



OFFICE OF THE
VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC

TEL +1 778 782 3925
FAX +1 778 782 5876
sfu.ca/vpacademic

Simon Fraser University
Strand Hall 3100
8888 University Drive
Burnaby BC
Canada V5A 1S6

MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION: Senate

TEL

FROM: Peter Keller, Vice-President, Academic and Provost, and Chair, SCUP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Keller".

RE: Full Program Proposal for the Joint Major in Business, Philosophy and the Law (SCUP 19-13)

DATE: March 13, 2019

TIME

At its March 13, 2019 meeting, SCUP reviewed and approved the full program proposal for the Joint Major in Business, Philosophy and the Law in the Department of Philosophy within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Beedie School of Business, effective Fall 2019.

Motion:

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the full program proposal for the Joint Major in Business, Philosophy and the Law in the Department of Philosophy within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Beedie School of Business, effective Fall 2019.

c: D. Heide
S. Spector



OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC

8888 University Drive,
Burnaby, BC
Canada V5A 1S6

TEL: 778.782.6654
FAX: 778.782.5876

avpacad@sfu.ca
www.sfu.ca/vpacademic

MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Senate Committee on University Priorities
FROM Wade Parkhouse, Chair
Senate Committee on Undergraduate
Studies
RE: Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (SCUS 19-26)

DATE March 7, 2019
PAGES 1/1

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of March 7, 2019, gives rise to the following recommendations:

Motion

That SCUP approve and recommend to Senate the Full Program Proposal for the Joint Major in Business, Philosophy and the Law in the Department of Philosophy within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Beedie School of Business.

The relevant documentation for review by SCUP is attached.



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
ENGAGING THE WORLD

Joint Major in Business, Philosophy and the Law

Full Program Proposal

January 17, 2019

Beedie School of Business and the Philosophy Department

1 Executive Summary

a) An overview of the institution's history, mission, and academic goals:

Simon Fraser University's mission includes a commitment to an innovative and interdisciplinary approach to teaching and learning with the express aim of cultivating engaged students: students whose academic pursuits are intertwined with and motivated by their interaction with their communities, both local and global. The proposed program aims to support the university's mission by offering students a novel and innovative way to prepare themselves for careers in legal and policy-related fields *via* an interdisciplinary degree program.

The program offers to students a rigorous, creative and interdisciplinary preparation for such careers. It combines a core education in business, including robust exposure to the way in which business practice interacts with the law, with a core education in philosophy, which offers students the chance to master fundamental critical reasoning skills and explore a range of theoretical and practical questions about law, ethics, policy and justice, and their interaction. As such, the program is designed to produce knowledgeable, thoughtful, rigorously trained students, who will thus be well-equipped to succeed in a variety of professional schools and careers, not least including the law, but also including careers in public policy, business and the academy.

b) Credential to be awarded:

B.A. in Business, Philosophy and the Law or B.B.A. in Business, Philosophy and the Law (depending upon whether the student declares the joint major from BUS or from FASS).

c) Location of program:

Most courses required to complete the degree are offered at the Burnaby campus, though students may be able to complete some degree requirements at Harbour Centre and/or Surrey campus.

d) Faculty offering the proposed new program:

Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences & The Beedie School of Business.

e) Anticipated program start date:

Fall 2019.

f) Anticipated completion time:

Students will be able to complete the degree program within four years at SFU.

g) Summary of the proposed program

- **Aims, goals, and objectives:**

This program aims to produce thoughtful, creative and analytically-minded future lawyers, policymakers, businesspeople and academics by offering to students a rigorous analytical training combined with a unique perspective on a range of foundational questions concerning the nature of the law and its interactions with business practice and theory, public policy, ethics and justice. Students who complete this program will be especially suited to gain admission to law school and to other professional degree programs (including business programs, public policy programs and PhD programs in philosophy). And they will be especially suited to succeed in these programs, not simply in virtue of the rigor and breadth of their training, but also because this program will afford them a unique combination of theoretical and practical training unlikely to be encountered in graduates of other programs.

- **Contribution to the mandate and strategic plan of the institution:**

This program will serve SFU's strategic plan by providing an avenue for students to seek innovative connections between two fields not normally combined such that they are well-positioned to pursue graduate study and/or enter the labor market upon graduation.

- **Linkages between program outcomes and curriculum design:**

Because this is a joint major built primarily upon existing courses, it is expected that students who complete this degree program will meet and fulfil the individual educational goals of both Business and Philosophy. Further, the skills, knowledge and experience they acquire will better prepare them to compete for entry to law school. By blending the critical thinking and reasoning from the Philosophy major with the experiential aspects of the Business degree program, students should be able to successfully complete the LSAT exam.

- **Potential areas/sectors of employment for graduates or opportunities for further study:**

We believe the primary opportunity for graduates of this program will be law school followed by a career as an attorney. But we also believe that students who complete this degree program will be well-suited for a variety of other careers, including policy-related careers in both the public and private sectors. In addition, students who complete this program will be well-suited to consider graduate study in both Business and Philosophy, and to pursue the careers associated with such graduate study. See below, §7 for further details re: labor market demand.

- **Delivery methods:**

All courses required for completion of the degree program are currently offered in the classroom, but some may eventually be offered online, too.

- **Program strengths:**

Perhaps the primary strength of the program is that students with degrees in Philosophy have a demonstrated record of success on the LSAT. Data from LSAC from 2016-17 reveals that students with degrees in Philosophy are among the very highest achievers on the LSAT, achieving an average score of over 157 – something very few other degree programs can claim. Because this degree program is a joint program involving Philosophy, it stands to reason that students who complete this program will be in a strong position to perform well on the LSAT and thus improve their chances for admission to law school.

Furthermore, this program promises to be unique (at least in western Canada) in its capacity to expose students to a range of law-related questions, both theoretical and practical, during their undergraduate careers. Students who complete this program will have a rare perspective that includes rigorous critical reasoning skills, exposure to foundational ethical questions concerning the nature and justification of the law, the study of a range of practical issues that arise at the intersection of business practice and the law, and exposure to serious questions about the way in which public policy interacts with the law. So, in addition to preparing students to be admitted to law school and other graduate programs, we believe the unique perspective and rigorous analytical training afforded to students by this program will put them in position to succeed: this program will produce thoughtful, careful and innovative future lawyers, policy makers, businesspeople and academics. Thus, this program promises to have a genuine impact on public life in Canada: by adding to the store of professionals who have spent significant time considering the nuances of foundational questions about the practices they will engage in.

Both the Philosophy Department and the Beedie School of Business have faculty members with considerable expertise in the areas of their disciplines related to the law. The Philosophy Department's most recent hire (Chelsea Rosenthal) has a JD from NYU law school and counts the philosophy of law as one of her primary areas of research and teaching specialization. In addition, Sam Black and Evan Tiffany have both research and teaching expertise in the philosophy of law. Partly because of repeated demonstrated student interest in law school, and partly because of this growing expertise in philosophical issues related to the law, the Philosophy Dept. initiated very successful major and minor concentrations in Law and Philosophy (see below, §8.3). This new proposal is conceived by the Philosophy Dept. as an expansion of its existing and already successful efforts to equip students to be successful in gaining admission to law school.

Likewise, the Beedie School of Business has already begun significant efforts to educate its students in law-related areas: it employs Shafik Bhalloo (an Associate Professor of Practice and a former partner and practicing attorney at Koreld LPP), who teaches three existing undergraduate courses on law-related aspects of business (BUS 233, BUS 393, and BUS 483).

Courses on law-related content are thus already integral components of both units' curricula, and these courses have been developed strategically in response to demonstrated demand from students with a desire to enter law school upon graduation.

- **Level of support and recognition:**

Deans and relevant Associate Deans at the law schools at the University of British Columbia, University of Victoria and Thompson Rivers University were contacted in November, 2018. They were sent the final Notice of Intent for the proposed degree program, which passed SFU Senate in May, 2018. They were asked to provide feedback. As of December, 2018 we have received feedback from Catherine Dauvergne, Dean of the Allard School of Law (UBC) and from Brad Morse, Dean of Law at Thompson Rivers University. Their letters are included in the Appendix, §8.4.

- **Related programs:**

To our knowledge, there is no other program in British Columbia, including at SFU, that aims to combine Business and Philosophy for the purposes of preparing students for law school.

h) Contact information:

Dai Heide, Senior Lecturer & Undergraduate Chair
Philosophy Dept.
Simon Fraser University
778-782-4806
dheide@sfu.ca

Stephen Spector
Senior Lecturer & Academic Director, Undergraduate Programs
Beedie School of Business
Simon Fraser University
778-782-3637
sspector@sfu.ca

2 Credential Recognition and Nomenclature

2.1 Post-secondary recognition

The proposed joint-degree program offers students either a B.A. or a B.B.A. These are well-established credentials, offered at many or all universities. As such, we anticipate no barrier to degree recognition at other institutions, including post-secondary institutions.

2.2 Industry/employer recognition

N/A

3 Curriculum/Program Content

3.1 Program structure

Students earning either a BBA or a BA in Business, Philosophy and the Law must complete a total of 120 units.

The lower division requirements for the Business component of the joint major require students to complete 29 – 31 units. The lower division requirements for the Philosophy component of the joint major require students to complete 15 units. Students will thus complete a minimum of 44 or a maximum of 46 lower division units in order to fulfill the degree requirements for this joint degree.

The upper division requirements for the Business component of the joint major require students to complete 29 units. The upper division requirements for the Philosophy component of the joint major require students to complete 25 units.

Students will thus complete a total of 54 upper division units in order to fulfill the degree requirements for this joint degree.

The total number of units required for this degree (a maximum of 100) is roughly equivalent to or smaller than the number of required units for other joint degrees that Business administers with FASS programs (e.g. Economics and Psychology). Students will thus be able to complete this degree program in a normal four-year undergraduate career. The full calendar entry, including required courses, is given in the Appendices, §8.1.

3.2 Core courses

The core PHIL courses (courses required or strongly suggested for the degree program) are as follows:

PHIL 110 - Introduction to Logic and Reasoning (3)

The aim of this course is to familiarize students with fundamental techniques of correct reasoning. Special attention is given to the methods of logic in particular, and to their role in the discovery of truth not only within science and philosophy but within all forms of rational enquiry. Open to all students. Quantitative.

PHIL 120w – Moral and Legal Problems

A critical examination of a range of moral and legal issues we confront in our dealings with the state and our fellow human beings, such as: Is it wrong to break the law? Should pornography and recreational drugs be illegal? Do animals have rights? Is there a duty to admit immigrants? Are there duties to the world's poor? Are some careers morally better than others? Are indigenous peoples owed reparations? May we give priority to our family and friends over strangers?

PHIL 201 - Epistemology (3)

A critical overview of recent accounts of the nature and scope of human knowledge and of justified or rational belief, and of philosophical issues that these accounts are intended to address. Prerequisite: One of PHIL 100W (or equivalent), 120W (or equivalent), 121, 144, 150, 151, or COGS 100. Students who have taken PHIL 301 cannot take this course for further credit.

PHIL 203 - Metaphysics (3)

An examination of central problems of metaphysics such as space and time, universals and particulars, substance, identity and individuation and personal

identity. Prerequisite: One of PHIL 100W (or equivalent), 120W (or equivalent), 121, 144, 150, 151, or COGS 100.

PHIL 221 - Ethical Theory (3)

An examination of the major ethical theories, including deontology, consequentialism and virtue ethics. Applications of these theories and related topics in value theory may also be discussed. Prerequisite: One of: PHIL 100W (or equivalent), PHIL 120W (or equivalent), PHIL 121, PHIL 144, PHIL 150 or PHIL 151.

PHIL 326 – Topics in Law and Philosophy

Explores in detail classic problems in the law using the methods and resources of philosophy. Topics may include: problems in professional ethics facing lawyers; philosophical issues in international law and human rights; constitutional interpretation and the philosophy of language; the assessment of evidence and formal epistemology; the intellectual origins of the theory of natural law and natural rights; or other topics. Prerequisite: One of PHIL 120W (or equivalent), 121, 220, 221, ENV 320W, or with permission of instructor.

PHIL 329: Law and Justice

Explores in detail the relationship between the law and theories of justice. Topics range over: the philosophy of punishment and theories of moral responsibility; charter equality rights and theories of distributive justice. Prerequisite: One of PHIL 120W (or equivalent), 121, 220, 221, ENV 320W, or with permission of instructor. Students with credit for PHIL 333 in Spring 2016 cannot take this course for further credit.

The core BUS courses (required or strongly suggested for the degree program) are as follows:

BUS 217W - Critical Thinking in Business (3)

Examine and review today's global economy through critical analysis of differing perspectives. Develop and improve critical thinking and communication skills appropriate to the business environment. Prerequisite: BUS 201 and 15 units; OR 45 units and corequisite: BUS 202; OR approved Business Administration joint major, joint honours, or double degrees students with 45 units. Writing.

BUS 303 - Business, Society and Ethics (3)

This course examines and reviews contemporary thinking on the changing role of business and business persons in the operations of society, particularly Canadian society. The course explores the changing legal, ethical and regulatory environments of business focusing on the critical alignments -- values, policies, technology and legal approaches -- between the modern organization and its broader public.

Prerequisite: 45 units. Students with credit for BUS 103, COMM 103, or COMM 303 may not take this course for further credit.

BUS 393 - Commercial Law (3)

Common law, equity, and statute law; contracts, agency, and negotiable instruments; partnership and corporation law; international commercial law. Prerequisite: 45 units. BUEC 391 is not to be taken concurrently with BUS 393. Students with credit for COMM 393 may not take this course for further credit.

BUS 483 - Introduction to Employment Law for Business (3)

Provides a solid foundation for students in understanding the legal obligations, statutes, and limitations within provincial legislation that govern employment relationships in non-union contexts. Additionally, will explore the legal aspects of matters of particular importance for managers faced with human resource policy decisions. Prerequisite: BUS 393, BUS 360W and 60 units.

3.3 Existing and new courses

Required PHIL courses are outlined above. One of those courses – PHIL 326 – is a new course. The calendar description is reproduced above §3.2. The new course addition form and a sample course outline is attached in the appendix.

3.4 Curriculum and program goals

Students who complete this program will be able to:

- Employ core critical reasoning skills, including a) the ability to identify fallacious reasoning and b) the ability to understanding and employ the foundational concepts of critical reasoning, including truth, rationality, deduction and induction
- Articulate and explain fundamental ethical concepts and theories
- Demonstrate an understanding of the relevance and importance to the law of foundational concepts and debates in ethics, social and political philosophy, logic and epistemology

- Defend an original argument against objections
- Demonstrate the ability to engage in independent research, including finding relevant primary and secondary sources, and expositing and assessing them
- Demonstrate an understanding of core business concepts, including how ethics and the law are interwoven, how tort and contract law are fundamental to business organizations' relations and how these concepts impact human resource decisions
- Identify fundamental ways in which business practice intersects with legal theories and the application of the law

This program offers students numerous courses that will help them achieve the above educational goals. The PHIL courses that emphasize logic and critical reasoning (including PHIL 110 and BUS 217W, which are required, and PHIL 310, 314 and 315, which can be used to help fulfill upper-division requirements) will help students achieve goals related to critical reasoning and analytical thinking. The program also includes numerous courses on the law and its relation to fundamental questions in both philosophy and business (e.g., PHIL 326, PHIL 329, BUS 303, and BUS 483).

3.5 Work experience/field/practicum placement

N/A

4 Program Resources

4.1 Target audience and enrolment plan

Section 7 outlines evidence of student interest in law-related courses and evidence of interest from BUS students in PHIL courses. As such we believe that demand for the program will be high. Given the current faculty complement and course enrolment patterns in Philosophy, enrolments will be limited at the beginning of the program. While a specific cap will be determined by both units upon approval, the aim of such a cap is to prevent waiting lists for required courses, allowing students to complete the degree in a timely manner. If demand remains high, both units will consider plans to reallocate existing resources and/or request new resources in order to accommodate demand.

4.2 Resources

Because the program aims to limit admissions at the start, all resources required to implement the program are already in place, and PHIL and BUS have sufficient

resources to sustain the program with limited admissions for the foreseeable future. Since the only new course (PHIL 326) will replace a deleted course, there will be no impact on teaching distribution or load in other, related degree programs.

5 Program Review and Academic/Administrative Oversight

No accrediting bodies are required for this program. The program will be assessed on the standard seven-year external review schedule for both Business and Philosophy.

6 Program Consultation

Deans and relevant Associate Deans at all BC law schools were contacted in 2018 to ask for feedback and advice on the proposal. As of the date of submission, we have received responses from the Deans of the law schools at TRU and UBC. Their supportive responses are recorded below, in §8.4. Full copies of our letter soliciting their feedback and their full responses are also included at the end of this document.

7 Evidence of Student Interest and Labour Market Demand

Student Interest

The Philosophy Dept. added major and minor concentrations in Law and Philosophy in Fall 2016, concurrent with the addition of PHIL 329: Law and Justice. These programs have proved to be extremely successful. (See Appendix 8.3 for data.) This suggests that there is significant demand from students in FASS for law-related programming from Philosophy.

Furthermore, Philosophy attracts a significant number of Business students to its courses. (See Appendix 8.3 for data.) This suggests that there is significant demand from Business students for Philosophy programming – and we expect this demand to rise with the introduction of programming specifically appealing to students interested in law- and policy-related careers.

Labour Market Demand

There is considerable statistical and anecdotal evidence that graduates of this degree program will be in demand in the labor market. Some of that evidence comes from the Canadian Occupation Projection System (COPS), which suggests that law school admissions will remain robust through at least 2024. Since we expect many

graduates to pursue admission to law school, this data (see Appendix 8.3) suggests that these students have a high likelihood of success.

Other data comes from Work BC's 2025 Labour Market Outlook, which suggests robust job opportunities for lawyers through 2025. Work BC ranks "lawyer" as among the very top job opportunities for recent university graduates through 2025.

Furthermore, both COPS and Work BC suggest that a range of business careers pursued by B.B.A. degree holders (e.g., financial management, corporate sales, advertising and marketing, etc.) remain among the top career opportunities for new university graduates. So while we expect that many graduates will pursue a career in the law, we believe graduates will be as well-suited as other B.B.A. degree holders to pursue careers in this robust labour market.

Finally, there is considerable anecdotal evidence in the media that demand in the business community for students who complete the proposed degree will be high: numerous news items in the past several years have reported that business leaders are especially interested in hiring candidates with the sorts of broad skills emphasized in the arts and social sciences, such as critical reasoning, strong written and verbal communication, and skill in collaboration. Students who complete the proposed degree program would thus promise to be exceptionally valuable to business employers: they will have acquired both broad humanities-based skills and business-based skills. (See Appendix 8.3.)

8 Appendices

8.1 Calendar entry

BACHELOR OF ARTS OR BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Students may opt for a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, or a Bachelor of Business Administration from the Beedie School of Business, depending upon the faculty from which they enter the program. Students are required to complete all faculty requirements for the faculty in which they are enrolled.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Beedie School of Business Admission Requirements

Internal transfer (Category 3 or 4) applicants should apply to Beedie by submitting a supplemental application form after completing 30 units (including lower division requirements, except BUS 217W and BUS 254), meeting a minimum 2.30 overall SFU Business course grade point average, and must either already be accepted to the Philosophy portion of the Joint Major or be eligible for admission that term. The supplemental application can be found on Beedie's website. Students not accepted upon initial application may reapply. Unsuccessful applicants may appeal through the faculty admissions appeals committee.

Application Deadlines

Visit <http://beedie.sfu.ca/bba/apply> for application deadlines.

GRADE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to normal university grade point average requirements, the Beedie School of Business requires a minimum 2.30 overall SFU Business course grade point average for entry into all 300 and 400 division business courses.

A minimum 2.30 overall SFU Business course grade point average is required for graduation from a Business major, joint major, or double degree program.

For a course to be accepted as fulfilling a prerequisite, or for a lower division requirement, or for a core course to be accepted in a student's program in business, a student must have obtained a minimum grade of C- (C minus).

COURSE LIMIT

Students with fewer than 60 units may enrol in a maximum of 16 units per term.
Those with 60 or more may enrol in a maximum of 18 units.

LETTERS OF PERMISSION

The Beedie School of Business Administration does not normally approve letters of permission for students already enrolled at Simon Fraser University.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Business Lower Division Requirements

Students must complete all of:

BUS 217W - Critical Thinking in Business (3)
BUS 237 - Introduction to Business Technology Management (3)
BUS 251 - Financial Accounting I (3)
BUS 254 - Managerial Accounting I (3)
BUS 272 - Behavior in Organizations (3)
ECON 103 - Principles of Microeconomics (4)
ECON 105 - Principles of Macroeconomics (4)

and one of:

MATH 150 - Calculus I with Review (4)
MATH 151 - Calculus I (3)
MATH 154 - Calculus I for the Biological Sciences (3)
MATH 157 - Calculus I for the Social Sciences (3)

and one of:

BUS 232 - Data and Decisions I (4)
STAT 270 – Introduction to Probability and Statistics (3)

It is recommended that students complete BUS 202 - Foundations for Collaborative Work Environments (3) in order to ensure they possess the foundational skills in communication and collaborating necessary for successful completion of upper division business coursework. Students wishing to register in BUS 202 should consult with an Undergraduate Academic Advisor in the Beedie School of Business.

Philosophy Lower Division Requirements

Students complete a total of at least 15 units, including one of:

PHIL 100W – Knowledge and Reality (3)
PHIL 120W – Moral and Legal Problems (3)
PHIL 150 – Great Works in the History of Philosophy (3)

and all of:

PHIL 110 – Introduction to Logic and Reasoning (3)
PHIL 201 – Epistemology (3)
PHIL 203 – Metaphysics (3)
PHIL 221 – Ethical Theory (3)

Business Upper Division Requirements

CORE COURSES

Students complete at least 29 upper division units in BUS or BUEC courses, including all of:

BUS 303 - Business, Society and Ethics (3)
BUS 312 - Introduction to Finance (4)
BUS 336 - Data and Decisions II (4)
BUS 343 - Introduction to Marketing (3)
BUS 393 - Commercial Law (3)
BUS 478 - Strategy (3) ^

and one of:

BUS 374 - Organization Theory (3)
BUS 381 - Introduction to Human Resource Management (3)

and both† of:

BUS 371 - Critical Thinking in Business Practice (3)
BUS 483 - Introduction to Employment Law for Business (3)

^ To be completed at Simon Fraser University.

† Any 400-level business course worth at least three units and deemed to have significant relevance may, with prior faculty permission, be substituted for one of the above courses.

BUS 360W is recommended but not required. BUS 360W will be waived as a prerequisite for 400 division BUS courses for those in approved BUS joint programs. BUS 360W must be completed at Simon Fraser University in accordance with the WQB requirements.

BUSINESS 400 DIVISION REQUIREMENT

Students must complete two* 400 division BUS or BUEC courses, each worth a minimum of 3 units (excluding BUS 478 and practicum courses).

* Note that BUEC courses may count only once as business units or as economic units.

BUSINESS CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENT

Students have the option to complete a concentration in one of several areas by taking courses in an area: Accounting, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Finance, Human Resources Management, International Business, Management Information Systems, Operations Management, Marketing, Strategic Analysis.

Philosophy Upper Division Requirements

Students complete a total of at least 25 PHIL units, including both of:

PHIL 326 – Topics in Law and Philosophy (3)

PHIL 329 – Law and Justice (3)

and at least two of:

PHIL 315 – Formal Methods in Philosophy (3)

PHIL 320 – Social and Political Philosophy (3)

PHIL 321 – Topics in Moral Philosophy (3)

PHIL 322 – History of Ethics (3)

PHIL 327 – Global Health Ethics (3)

PHIL 328 – Environmental Philosophy (3)

PHIL 421W – Advanced Topics in Ethical Theory (4)

and at least two of:

PHIL 302 – Topics in Epistemology and Metaphysics

PHIL 310 – Logic, Proofs and Set Theory (3)

PHIL 314 – Topics in Logic (3)

PHIL 341 – Philosophy of Science (3)

PHIL 343 – Philosophy of Mind (3)

PHIL 344 – Philosophy of Language (3)
PHIL 345W – Philosophy of Mathematics (3)
PHIL 350 – Ancient Philosophy (3)
PHIL 352 – 17th Century Philosophy (3)
PHIL 356 – 18th Century Philosophy (3)
PHIL 357 – Topics in the History of Philosophy (3)
PHIL 358 – 19th Century Philosophy (3)

and at least one 400-level course in Philosophy

8.2 New Courses

See attached.

8.3 Market analysis – student interest and labour market demand

Evidence of student interest:

Since the introduction of major and minor concentrations in Law and Philosophy, the Philosophy Dept. has seen its total number of credential seekers increase to 195 from 135. This increase can largely be attributed to the introduction of these concentrations: as of Fall 2018, the Law and Philosophy major includes 30 declared students and the Law and Philosophy minor includes 19 declared students.

Furthermore, students from Beedie enroll in lower-division PHIL courses at very high rates. In Fall 2018, students from Beedie comprised 18.5% of students enrolled in PHIL 105, 20.5% of students enrolled in PHIL 110, 21.3% of students in PHIL 100W, and 15.7% of students enrolled in PHIL 120W. In each instance Beedie represents the largest proportion of enrollments among non-FASS students.

Evidence of Labour Market demand:

COPS projects that between 2017 and 2026 labour market demand for lawyers will remain high in Canada, with nearly 43,000 jobs available during that period. They project that supply will remain roughly in line with demand. See:
<http://occupations.esdc.gc.ca/sppc-cops/occupationssummarydetail.jsp?&tid=131>.

Work BC projects 5,380 job openings for lawyers in BC between 2018 and 2028, which represents a significantly positive job growth rate for the industry. See:
<https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Explore-Careers/Browse-Career-Profile/4112#earnings-and-outlook>

8.4 Consultation comments and letters of support

Letter of Support #1: Brad Morse, Dean of Law, Thompson Rivers University

Dear Dai,

I'm sorry to be so slow in replying to you and your request for my assessment of your proposed innovative new joint program with Business. The pressure of many other priorities on my time have intervened to delay me in reviewing the summary.

Let me 1st mention that TRU Law has benefitted greatly from top students from SFU since our JD was launched in 2011. SFU has also been a significant provider of applicants and registrants. We have further benefitted greatly from the considerable diversity in the background of these JD students as well as the major contributions they have made to the life of the law school.

Having reviewed your program proposal, let me say that I am impressed by this summary document and very favourably disposed toward its implementation. I am particularly pleased to see the emphasis upon courses focused upon: logic, critical thinking, ethics, and social philosophy and policy. Let me also admit that I was unaware that you had launched major and minor concentrations in Law and Philosophy, although I have seen law related courses on transcripts from SFU with philosophy majors. I am similarly unaware of any tertiary institutions in BC offering a program similar to yours.

Let me provide a few more comments:

1. I suspect that some of your target students may also be interested in pursuing a MBA rather than a JD or if unable to acquire a seat in a Cdn Jd program.
2. The description of your proposal does not address an important aspect of undergraduate studies to which Cdn law schools, in my experience, devote particular attention. I am referring to providing training in current research methods and requirements to submit research papers. This may simply be due to the fact that you appreciate that a number of these courses require research papers. Since it appears that you do not need any approvals from DQAB or the Minister, my comment here may not be of any relevance to the approval process internal to SFU.

In conclusion, I am very supportive of your proposal. I believe that TRU Law will look at graduates of your program, assuming it proceeds, with great interest. Please do let us know if you initiate it in September.

Best wishes

Brad

Brad Morse

Dean of Law

Thompson Rivers University

Letter of Support #2: Catherine Dauvergne, Dean, Allard School of Law, UBC

Dear Dai,

Thank you for your patience in awaiting some feedback from me on this proposal, and please excuse the brevity of my reply. I will address the three questions in your letter.

We would of course welcome applicants to law school from the proposed new program, as we do welcome students from any SFU program. We are in the process of overhauling our own admissions process and expect to implement some changes for applicants to the class of 2023 (those who apply in the autumn of 2019), but we are committed to maintaining an open process that is agnostic towards undergraduate program options. Our experience and our data show that success at law school does not correlate with any particular undergraduate training.

As to your second question, I certainly agree that training in logical reasoning tends to assist students with writing the LSAT. We might infer from that that such training will also help students with law school, but our experience shows that students get this training in a variety of places (for example, Math grads often do very well at law and I surmise the reasoning method has something to do with it but I'm not certain at all). I am not able to confirm whether this program would be a better preparation for law school than other programs at SFU or elsewhere.

Your final question was in regard to suggestions about the curriculum. I think that one addition that might benefit your students would be a course that would give them some exposure to legal reasoning and/or the Canadian legal system. I very much understand and respect that you are not aiming to replicate law school curriculum, and that of course makes sense. I am envisioning, rather, a course that would give students an exposure to what law school might be like to help them decide whether this is truly where their interests and aptitudes lie. The students who struggle most at our law school are those for whom law school is just not the right 'fit' and therefore, despite their excellent grades and strong LSAT scores, they don't like what they are doing here and do not thrive in a law school environment. At present, the proposal contains (on a mandatory basis) only 3 courses with law in the title. This strikes me as a small number for a program with law in the title. I've not seen the syllabi, but my guess based on our work with our own business school that none of these courses will give students a sense of what they would encounter while studying law by way of method. An addition to fill this gap would be my curricular suggestion.

Good luck with the project and thank you again for both the opportunity to comment and for your patience.

All the best,

Catherine

Catherine Dauvergne

Dean

Peter A. Allard School of Law

The University of British Columbia

Allard Hall, Room 263

1822 East Mall | Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 1Z1

Phone 604 822 2818 | Fax 604 822 8108

8.5 Resources

N/A

8.6 Financial plan (only if additional resources required)

N/A

8.7 Abbreviated curriculum vitae for faculty

N/A



January 31, 2019

Re: Catherine Dauvergne Letter

To Whom It May Concern:

In preparing the Full Program Proposal for the Joint Degree in Business, Philosophy and the Law, we requested feedback on the proposal from Deans at all three BC law schools: UBC, University of Victoria, and Thompson Rivers University. You'll note that we received feedback from Deans at UBC and TRU. The letter from Brad Morse, Dean of Law at TRU, is very supportive of the proposal: he notes that the program's emphasis on courses on logic, critical thinking, ethics and policy are likely to provide students with a solid critical foundation for law school. This centers on one of the pillars of the program as we conceive it, and one of the primary justifications for its implementation, in our opinion. We are pleased to see it acknowledged.

However, Catherine Dauvergne's letter is less explicitly supportive. So we have decided to address the content of her letter explicitly in this document.

One central point she makes is that, though our claim that critical reasoning skills lead to superior performance on the LSAT is true, this program would not be the only degree program in which students can acquire such skills. Of course, we have not claimed that it is. Our relevant claim is twofold. First, data clearly shows that students who study Philosophy perform very well on the LSAT relative to their peers. Since a significant portion of this program involves taking courses in Philosophy, it stands to reason that students who complete this program will be, on average, in a better position to perform well on the LSAT than many of their peers. (Of course, the same data confirms that Math students perform very well on the LSAT, which is Dauvergne's point. We are not arguing that this program is the only legitimate preparation for law school; we are arguing simply that it is a novel program that offers students preparation for the LSAT that is superior to many other degree programs.)

Second, this program can offer students something that many other programs – even those that will also prepare them well for the LSAT – cannot: early exposure to a range of topics that will stimulate their interest in the law and will give them a unique theoretical and practical foundation for the legal issues they will study in law school. Specifically, this program will allow students to explore foundational questions about ethics and the law, about the relation between business practice and legal practice, and about the interaction between public policy and the law. Again, we do not believe this is the only route to success in law school admission or in law school. Our claims are that this unique degree program will a) stimulate early student interest in a range of questions that are foundational for the topics they will study in law school, if they choose to attend law school; b) prepare students for genuine success in law school by offering them a rigorous analytical background in both theoretical and practical questions relevant to the study of law; and c) ultimately help produce thoughtful, curious and ethically-minded attorneys. As such, even if this program is not the only route to success on the LSAT and in law school, we believe it is likely to compare well to other programs that facilitate careers in the law.

Dauvergne also points out that “Our experience and our data show that success at law school does not correlate with any particular undergraduate training.” This is an important point, but it does not contradict anything we have claimed. For, first, we have not insisted that this program will necessarily lead to success in

law school. We *have* claimed that this program is likely to lead to success on the LSAT – a claim well-supported by the data. And we have argued that the skills acquired through this program are important in many legal careers – a point Dauvergne does not dispute. However, we will also note that Dauvergne’s data is unlikely to indicate much at all about this sort of program: it is genuinely unique in western Canada. So we believe that earning a degree in this program *will* lead to success in law school. This is, admittedly, speculative, since the absence of similar programs means evidence is scant. But we have given significant reason to believe that the skills, perspective and analytical training afforded to students by this program are all essential to success in law school and success as a lawyer. So while we take the point that no existing concrete evidence establishes that graduates of this program are more likely to succeed, we believe we have made a strong case that such a correlation will hold in the future.

Finally, Dauvergne notes that she would add a course to the curriculum that “would give students an exposure to what law school might be like to help them decide whether this is truly where their interests and aptitudes lie.” This is an interesting suggestion, and one to consider for future curriculum expansion, but it is one that we are not in a position to satisfy at the moment. SFU is not a law school and this is not a traditional pre-law program. It is our position that, given current unit resources and expertise, and given the way in which this program is conceived, it would not be appropriate for either unit (or both) to try to “replicate” a law school experience. If there is future demand for such an addition to the curriculum, then the two units together will consider incorporating this kind of course in such a way that it is consistent with the expertise of the units and the goals of the program.

In sum, though we take Dauvergne’s concerns seriously, we believe that a strong justification for this program exists on grounds that are independent of those considerations raised by Dauvergne in her letter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dai Heide
Senior Lecturer
Department of Philosophy
Simon Fraser University
dheide@sfu.ca
778-782-4806

Dr. Stephen Spector
Senior Lecturer
Beedie School of Business
Simon Fraser University
sspector@sfu.ca
778-782-3637