of the contributors and have the utmost respect for those whose work I have read. On this basis, I would recommend support for the proposed programme, but with some minor reservations and a few technical questions attached.

One such reservation is that I might have expected to see the programme content assume a somewhat more specific focus, that is, a distinctive culture. That focus might be on particular issues, or particular approaches to the study of cities, or on professional practice, or on applied policy analysis and/or academic research. Urban studies as a subject area is now so broad that no single programme can cover everything; nor can it be designed to suit all users. The admission criteria suggest an emphasis on the social sciences rather than say architecture, design, fine art, cultural studies, engineering, environmental studies or whatever. Is the intention to emphasize a social science approach? Also, since the first course listed is on sustainable development as an urban policy tool, I further assume that sustainability and policy will be among the primary subjects of interest; or will they?

If so lets put that information up front.

Second, the absence of comparable data on other similar programmes at SFU makes it difficult to assess questions of appropriate student loads, course requirements and budget requests.

Specific Comments and Questions:

1. The proposal is relatively short on details and specifics.
2. Moreover, the proposal was not written with an eye to reviewers from outside the BC university system: for example, it is not obvious to this reviewer how many courses are represented by 32 credit hours.
3. How does the course credit weight assigned to the programme compare with other Masters programmes at SFU?
4. The programme appears to be largely an out-reach or part-time programme (at least I draw this inference from statements on page 6 that most students will be part-time). If so, this should have been stated at the outset.
5. I could see no statement as to how long it will take for students to complete the programme (particularly if they are part-time). In terms of resource implications, I would like to have been told how long, on average and under differing assumptions, it will take most students to finish the programme. This will certainly influence the number and scheduling of courses and the number of faculty required to deliver those courses.
6. Course sequencing – in what order might (or should) courses be taken, other than the core courses?
7. Student financial support – this is not clear, but I take it from page 11 that there is none available, at least on entering the programme. For others it seems that support might be available “once they are in the programme.” Does this mean that students will not be eligible for external fellowship support as part of the admission process? If so, is the programme likely to attract first-class students (at least as full-time students) without fellowship support?.
8. Faculty complement (FTE) – without knowing how many courses are required and how many students are likely to be in the programme at any given time it is difficult to judge the request for new resources and faculty positions.
9. Links to other units – I would like to have seen more discussion regarding the potential relations (and possible collaboration) between the urban studies programme and other cognate units in campus – specifically, parallel institutes and other interdisciplinary programmes (eg in government). Are there any potential cost savings here? Are there any synergies? If there are then fewer new courses may be needed. In other words, I am not convinced by the evidence provided to date that so many new courses are needed.
10. Specific courses – why are two directed readings courses needed? Why is it necessary to have one course designation for starting a research project (697) and another for completing the project (699)? Is this an accounting issue/strategy?
11. Application and admission: are two letters of reference sufficient (we usually ask for three)? What TOEFL and TWE scores are required on admission (is there a minimum)?

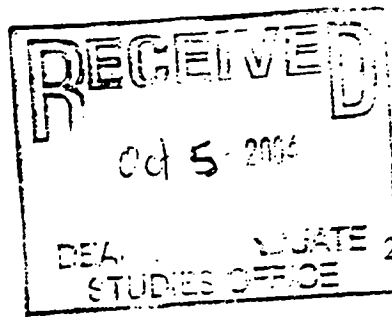
12. Background: are there any minimum expectations regarding the backgrounds of students? For example, should they have a minimum number of social science courses?; a background in statistics and/or with spread sheets?

Assuming that there are reasonable answers to these questions (or they can be discounted by the Assessment Committee because I have missed significant parts of the proposal), I would recommend support for the programme proposal.

Larry S. Bourne MCIP FRSC
Professor of Geography and Planning
Department of Geography and Program in Planning
And the Centre for Urban and Community Studies
University of Toronto
Toronto ON
M5S 3G3

**EXTERNAL REVIEW FOR MASTER'S PROGRAM
IN URBAN STUDIES**

**Dr. Robert W. Lake
Center for Urban Policy Research
Rutgers University
33 Livingstone Avenue, Suite 400
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1982 U. S. A.**



28 September 2004

Dr. Jonathan C. Driver
Dean of Graduate Studies
Simon Fraser University
Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6
Canada

Dear Dr. Driver:

I am pleased to respond to your request to review the proposed Masters in Urban Studies program (M.URB.) at Simon Fraser University. The proposal is timely, coherent and compelling, is based on a convincing rationale, draws on the skills of a talented faculty, and fills a demonstrable need. On my review of the proposal, I strongly recommend approval of the proposed program.

The rationale for a new Masters program in Urban Studies rests on two compelling arguments. First, there is strong evidence of renewed recognition of the importance of urban places and processes. According to United Nations projections, by 2050 some six billion of the world's then nine billion people will live in cities, involving a tripling of the world's urban population within two generations. An adequate understanding of economic, political, social, cultural, and ecological dynamics is not possible without an understanding of cities. As a consequence, urban studies has reemerged as a central focus of both academic inquiry and public policy. The new Masters program in Urban Studies will position Simon Fraser University as a leader in this important realm.

A second, related, and equally important rationale for the M.URB. graduate degree program is the inherently multidisciplinary nature of urban studies. While many disciplines include an urban focus within their purview, a comprehensive understanding of the urban both necessitates and produces a multidisciplinary perspective that can best be achieved through the synthetic lens of an urban studies program. Here again, Simon Fraser is well-positioned to draw upon faculty skills from several disciplines to contribute to a well-rounded program, and the case for doing so is a compelling one.

The proposed program appears to be of sound academic quality. The 32 hours of graduate course credit for the degree consist of three required core courses, focusing on research methods and completion of an original research project, and an array of substantive courses. These offerings are further augmented by opportunities for directed reading and the use of up to two graduate-level courses from other departments applicable on a permission basis. The proposed program thus utilizes an appropriate mix

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY
RUTGERS

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of structured requirements and opportunities for individual direction and enrichment. This flexibility is particularly appropriate given the expectation that a considerable proportion of students likely to enroll in the program are employed full- or part-time and/or are in mid-career. Students in such categories are likely to benefit from a minimum of programmatic requirements and the ability to define and pursue their particular interests. That students were involved in planning the program structure increases the likelihood that the program as proposed will meet their needs.

There is considerable evidence that the program fills a strong and growing student demand. As noted above, the growth in awareness of the importance of cities has been widely remarked and will only increase in coming decades, prompting demand for graduate-level training in urban studies. Locally, Simon Fraser has seen respectable student interest in its Graduate Diploma in Urban Studies (GDUS) and the proposal's authors are correct in anticipating even greater student interest in a graduate program leading to a degree (and the credential the degree confers). The expected enrollment of 35 students in the first year and 45 students in subsequent years appears both realistic and sufficient to fill courses and produce the critical mass necessary to create the "buzz" of lively interaction conducive to a vibrant and enriching academic experience.

Finally, it is inevitable that growing recognition of the centrality of urban issues and processes will be reflected in high demand for graduates of the proposed program. Employers within the non-profit and private sectors and at all levels of government value broadly trained individuals able to approach problems with a comprehensive and integrative perspective. Many students who are already employed will be able to use the degree as a credential for advancement and promotion. Within a relatively short period of time, these individuals will constitute a network of alumni who may be called upon to recruit subsequent generations of students as employment opportunities arise.

In light of the above considerations, I strongly support the proposal for a new Masters in Urban Studies. The proposal makes sense in light of global trends, student needs, faculty expertise, and Simon Fraser's longstanding commitment to the community.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Lake
Professor

**EXTERNAL REVIEW FOR MASTER'S PROGRAM
IN URBAN STUDIES**

**Dr. Anne Vernez Moudon
College of Architecture & Urban Planning
Department of Urban Design & Planning
University of Washington
Box 355740
Seattle, WA 98195 U. S. A.**

From: Jonathan Driver [driver@sfu.ca]
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2004 8:29 AM
To: vivian_blaker@sfu.ca
Subject: Fwd: Masters in Urban Studies Review
Attachments: Simon_Fraser_MUrb_Degree_Sept 04.doc

Date: Wed, 22 Sep 2004 10:08:47 -0700 (PDT)
From: Anne Vernez Moudon <moudon@u.washington.edu>
To: driver@sfu.ca
cc: Anne Vernez Moudon <moudon@u.washington.edu>
Subject: Masters in Urban Studies Review
X-Virus-Scanned: by antibody.sfu.ca running antivirus scanner
X-Virus-Scanned: by antibody.sfu.ca running antivirus scanner
X-Spam-Level: Spam-Level S
X-Spam-Checker-Version: SpamAssassin 2.61 (1.212.2.1-2003-12-09-exp) on
antibody2.sfu.ca

Dear Prof, Driver, please find my review attached. Let me know if you need to hard copy to be mailed.

Anne Vernez Moudon, Dr. es Sc.

Professor of Architecture, Landscape Architecture,
and Urban Design and Planning
University of Washington, Box 355740, Seattle, WA 98195
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Jonathan C. Driver
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25.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

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*College of Architecture and Urban Planning
Department of Urban Design and Planning*

Jonathan C. Driver
Dean Graduate Studies
Professor of Archeology
Simon Fraser University
Burnaby, BC
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September 19, 2004

Dear Professor Driver:

I reviewed the July 8, 2004 proposal to develop a Masters in Urban Studies program at Simon Fraser University. Overall, I am impressed with the systematic and careful approach that Simon Fraser University has taken to developing a program of courses in urban studies. It is clear that the faculty and the administration have had a sustained interest in the subject and have gradually mounted a structure of course offerings that has attracted a substantial number of students. Urban studies are likely to become increasingly popular as the world's population growth peaks and urban migration continues. So, in general, it makes sense for Simon Fraser University to further consolidate its urban studies program.

I have both comments and questions regarding the four areas of concern indicated in your letter.

1. Academic merit and structural integrity:

The rationale for focusing the program on urban studies as a field of study addressing issues related to urban societies that are broader than those of urban planning is clearly explained and convincing.

In view of the research-based structure of the curriculum, and the strong linkages to several research centers in and out of the University, I wonder why the proposal is restricted to a Master's level degree. A parallel doctoral degree would reinforce the program's research component as well as insure an outreach to undergraduate students. Has a doctoral program been considered, or is it part of a future planned growth of urban studies at Simon Fraser? The question needs to be raised and discussed.

I see the proposed Master's degree as being similar perhaps to current Master's degrees in Public Health (MPH). These programs are successful in attracting medical practitioners or clinicians wanting/needing to update or redirect their professional practice. Likewise, many of the M.Urb. students could come from a range of practical experiences. As proposed, the program seems to

**EXTERNAL REVIEW FOR MASTER'S PROGRAM
IN URBAN STUDIES**

**Dr. Ian Skelton
Department of City Planning
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focus on students with a BA or BS, with or without practical experience. For the latter students, employment opportunities after graduation are not clear because of the non-professional and interdisciplinary nature of the program. Spelling out employment opportunities after graduation would be helpful (see also point 4. below). It should be noted that MPH programs typically link students to various funding/research endeavors, and thus allow professionals entering the programs to have at least some on-going financial support.

The institutional structure of the program needs to be explicitly outlined addressing both the administrative and curricular components. What happened to the proposed School of Urban Studies made in 1995, did it become what is the Urban Studies Program established in 2002? Beyond the multi-departmental collaboration, formal linkages with research programs involving partnership between several of the existing centers would be beneficial—insuring for example internships for M.Urb. students, or involving regular seminars discussing on-going research, actual applications of research methods, etc.

2. Adequacy of faculty and other resources available to the program

The faculty listed as part of the program has excellent qualifications. Resources to administer the program successfully seem adequate. See further suggestions under point 4. below

3. Student demand for program

The demand seems strong, and large enough to offer courses frequently enough to insure timely graduation rates. I wonder if the courses would be actively marketed to UBC students, especially to those in the accredited Urban Planning program.

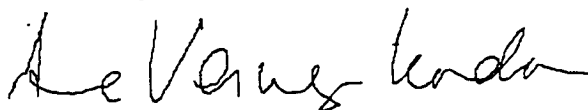
Regarding demand for specific courses, I suspect that students in the program will eventually require more courses directed at professional skill development (e.g., GIS, communications, public finance, etc.) and fewer courses focusing on research design and methods.

4. Demand for graduates of the program:

This part of the proposal remains undeveloped—as noted in many of my comments above. I suggest that alliances with local and international agencies involved in urban issues be formed before the program is launched. The proposal should include letters of support from local professional and political community. You may want to consider establishing an Advisory Board or Professional Council to guide the program and provide further mentoring for students and internship opportunities. You may be considering the involvement of local professionals in teaching. And, as mentioned before, formal connections should be established with the various research centers involved in urban studies.

I hope this is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any further information.

Sincerely,



Anne Vernez Moudon

Professor of Architecture, Landscape Architecture,
and Urban Design and Planning

From: Jonathan Driver [driver@sfu.ca]
Sent: Friday, October 01, 2004 8:05 AM
To: vivian_blaker@sfu.ca; trude Heift
Subject: Fwd: Proposal review
Attachments: SFUrev.doc

To: Jonathan Driver <driver@sfu.ca>
From: Ian Skelton <iskelton@umanitoba.ca>
Subject: Proposal review
Date: Thu, 30 Sep 2004 22:48:25 -0500
X-Mailer: Apple Mail (2.619)
X-Virus-Scanned: by antibody.sfu.ca running antivirus scanner
X-Spam-Checker-Version: SpamAssassin 3.0.0 (2004-09-13) on antibody1.sfu.ca
X-Spam-Level: Spam-Level

Dear Dean Driver

Please find attached my review of the proposed Master in Urban Studies. I wish the University every success in the new program.

Sincerely

Ian Skelton, PhD, MCIP
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29.

10/1/2004

By e-mail

30 September 30, 2004

Professor Jonathan C. Driver
Dean of Graduate Studies
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Burnaby, British Columbia
Canada V5A 1S6

Dear Dean Driver

Re: Review of the Proposal for a Masters in Urban Studies
Simon Fraser University

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed Masters in Urban Studies at Simon Fraser University. I'm most impressed with the work that has gone into the proposal, and find that the program has a great deal of potential. Given the national and international attention turning to urban issues, the timing is auspicious indeed. As requested, my review will touch in the four items in your letter of 28 July.

Academic merit and structural integrity

The proposed program consists of 19 courses, including several existing offerings. All students will take a methods course and two project courses involving group and individual work, and a further five courses selected according to interest, to complete the required 32 hours. Outlines for the new courses are included in the proposal, and they clearly reflect the high standards set by the instructors and the depth of their experience. Students will gain good grounding in the aspects of urban studies covered in these courses.

It seems to me that a required course exploring the nature of the urban problematic in Canada should be included. The proposed program rests on the strong foundations of providing opportunities for broadening perspectives and for specializing in existing skills. Without a course requirement that lays the basis for a comprehensive understanding of urban issues students may specialize without context – with the consequence of continuing the production of piecemeal urban policies and practices. Another way of putting this is that the broad base claimed in the proposal should be given specific content reflecting the general orientation of the program to urban issues.

One particular aspect of the current urban problematic, diversity issues, is only weakly represented in the course offerings, although its importance is recognized in the proposal. Topics of significance for urban Canada would be related to immigration, Aboriginal communities, sexuality issues and many other themes. Most reflective communities are struggling to meet challenges posed by diversity; the curriculum of the proposed program should do so also.

Another point about the curriculum is that the methods course is essentially in the camp of quantitative methods. One session provides an overview of qualitative work and the session on elite interviewing might use this branch of social scientific methodology. Some of the selected readings are rooted there. However, most of the classes and the course description point to quantitative methods. It has been recognized for some time now that quantitative reasoning and measurement are poorly equipped to handle many urban issues, and therefore the course should be broadened to embrace qualitative methods more deeply.

Faculty and resources

The faculty members associated with the proposed program include many scholars and educators with distinguished national and international reputations and thus there is every confidence in the proposal in term of the strength of the staff. However, the faculty group is not diverse: most members are men of European origin. In order to create an environment in which diversity issues are fully valued and explored it will be essential to use the new positions to broaden the composition of the faculty. It should be clear that a program designed in a way that does not fully make use of every opportunity to address diversity would have limited relevance to contemporary urban society.

In terms of library resources, a number of serials should be added, including *Canadian Journal of Urban Research*, *Journal of Planning Literature* (this contains review articles and comprehensive indexes), and serials in housing studies, community development and public administration.

A useful resource not identified in the proposal is the Institute of Urban Studies at the University of Winnipeg. IUS has produced considerable quantities of research reports over the years and currently holds a SSHRC Research Chair in Urban Studies.

Demand by students

As indicated, the escalating attention to urban issues and policy should prompt strong demand by students. The experience of the University in attracting students in the area also gives confidence that enrolment will be strong. However, for reasons already given, the proposal should specifically address measures to ensure that the student body is diverse.

Demand for graduates

The contemporary urban agenda should maintain strong demand for graduates. On the question of professional accreditation, the success of Rural Development at Brandon University, which did not pursue accreditation, suggests that graduates will be productively engaged.

Summary

The main points:

- In my view it is an opportune moment for the development of a graduate program in urban studies.
- The proposed program will be delivered by eminently qualified instructors and the courses are well laid out.
- I recognize that the suggestion to strengthen the core with a course exploring the urban problematic may have been considered and set aside by the proponents, but in the absence of a rationale for omission, I recommend inclusion.
- Diversity issues are poorly addressed in staffing, course content and student recruitment. If the program fails to take these issues up – and it can do so – it is difficult to see how it will avoid reproducing significant elements of the urban problematic.

I trust these comments will be useful.

Respectfully submitted,

Ian Skelton, PhD, MCIP
Professor
Department of City Planning
University of Manitoba

A PROPOSAL FOR A MASTER'S PROGRAM IN URBAN STUDIES

JULY 8, 2004

A. INTRODUCTION AND RATIONALE

1. Name of Department Urban Studies Program

2. Credential Master of Urban Studies (M.URB.)

3. Introduction

The University's development of urban studies programming has been an interdepartmental initiative involving faculty from six departments. The current proposal originates with the Urban Studies Steering Committee (USSC). This committee was established by the Dean of Arts in 1998 to supervise the offering of Urban Studies 600 and 601 and to consider further steps to implement the School of Urban Studies proposal (see below) after experience in offering these two courses. The first graduate-level credential approved was the Graduate Diploma in Urban Studies (GDUS), which admitted its first students in September, 2002.

The USSC is now proposing an expansion of graduate urban studies programming to add a Master of Urban Studies (M.URB.) degree program. The preliminary proposal for this program received approval from the Senate Committee on University Priorities on June 11, 2003. The M.URB. would require completion of 32 credit hours, which includes a research project. The curriculum would use 8 of the 10 existing graduate Urban Studies (URB) courses and add 11 additional courses. Our aim is to have the M.URB. available in January or February, 2005.

4. Rationale Statement

The city is a central feature of modern societies and economies and the development of cities over the past 500 years has paralleled and in fact led the evolution of the modern world. Academic interest in urban studies spans many disciplines and is focussed on understanding what cities are, how they function, and how they change. Focussed study of the city provides important perspectives on many of today's social and economic problems.

The academic breadth of urban studies ranges across planning, architecture, and engineering with important links to anthropology, economics, political science, and sociology. Urban studies is an especially important field in geography because the spatial dimensions of cities are so important, both internally and in the relationships of cities in regional and national space.

Urban Studies developed as a field of study because urban planning programs often did not offer the range of courses demanded by students. Urban Studies provides a vehicle for students with an interest in the city that goes beyond physical planning; they seek to broaden their perspective as mid-career planners or to specialize their urban social, economic, or environmental skills as a prerequisite to training to become planners. M.URB. students will come from a variety of undergraduate fields. For example, students with a health sciences background may be interested in a Master of Urban Studies degree to become urban health policy managers. Students with a political science degree may seek a Master of Urban Studies looking toward a career in urban government, philanthropy, or non-government research and advocacy. Other careers exist for Master of Urban Studies graduates in urban economic

development, housing management, cultural and social development, journalism, community organizing, and international urban development.

Canada is one of the world's most urbanized countries. Creative cities, model cities, cities-that-work, and sustainable cities are valued parts of the Canadian imagination but all are in need of better theory, policy, and practice. Policy makers at provincial and federal levels, working through established channels as well as the new federal urban initiatives, are beginning to recognize the vital need for broad-based and serious scholarly and policy focus on Canadian cities. The economic intensity, cultural and demographic diversity, and density of demand for housing, infrastructure and social services in Canadian cities raises a new slate of issues that our graduates will be prepared to address.

Simon Fraser has always recognized that it is an urban university. Our Harbour Centre campus is located in the core of British Columbia's principal urban, national and international center. Also, the emerging Great Northern Way campus, shared with three other institutions, will offer opportunities for activities related to urban studies. However, an urban university is defined not only by its location, but also by its philosophy and programs, its interactive relationships, and a commitment to intellectual participation in the community. The Urban Studies Program provides a strong foundation in various urban-related disciplines and emphasizes the application of these disciplines to real-world problems and situations.

The USSC believes that the M.URB. proposal is consistent with the academic planning themes of the University as expressed over the last decade. The 2001-04 academic plans of the Department of Geography and the Dean of Arts include the M.URB. as an anticipated new program. The first academic goal on the 2001-04 Plan of the Vice President, Academic is to "reaffirm our commitment to the arts and sciences while enabling development of applied and professional programs". One of the means to achieve this goal is the development of cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary programs. The M.URB., which is referred to in this section of the University's Plan, is such a program.

B. URBAN STUDIES PROGRAMS

1. Development of Urban Studies Programming at Simon Fraser

Urban Studies Programming, 1991-2002

A Post Baccalaureate Diploma in Urban Studies and a Certificate in Urban Studies were established in 1991 to combine undergraduate courses offered by the Departments of Geography, Political Science and Sociology and Anthropology into a coherent programmatic stream. Also, the non-credit City Program was established in Continuing Studies in 1992 to offer non-credit mid-career courses for urban professionals, public lectures and short courses and an Urban Design Certificate program which together provide a forum for the exploration of current urban issues. The program has been an outstanding success and has served over 21,000 people. The achievements of the City Program have been recognized throughout the urban community and have resulted in substantial contributions to the City Program Endowment Fund from the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia, the Lohn Foundation, and other donors. The City Program has won several awards for its innovative and effective programming.

School of Urban Studies Proposal, 1994-96

In March, 1995 a proposal for a School of Urban Studies was completed. It included recommendations for two Master's programs and a Ph.D. program. This proposal was considered by the Faculty of Arts Graduate Studies Committee and received "approval for further planning" from the former Senate Committee on Academic Planning in June, 1995. A final report and recommendations were submitted to the Dean of Arts in March, 1996. A decision was made within the Faculty of Arts to implement urban studies courses on an incremental basis working in conjunction with the City Program where feasible.

Graduate Urban Studies Programming, 1998-2002

The Senate Graduate Studies Committee authorized experimental graduate urban studies programming in May, 1998. Two courses were approved: Urban Studies 600-4 (Urban Transformations) and Urban Studies 601-4 (Urban Issues and Solutions), which was offered with the City Program. These courses were delivered in the 1999/2000 and 2000/01 academic years to 33 students with administrative support by the Department of Geography. Three other graduate-level urban courses were offered to this group of students by the Departments of Geography and Political Science during this period.

Urban Studies Program, 2002 - present

In 2002 the University approved the establishment of a Graduate Diploma in Urban Studies (GDUS) with a curriculum of 10 courses, appointed a Director of the Urban Studies Program, and created an administrative staff position. Courses in the GDUS were first offered in September, 2002. A total of 40 graduate students have taken GDUS courses.¹ A Steering Committee composed of faculty from various University departments plus two students has guided the development and operation of the Program. The first regular faculty appointment in Urban Studies began in November, 2003; this followed a one-year limited term faculty appointment in 2002-03.

The Urban Studies Program also hosts policy forums such as the "Mayoral Visions of Vancouver" event ((November 2002), the "Olympic Vote Town Hall 2003" ((February 2003); and the "Gimme Shelter: Who Pays the Rent" forum on housing and homelessness (February, 2004), all co-hosted with CBC Radio One. The Program's involvement in the World Urban Forum is discussed below.

Urban Research

Simon Fraser has over 20 faculty members with urban research interests and several research centres in the University carry out urban-related research. The Center for Research on Immigration and Integration in the Metropolis (RIIM) is one of four Canadian inter-university centers studying the impacts of immigration on Canadian cities. The Institute for Governance Studies is involved in a large comparative project on city governance performance and the Institute for Canadian Urban Research Studies has developed a large comprehensive GIS database for Greater Vancouver. The Community Economic Development Centre has several research projects that deal with urban sustainability. The Urban Studies program is working

¹ Thirty-one GDUS students and 9 students from other departments, mainly Resource and Environmental Management.

with the Centre for Policy Research in Science and Technology in assisting the City of Burnaby in revising their economic development strategy.

World Urban Forum

The University is a partner in the World Urban Forum (WUF) to be held in Vancouver in June, 2006. This will be the 30th anniversary of the 1976 Habitat Conference, which led to the establishment of the UN Human Settlements Program. WUF will be hosted by the Government of Canada under the auspices of the UN Human Settlements Program. Urban Studies is involved with planning the program for this major policy and research conference and has developed a preliminary proposal for a Centre for Sustainable Urban Environments to be funded as a legacy of the Forum. This Centre, which would be located at the Great Northern Way campus, would be a partnership of the Great Northern Way member institutions to further research and education in sustainable urban development.

UniverCity Project

The UniverCity project to develop a 10,000-person new urban community on Burnaby Mountain at the University's main campus provides an excellent opportunity for study of problems common to large-scale suburban development across Canada.

2. Other Urban Studies Programs

Sixteen Canadian universities, including the University of B.C., have graduate planning programs accredited by the Canadian Institute of Planners². All these programs have an urban planning component and offer courses that correspond with some of the courses, existing and new, proposed for inclusion in the M.URB. None, however, offers the breadth of approach to study of the city or diversity of disciplinary approaches as would be provided by the M.URB. While a few Canadian universities offer undergraduate programs in urban studies that range across several departments, none has a stand-alone graduate urban studies program.

Urban Studies research often attracts substantial research funding from granting councils and other research funding sources. There are several well-established and productive urban research institutes in Canada. The Centre for Urban and Community Studies at the University of Toronto was established in 1964 and hundreds of urban research projects have been carried out under its auspices (<http://www.urbancenter.utoronto.ca/#>). In Quebec INRS-Urbanisation, affiliated with the Université du Québec has sponsored a variety of urban-related research projects.

In contrast, there are many urban studies programs in U.S. universities, often housed in units that also offer urban planning or public policy graduate degrees. Most of these have affiliated urban research centers - excellent examples include the Center for Urban Policy Research at Rutgers University (<http://www.rutgers.edu/cupr/index1.htm>) and the Great Cities Institute at the University of Illinois at Chicago (<http://www.uic.edu/cuppa/gci/>).

² See section H., below, for information concerning the accreditation and membership requirements of the Canadian Institute of Planners.

C. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE M.URB.

1. Admission Criteria

Applicants for admission would normally be required to hold an undergraduate degree in one of the urban studies base disciplines (economics, geography, political science, sociology and anthropology) and to meet the standard requirements for admission to a Simon Fraser Master's program. Applications from students with other degrees or with equivalent professional training and experience would also be considered. Admissions decisions would be based on undergraduate grades, a statement of the applicant's interest in the program, a sample of the applicant's written work, and letters of reference. Students currently enrolled in the GDUS would be required to re-apply for admission to the M.URB.

2. Degree Requirements

The M.URB. will require 32 hours of Urban Studies graduate course credit. URB 670-4 (Urban Research Methods), URB 696-4 (Seminar in Urban Studies) and URB 697-4 (Research Project) would be required. Up to two graduate-level courses from other departments could be used towards the M.URB. with the permission of the Urban Studies Graduate Program Committee.

D. COURSE CHANGES

1. New Courses

Urban Studies 645-4 Urban Sustainable Development

Urban Studies 655-4 Global Cities

Urban Studies 665-4 Urban Housing Policy

Urban Studies 670-4 Urban Research Methods

Urban Studies 680-4 Managing Cities

Urban Studies 685-4 Health Policy in Urban Societies

Urban Studies 693-2 Directed Readings I

Urban Studies 694-4 Directed Readings II

Urban Studies 696-4 Seminar in Urban Studies

Urban Studies 697-4 Research Project

Urban Studies 699-2 Research Project Completion

2. Existing Courses To Be Discontinued

Urban Studies 605-2 Introduction to Urban Studies

Urban Studies 698-2 Seminar in Urban Studies

URB 605 and URB 698 will no longer be required courses for the GDUS.

3. Graduate Diploma in Urban Studies

It would be possible for the Urban Studies Program to continue to offer the GDUS once the M.URB. was operating. Some students may prefer to study for a graduate credential that does not involve a separate research project. Students would be able to transfer course credit into the M.URB., once their admission to this program had been approved. Whether the GDUS will continue will depend on the level of student interest. A review of the future of the GDUS will occur within two years of the start of the M.URB.

E. INNOVATIVE TEACHING IN THE M.URB.

As an interdisciplinary program, many aspects of Urban Studies courses have elements of innovation. Most GDUS students have been part-time and combined study with work. We expect this to continue to be the case with M.URB. students. We have offered GDUS courses in the evening and on Saturdays, on a full, or half-semester basis. However, we plan to provide a broader variety of learning experiences for students in the M.URB. program.

1. We are interested in Friday/Saturday intensive courses, which would combine team-taught classes and guest speakers.
2. We plan to introduce new students to the M.URB. with a non-credit all-day seminar featuring presentations by the faculty members involved in the Urban Studies program and offering students the opportunity to discuss their own interests and backgrounds.
3. A co-operative education option would be considered within the first two years of the introduction of the M.URB. This would follow the model specified in section 1.4.7 of the Graduate General Regulations. We will also explore options for international field courses and partnerships with urban programs at universities abroad.
4. Field seminars will be included in courses where appropriate.

F. RESEARCH PROJECT

The program's three required courses, URB 670 (Research Methods), URB 696 (Seminar in Urban Studies) and URB 697 (Research Project), are designed to be the major research component of the M.URB degree. In 670, students learn how urban researchers design and conduct research projects, from the background research that produces an hypothesis statement to the gathering and analysis of data, to the production of a final policy, planning, or thematic urban report. This course will prepare students for the process of urban research that they will undertake first, in 696, in groups, and then, in 697, independently.

The intent of URB 696 is to introduce students to the process of urban research through work as a class group, under the direction of the instructor. The instructor will work with interested local government, non-government and business groups to devise current and locally-relevant research projects for each semester that 696 is offered. Each class's final result may be presented to the client group and contribute to the practice of urban development in Vancouver. Students will have the opportunity to develop collaborative, managerial, and other group-based skills in working on their project as a group and working with a client on a short-term, time-sensitive basis. In addition to a final live briefing to a client, the results of 696 will also include a group-produced urban research memorandum.

The Research Project course, URB 697 will allow students to demonstrate the variety of technical and analytical skills garnered in the program. This course will give students the opportunity to conduct independent urban research with a view to producing either a more theoretically-oriented paper of publishable quality or a more practically-oriented professional decision report. Following their experience working as a group in URB 696, students will have the option of devising a research project with a practical orientation toward a client similar to the case in 696 or a comparative, international, or theoretical urban research issue of their choosing. Performance in this course will be taken as a primary measure of a student's ability to successfully complete the M.URB degree

Progress towards a high-quality, professional research project will be kept on the semester schedule through tight step-wise timelines, including the submission of a series of draft components: a work plan, an outline, and one or more drafts and abstracts. Students' independent research experience in this course will be supplemented and kept on the semester schedule through the use of regular research group meetings, as well as periodic technical and strategic assistance meetings coordinated to help students overcome specific challenges. A final colloquium for all students completing 697 in a given semester will allow them to present and defend research results in front of peers and faculty. This course will be facilitated by a faculty member, who will serve as a member of each student's supervisory committee and each student will choose a second faculty advisor who shares his or her interests. Together, the two faculty advisors will be responsible for each student's final evaluation in 697.

G. STUDENT DEMAND

Despite the inherent unattractiveness of credit graduate courses that did not lead to a credential, the experimental graduate Urban Studies courses attracted 22 students in 99/00 and 00/01. This level of interest made USSC quite confident that the GDUS would meet its enrollment target of 20 students annually. A total of 41 students were admitted to the GDUS in its first year and a half and 31 of these actually registered in courses. Continuing inquiries from prospective students lead us to believe that a Master's program would have greater demand, since the graduate diploma is a less attractive credential for many than a full degree. Surveys done during the preparation of the School of Urban Studies proposal lend further support to the appeal of the M.URB.

If 20 of our current students are admitted to the M.URB. and we recruit another 15 new students for September, 2005, we would have an active student body of 35 students in 2005-06. We would expect to generate between 80 and 110 annual course enrollments from a student body of this size, an average of 10-12 per course. By 2006 a small number of current

students would have completed M.URB. requirements (probably no more than 5) and we would admit a further 15 new students to give the M.URB. 45 students in 2006-07.

H. CONSULTATION WITH INTERESTED GROUPS

1. Students

Students currently enrolled in the GDUS have been involved in the development of this proposal and their support and interest has played an important part in the Urban Studies Steering Committee's decision to go forward with the M.URB. program proposal. One of our students, a social planner with a local city government, described his experience in the urban studies program as follows:

What I have learned through the Urban Studies program has been very helpful, both from a personal and professional perspective. ... the ability to understand cities from a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary perspective has allowed me to better contribute both in policy development and program implementation activities.

2. Other Organizations

With the completion of this proposal, we will again be contacting the B.C. Chapter of the Canadian Institute of Planners, local non-governmental organizations with an interest in urban affairs, and planning and city manager departments in local governments to obtain their comments on the M.URB. Their input will be reported as the proposal moves through the University's approval process.

3. Accreditation

The Urban Studies program has no current plans to meet the requirements for accreditation by the Canadian Institute of Planners. Also, while the M.URB. is not designed to be a "recognized" degree as defined for membership in the Canadian Institute of Planners, it would conform to the membership category "related" degree and so M.URB. graduates who wished to receive the designation "Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners" (MCIP) could do so, although this would require more stringent post-degree activities than are required for holders of "recognized" degrees. However, not all urban professionals hold the MCIP designation.

I. BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

1. Faculty Resources

Urban Studies currently has one FTE faculty position and the M.URB. Program would require two more. We expect that all faculty appointments will be joint with other departments. However, the expected annual teaching contribution of four courses will belong to Urban Studies and each course that a jointly-appointed faculty member teaches in another department will provide funding for an Urban Studies course to be taught by another faculty member either as an overload or on a secondment basis.

A schematic presentation of this arrangement follows.

Faculty Member	Courses in Urban Studies	Courses in Other Departments
Urban Studies I	2	2
Urban Studies II	2	2
Urban Studies III	2	2
Other I	1	
Other II	1	
Other III	1	
Other IV	1	
Other V	1	
Other VI	1	
Total	12	

This system will allow Urban Studies to expand the number of faculty involved in teaching in the Program each year from three to nine, increasing the diversity of teaching approaches and emphases. This expansion will be achieved by the three faculty appointed in Urban Studies each teaching two courses a year in the Program and six faculty from the other departments each teaching one course per year. This teaching would be funded as compensation for the six courses taught by Urban Studies faculty in other departments. In practice, the Program Director would only teach two courses a year and so provision has been made for another two Urban Studies courses to be taught by sessional instructors or faculty on post-retirement contracts.

2. Course Offering Plan

In steady-state, the M.URB. would offer five courses in each of the fall and spring semesters and two courses in the summer semester. The 12 courses per year would require staffing as outlined below. The course offering plan for the M.URB. is shown below. We would expect to phase in this steady-state plan by offering 7-8 regular courses in the 2005/06 academic year, 9-10 in 2006/07, and 12 in 2007/08. Additional instructional resources needed for research project supervision in URB 697/699 may have to be provided by reducing course offering frequency. Some economies may be possible through sharing courses with the Master of Public Policy Program.

M.URB. COURSE OFFERING PLAN

Course No.	Course Title	Frequency per Year	Semester Schedule	Potential Instructors
610	Urban Design	.5	01	Oberlander, new, sessionals
620	Urban Communities and Cultures	1	03	Dyck, McCann
630	Urban Development, Planning and Policy	1	03	Holden, Blomley, new
640	Urban Regions and Urban Change	1	01	Evenden, new
645	Urban Sustainable Development	1	03	Holden, Roseland
650	Urban Governance	1	01	Smith, Stewart, Holden, McCann
655	Global Cities	.5	02	Smith, McCann
660	Economy, Land Use, and Transportation	1	03	Munro, Gill, new
665	Urban Housing Policy	.5	03	new
670*	Urban Research Methods	1	01	Holden, Stewart
680	Managing Cities	1	02	Stewart, Smith, new
685	Health Status and Health Policy in Urban Canada	.5	01	Hayes
690	The City in Art, Culture, and Politics	.5	03	Blomley, Duguid
693	Directed Readings			
694	Directed Readings			
695	Selected Topics	1	01, 02	
696*	Seminar in Urban Studies	1	01	
697*	Research Project			
699	Research Project Completion			

* Required Course

Summary cvs for faculty listed in this table are attached as Appendix D.

3. Other Budget Requirements

Current base budget funding for the Graduate Urban Studies program includes one FTE faculty position, a .8 FTE administrative position, 2 sessional stipends, \$20,000 in non-salary operating budget support, and a post-retirement stipend for the Program Director. The M.URB. Program would require that administrative support increase to 1.0 FTE and the non-salary budget increase by \$20,000.

The University's Library resources in urban studies were substantially upgraded for the GDUS. The new courses in this proposal and the increased level and breadth of student and faculty

use will require additional one-time and base budget funding. A report from the Library is attached as Appendix C.

4. Tuition Fees and Student Financial Support

As of September, 2004, the tuition fee for GDUS courses will be \$229.90 per credit hour. This would make the tuition fees for the M.URB. with 32 credit hours total about \$7,400. Ancillary fees, which are assessed on a per semester basis, would be in addition.

There would be few opportunities for M.URB. students to receive financial support by working as Teaching Assistants in undergraduate courses. However, M.URB. students would be eligible to receive Graduate Fellowship support once in their program. Many M.URB. students will be employed part- or full-time and in some cases their employer will reimburse them for their tuition fee payments. Additional opportunities for student financial support will be sought as the program develops, particularly through cooperative education opportunities and the building of working research partnerships with Vancouver-area for-profit, non-profit, and government agencies.

Also, there is an endowment of \$120,000 attached to the former Pots-Baccalaureate Diploma in Urban Studies. With the permission of the donors, the Downtown Vancouver Association and the Building Owners and Managers Association, this would be transferred to the M.URB. and its income made available for student financial assistance. We expect that further urban program development would generate additional endowment gifts.

APPENDIX A

COURSE PROPOSALS

1. New Courses

Urban Studies 645-4 Urban Sustainable Development

Urban Studies 655-4 Global Cities

Urban Studies 665-4 Urban Housing Policy

Urban Studies 670-4 Urban Research Methods

Urban Studies 680-4 Managing Cities

Urban Studies 685-4 Health Policy in Urban Societies

Urban Studies 693-2 Directed Readings I

Urban Studies 694-4 Directed Readings II

Urban Studies 696-4 Seminar in Urban Studies

Urban Studies 697-4 Research Project

Urban Studies 699-2 Research Project Completion

DETAILED COURSE PROPOSAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW FROM BOBBIE GRANT, SENATE ASSISTANT, 604 291-3168 OR EMAIL bgrant@sfu.ca

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