

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

For Information

February 2004

Composition and Mandate of the Committee

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

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

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

Data on credentials awarded are presented in the second table in Appendix B. We are now seeing an increase in masters degrees awarded.

since 2000. There has not been an increase in doctoral degrees, but this should occur in the next few years.

#### New Programs

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

#### Funding for graduate students

Financial support for graduate students continues to be a concern, particularly as we have to compete for students with universities in provinces that provide a provincial scholarship plan and other provincially-funded recruiting incentives. Locally, UBC's

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

In 2002 the Dean created a small working group to examine graduate student funding at SFIT. In 2003 the Working Group consulted with the university community on principles

of graduate funding, undertook a survey of graduate students, gathered data on graduate student funding, and prepared a draft report. The report has been made public (February 2004) and we are soliciting comments.

#### Graduate Studies and University Planning

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

Demand for admission to research-intensive graduate programs continues to be strong, and the University's goal of increasing research activity will require well organized, high quality programs. Most academic units either have masters and doctoral programs in place, or are currently planning them. The relatively rapid turnover of faculty members

will require re-structuring of some existing programs, as academic units move in new directions. Critical issues will be our ability to provide funding, and action to ensure better rates of completion and times to completion.

## Appendix A Senate Graduate Studies Committee, Activities 2003

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

### Changes to existing programs

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

### New programs

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

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

A preliminary proposal for graduate programs in Computing Arts and Design Sciences

(Approved at SIAT) (Approved at SGSC)

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

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

### Appendix B. Graduate Enrollment and Credentials Awarded

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

#### Graduate enrollments

Faculty	Fall 1997	Fall 1998	Fall 1999	Fall 2000	Fall 2001	Fall 2002	Fall 2003	Change 97 to 03
	440	446	450	450	456	524	600	160

**Credentials awarded by academic year**

Faculty/credential	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03
Applied Sciences							

