

Simon Fraser University
Senate Graduate Studies Committee
Annual Report to Senate for 2006
February 2007

Submitted by Dr. Jon Driver, Dean of Graduate Studies

Composition and Mandate of the Committee

The membership of SGSC in 2006 consisted of the Dean of Graduate Studies (chair), Librarian (or designate), the Director Graduate Records, Admissions and Registration, chairs of the six faculty graduate program committees, one other faculty member from each of the six graduate program committees, two graduate students, and the Graduate Issues Officer of SFSS. The Dean of Graduate Studies' secretary serves as secretary to the committee. The Associate Dean of Graduate Studies attends as a non-voting resource person.

SGSC has established a regular monthly meeting schedule, in an attempt to spread the workload of the committee more evenly over the year.

SGSC is responsible to Senate for admissions (delegated to the Dean), maintenance of academic standards, changes to existing programs, evaluation of new programs (via a subcommittee), 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 (via a subcommittee).

Graduate Studies at Simon Fraser University

In 2006 masters programs and doctoral programs were being offered in each faculty (except the newly created Faculty of Health Sciences, that does not yet have a doctoral program). Graduate diploma programs were offered in all faculties. 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).

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 saw renewed increases since 2000 (see Appendix B). The recent increases in graduate degree enrollments early in this decade were 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.

Total enrollments increased again in 2006 (12% increase fall 2005 to fall 2006, or a 6% annualized FTE increase). Percentage increases were highest in graduate diplomas and in doctoral programs.

Data on credentials awarded are presented in the second table in Appendix B.

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. Since September 2004, the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies has chaired this committee. In 2006 ACNGP continued to be busy with new program development. Details are provided in Appendix A, and a summary of all new programs since 1981 is provided in Appendix C.

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 policy of tuition scholarships for most PhD students has caused concerns about SFU's ability to recruit doctoral students, and this has been reflected in comments in a number of external reviews. In view of the increase in numbers admitted to our doctoral programs this concern may be misplaced; however, the Dean of Graduate Studies has collected evidence that some students do not attend SFU because of more competitive financial offers from other universities.

Total held in fall 2006 from federal granting councils are summarized in the following table. The number of awards held has increased by 34 since fall 2005. In addition to these awards, it should be noted that in 2006 an SFU master's student was awarded a Julie Payette NSERC scholarship. A doctoral graduate won an NSERC doctoral dissertation prize (only 4 awarded annually), the sixth year in a row that SFU students have been winners or runners-up of this prestigious prize.

SSHRC MA	SSHRC PhD	NSERC PGS-M	NSERC CGS-M	NSERC PGS-D	NSERC CGS-D	CIHR Masters	CIHR Doctoral
46	47	38	19	31	16	3	5

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. (See <http://www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies/survey.htm>) The report was made public (February 2004) and comments were received. Based on these comments, a plan was prepared for consideration by faculty deans, and following a number of discussions with that group a proposal was submitted to SPCSAB in early 2005. In 2006 Graduate Fellowships (forming about 75% of the SFU graduate scholarship budget) were allocated in a new way, with more emphasis placed on programs' success in graduating students.

The Dean of Graduate Studies has also attempted to make graduate student enrollment and funding management a more central concern of the University. As one step in this process, all graduate programs are now required to present their graduate student funding policy on a web site, so that potential applicants have clear information on financial support.

Student Information System

2006 was the third full year in which Graduate Studies operated under the new student information system (introduced in October 2003). It was the third year in which we administered new tuition rules that were implemented because of the new information system. The third year of operation has seen improvements. Most students who were "grandfathered" under old tuition rules have graduated. Submission of electronic grades has become routine. The quality of transcripts has improved.

In 2005 we introduced an on-line application process for graduate programs. For 2005/2006 this was being run parallel to the paper application process. For 2006/2007 all applications are routinely received online. In 2006 more than 5000 applications were received, most of them electronically.

We have also been taking advantage of the database function of the student information system, and have supplied all programs with enrollment and completion statistics.

Appendix A Senate Graduate Studies Committee, Activities 2006

Meetings and content are described in the attached spreadsheet. Numerous minor program details were approved (new courses, new Calendar language etc.)

New programs

There is a two-stage process for approving new degree programs. A notice of intent and 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 and Graduate Certificates are approved by SGSC, SCUP and Senate.

In 2006 the following programs were given preliminary approval by SGSC:

MA Humanities

MA Applied Legal Studies

MA Teachers of English

Master of Digital Media

Master of Financial Risk Management

No full program proposals were approved by ACNGP, although a number are currently being considered, and will probably be approved in 2007.

No graduate diploma program was approved by SGSC.

Cohort Special Arrangements

These programs are offered on a short-term basis, either to fill an immediate need for a specialized program or to allow a “trial run” of a proposed program. None was approved in 2006.

The appeals subcommittee of SGSC heard two appeals in 2006.

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 (headcounts in fall semester)

Faculty	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	05 to 06 %	97 to 06 %
Applied Sciences	443	446	466	452	476	574#	606	621	644	646	0%	46%
Arts and Soc. Sciences	751	777	752	730	769	755	817	871	944	953	1%	27%
Business Admin	301	270	296	344	416	438	453	354	363	374	3%	24%
GDBA only	0	0	57	60	103	130	101	115	103	98	-5%	n/a
Degree program only	301	270	239	284	313	308	342	239	260	276	6%	-8%
Education	532	468	451	641	1124	1279	1078	1051	1192	1516	27%	185%
GDE only	0	0	0	155	608	721	607	603	630	778	23%	n/a
Degree program only	532	468	451	486	516	558	471	448	562	738	31%	39%
Health Sciences									18	56	211%	n/a
Science	375	377	393	393	432	450	476	501	505	544	8%	45%
Total *	2402	2338	2358	2560	3217	3445	3429	3401	3666	4089	12%	70%
% change from previous year		-2.7	0.9	8.6	25.7\$	7.1	-0.5	-1%	8%	12%		
Total degree program **	2402	2338	2301	2345	2506	2594	2706	2680	2889	3154	9.2%	31%
%change from previous year		-2.7	-1.6	1.9	6.9	3.5	4.3	-1%	8%	9.2%		

* total headcount of all graduate students, including those enrolled in diploma programs, plus exchange students. Note that there are very small numbers of graduate diploma students in all faculties, but the above table only lists large diploma programs as separate lines

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

the sudden increase is due to the incorporation of graduate programs from the former Technical University of BC

\$ the sudden increase is due to the conversion of the post-baccalaureate diploma in Education to the Graduate Diploma in Education

Credentials awarded by academic year

Faculty/credential	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06
Applied Sciences										
Masters	59	74	56	66	68	72	90	82	112	113
Ph.D.	14	20	15	16	22	11	15	14	16	18
Arts										
Diploma							2			
Masters	103	122	104	138	134	140	139	146	154	181
Ph.D.	29	40	26	38	24	28	29	15	24	27
Business Administration										
GDBA	0	0	0	26	27	66	80	55	92	30
MBA	99	126	113	132	119	144	164	163	167	132
Ph.D.SAR before 05	1						1			2
Education										
GDE	0	0	0	0	0	3	287	332	265	174
M.Ed.	91	116	151	121	94	104	117	166	129	63
Other Masters	38	33	48	22	21	20	19	31	26	33
Doctoral	3	8	13	13	7	13	14	11	11	14
Science										
Masters	48	55	57	49	51	61	60	66	63	65
Ph.D.	25	33	21	41	26	28	23	27	34	34
Total degrees	510	627	604	636	566	621	671	705	736	682
Total masters	438	526	529	528	487	541	589	638	651	587
Total doctoral	72	101	75	108	79	80	82	67	85	95
% Ph.D.	14.1	16.1	12.4	17.0	14.0	12.9	12.2	9.5	11.5	13.9

The number of doctoral degrees awarded seems to be increasing, and we would expect a significant increase within the next few years, based on an overall increase in doctoral enrollments. The number of master's degrees awarded declined in the Faculties of Education and Business Administration. This is likely due to the dip in enrollments in those programs in 2003-2005.

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	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	MBAMOT, Business Administration
2002	Masters of Public Policy
2002	PhD, Women's Studies
2003	PhD, Earth Sciences
2004	PhD, Business Administration
2004	MA, Interactive Arts and Technology
2004	MSc, Interactive Arts and Technology
2004	PhD, Interactive Arts and Technology
2004	MBA Global Assets and Wealth Management
2004	Master of Urban Studies
2005	MA Educational Technology
2005	PhD Educational Technology
2005	MSc Population and Public Health
2005	Graduate Diploma in Foundations of Global Health Studies

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.

SGSC 2006 meetings

Year	Month	Day	FAC	Program	Subject matter	GSCode	Type	Action	to SCUP	to Senate
2006	Jan	16			Rolling conferral of degrees - monthly	2006.01	Graduate Records	Passed		S.06-37
2006	Jan	16			GGR editorial changes 1.2, 1.8.2, 1.3.12; 1.5.1 - IP CO notations	2006.02	GGR changes	Passed		S.06-38
2006	Jan	16	EDUC	MED-EP	EDUC 867-5 prerequisite	2006.03	minor course change	Passed		S.06-39
2006	Jan	16	EDUC	MED-EP	Graduate diploma in advanced professional studies in Education	2006.04	Calendar change - course credit transfer	Passed		S.06-39
2006	Feb	13			GGR 1.12.4 - time limits	2006.05	GGR changes	modification		
2006	Feb	13	HSCI	MScPPH	Course requirements; course changes: HSCI 691, 801, 802, 803, 804, 896, 897, PPH 801, GLOH 670; new course PPH 821	2006.06	curriculum changes	Passed		S.06-52
2006	Feb	13	HSCI	Dipl GLOH	Diploma in Global Health: course requirements	2006.07	Calendar changes	Passed		S.06-52
2006	Feb	13			DEV 801 - new course proposal	2006.08	new course	memo		
2006	Mar	13			GGR 1.12.4 - time limits - effective September 1, 2007	2006.09	GGR changes	Passed		S.06-78
2006	Mar	13	APSC	REM PhD	REM PhD coursework	2006.10	curriculum changes	Passed		S.06-76
2006	Mar	13	APSC	KIN MSc	KIN M.Sc. coursework program; KIN 809 - new course proposal	2006.10	curriculum changes	Passed		S.06-76
2006	Mar	13			SGSC 2005 annual report to Senate	2006.11	Annual report - for information	for information		S.06-40
2006	Apr	10			GGR 1.8.2 - Review of unsatisfactory progress	2006.12	GGR changes	Deferred		
2006	Apr	10			GGR 1.5.1 - Normal grading system - CGPA calculation	2006.12	GGR changes	Passed		S.06-77
2006	Apr	10			SGSC membership (Stagger 2-Y terms for elected FGSC faculty) (S.04-40)	2006.13	SGSC membership - Senate's specification	for information		✓
2006	Apr	10	BUS	GAWM	BUS 823-2 - new course proposal	2006.14	new course	Passed		S.06-75
2006	Apr	10	BUS	FRM Cohort	BUS 818-2, 865-2, 869-2	2006.14	minor course changes	Passed		S.06-75
2006	May	8			SGSC membership - vacant student seats elected by/from GIC	2006.15	SGSC membership - post-election	Passed		S.06-86
2006	May	8			DEV 801 - course proposal	2006.16	Course proposal - deans' council advice	for information		
2006	May	8	FASS	MA HUM	MA in Humanities	2006.17	new program proposal - NOI	Passed	SCUP 06-26	
2006	May	8	FASS	MA ALS	MA in Applied Legal Studies (Notary Public)	2006.18	new program proposal - NOI	Passed	SCUP 06-27	
2006	May	8			GGR 1.9.3 - Doctoral examining committee - FASS	2006.19	GGR changes	Passed		S.06-85
2006	May	8			GGR 1.9.1 - Master's examining committee - FASS	2006.20	GGR changes	Passed		S.06-85
2006	May	8	FASS	PSYC	PSYC Experimental Psychology curriculum	2006.21	curriculum changes	Passed		S.06-84
2006	May	8	FASS	PSYC	PSYC - Satisfactory Performance	2006.21	curriculum changes	Passed		S.06-84
2006	May	8	FASS	GEOG	GEOG 628-4 new course proposal	2006.22	new course	Deferred		
2006	Jun	12			MEETING CANCELLED					
2006	Jul	10			GGR 1.6.4 Time limit for formation of supervisory committees	2006.23	GGR changes	Deferred		
2006	Jul	10			GGR: CGPA calculation - WDA courses	2006.24	GGR changes	Deferred		
2006	Jul	10	FASS	ENGL	MA for Teachers of English - NOI	2006.25	new program proposal - NOI	Deferred		
2006	Jul	10	EDUC	EDUC	EDUC 879-5 - new course proposal	2006.26	new course	Passed		S.06-101
2006	Jul	10	SCI	PHYS	PHYS 864-3 - new course proposal	2006.27	new course	Passed		S.06-102
2006	Jul	10	BUS	SMBA	Specialist MBA program - deletion	2006.28	curriculum changes	Passed		S.06-103
2006	Jul	10	BUS	BUS PhD	PhD program - new course proposals	2006.29	new courses	Passed		S.06-103
2006	Jul	10	HSCI	GLOH Cohort	New courses GLOH 615-3, 635-3; minor course changes GLOH 640-3, 690-3	2006.30	curriculum changes	Passed		S.06-104
2006	Jul	10	HSCI	MPPH	New courses HSCI 893-3, 894-4, PPH 898-0; minor course changes HSCI 691-0, 891-3, 880-6	2006.31	curriculum changes	Passed		S.06-104
2006	Aug	14			MEETING CANCELLED					
2006	Sep	11			SGSC/ACNGP terms of reference - review	2006.32	senate committees	No change		✓
2006	Sep	11			SGSC appeals subcommittee	2006.33	ad hoc committee to hear a student appeal	e-establish ad hoc committee		
2006	Sep	11			Visiting research students - Canadian Graduate Student Research Mobility Agreement; new course GRAD 800-0	2006.34	GGR changes - admission category	Passed		S.06-115
2006	Sep	11			Management of graduate student academic files - retention & disposal guidelines	2006.35	Graduate Records - policy	Passed		
2006	Sep	11			Quest University - recognition of bachelor's degrees		admission requirement	Report to President		
2006	Oct	16			DE grade - calendar language	2006.38				
2006	Oct	16	EDUC	MED, PhD	Course changes: EDUC 845-4 to 845-5, EDUC 946-5	2006.39	minor course changes	Passed		S.06-142
2006	Oct	16	EDUC	Ph.D.	EDUC renumbered 831-5 to 921-5, 936-5 to 922-5	2006.39	minor course changes	Passed		S.06-142
2006	Oct	16	EDUC	Ph.D.	PhD in Curriculum Theory & Implementation: <i>Philosophy of Education</i> - new stream	2006.39	new stream - PhD program	Passed		S.06-142
2006	Oct	16	SCI	STAT	STAT 602-3 - prerequisite	2006.40	minor course change	Passed		S.06-143
2006	Oct	16	APSC	GMWC-MDM	Master of Digital Media program - NOI - new program proposal	2006.41	new program proposal - NOI	Passed	SCUP 06-	
2006	Nov	20			SGSC terms of reference - addition as recommended by University secretariat - parallel to SCUS	2006.42	SGSC - addition language	Passed		S.07-
2006	Nov	20	APSC	SIAT	Course change: IAT 801-3; new courses: IAT 802-3, IAT 805-0	2006.43	curriculum changes	Passed		S.07-

SGSC 2006 meetings

Year	Month	Day	FAC	Program	Subject matter	GSCode	Type	Action	to SCUP	to Senate
2006	Nov	20	FASS	MA-LAS	LAS program curriculum revisions; course changes: LAS 800-4, 815-4, 824-4, 835-4, 851-4	2006.44	curriculum changes	Passed		S.07-
2006	Nov	20	FASS	LING	LING requirements: MA coursework, PhD admission	2006.45	curriculum changes	Passed		S.07-
2006	Nov	20	EDUC		GGR 1.3.12 change - Language proficiency - amendment	2006.46	GGR 1.3.12 change - English language proficiency	Not approved		
2006	Nov	20	FASS	SA	SA program changes; minor course changes; new courses	2006.47	curriculum changes	Passed		S.07-
2006	Nov	20	HSCI	MPPH, GLOH	Course changes; new courses; courses for deletion	2006.48c	curriculum changes	Passed		S.07-
2006	Nov	20	HSCI	MPPH, GD-GLOH	New M.Sc. concentration in Global Health; Grad diploma - from Health Studies to Global Health; method of transfer from MA cohort to new M.Sc. Concentration	2006.48	New stream - M.Sc.; grad diploma name change; transfer method from cohort to new concentration	Passed	SCUP 07-	c. for info.
2006	Nov	20	BUS	MBA	MBA program change	2006.49	curriculum changes	Passed in principle		
2006	Nov	20	BUS	GAWM, Cohort-FRM	Coursework changes	2006.50		Deferred		
2006	Nov	20	BUS	MBA-MOT	New courses, calendar change	2006.51		Deferred		
2006	Nov	20	BUS	MBA-FRM	New program proposal - NOI	2006.52		Deferred		
2006	Dec	11	BUS	MBA	MBA - revised program description, new courses - to replace the SMBA program (GS2006.28)	2006.49, 49b	curriculum changes	Passed		S.07-
2006	Dec	11	BUS	GAWM, Cohort-FRM	Minor course changes: BUS 802-805, 809-811, 814, 816, 818-819, 857, 863, 864-866, 868-870 - credit hours, titles, descriptions; new course: BUS 821-2	2006.50, 50b	curriculum changes	Passed		S.07-
2006	Dec	11	BUS	MBA-MOT	New courses: BUS 751-4, 753-2, 755-2; minor course changes: BUS 758-4, 764-2, 766-2, 776-4; calendar language change	2006.51	curriculum changes	Passed		S.07-
2006	Dec	11	BUS	MBA-FRM	MBA-FRM - new program proposal - NOI	2006.52	new program proposal - NOI	Passed	SCUP 07-	
2006	Dec	11	SCI	EASC	EASC 605-3: new course proposal	2006.53	new course	Passed		S.07-
2006	Dec	11	APSC	ENSC	ENSC courses for deletion; new courses, minor course changes; minor change to program description	2006.54	curriculum changes	Passed		S.07-
2006	Dec	11	APSC	REM	REM 614-5: new course	2006.55	New course	Passed		S.07-
2006	Dec	11	APSC	CMNS	CMNS 845-5: minor course change	2006.56	Minor course change	Passed		S.07-

FASS=Arts & Social Sciences