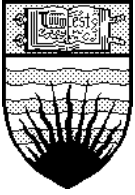


THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



March 13, 2008

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
Vancouver Senate
2016 - 1874 East Mall
Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6T 1Z1

To: Senate

From: Senate Curriculum Committee

Re: **Change to UBC Bachelor of Science degree parchment for students in the Faculty of Science**

Change to the UBC Bachelor of Science degree parchment for students in the Faculty of Science

The Senate Curriculum Committee recommends to Senate for approval a proposal from the Faculty of Science to include on the Bachelor of Science degree parchment information about the field of study on Line 2 and other information, such as "Co-operative Education Program" and "standing achieved" on Line 3. Please see the attached proposal for more information.

Motion: *"That the proposed change to the UBC degree parchment for the Faculty of Science be approved."*

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Marshall, Chair
Senate Curriculum Committee

To: Dr. Peter Marshall, Chair, Senate Curriculum Committee

From: Dr. Paul Harrison, Associate Dean, Faculty of Science

Date: Oct. 30, 2007

The following proposal was approved today at the meeting of the Faculty of Science council.

Re: Change to UBC degree parchment for students in the Faculty of Science

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

Currently the parchment for the B.Sc. degree uses only one of three possible lines to describe the degree and states only “Bachelor of Science”. Some other faculties already provide more descriptive information about the program of study on the parchment. Science is a rich and diverse field of study and students increasingly identify with their discipline within Science which may include one or more major or honours programs as well as one of several minors. Students have expressed interest in seeing more information on their parchments but to more describe some of the complex combinations of areas of study now pursued would go beyond the level of detail envisioned by Senate when it set out provisions for modifying the parchment in 1997.

Therefore, whereas Senate has allowed for a faculty that wishes to change what appears on the parchment for an existing degree to make a proposal to the Senate Curriculum Committee for consideration and approval by Senate,

and whereas Senate has allowed for “inclusion of information about the field of study” on the second line of the parchment (recommendation #8 of the report on Degree Names and Parchments, approved by Senate on October 15, 1997),

and whereas Senate similarly allowed for “information in addition to the degree name and field of study” to appear on the third line of the parchment, such as “Co-operative Education Program” and “standing achieved” (recommendation #9 of the report on Degree Names and Parchments, approved by Senate on October 15, 1997),

and whereas the existing provision for “standing” which is limited for the B.Sc. degree to the acknowledgement of completion of an “Honours Program” does not conform to the practices in the Faculty of Science,

PROPOSAL

The Faculty of Science respectfully requests approval to use all three available lines on the parchment, as follows:

- **Line 1: “Bachelor of Science” (unchanged)**
- **Line 2: Field of Study, as described below**
- **Line 3: Other information, specifically “Co-operative Education Program” and the Graduating Standing “with Distinction” as described below and in a separate proposal to the Senate Curriculum Committee.**

EXPLANATION

Line 2: Field of Study

Each B.Sc. student will have a primary specialization and some will have a secondary specialization. The primary specialization will be of one of the following types: Major, Combined Major, General Science, Integrated Sciences, Honours, and Combined Honours. Each of those

types is offered in many different fields of study. Although the Major is the standard type and therefore might be understood even if it were not stated on the parchment (the option would be to state “Bachelor of Science in X” for a Major program in the field of X), its inclusion is required for reasons stated below. The proposed representation of the various types of primary specializations is shown in the table below.

Primary Specialization Type	Appearance on Parchment Line 2
Major	Major in Physics
Combined Major	Combined Major in Computer Science and Biology
General Science Route A (two areas of concentration)	In General Science, Life Science and Earth Science Concentrations
General Science Route B (one major area of concentration)	In General Science, Chemistry Concentration
Integrated Sciences (prior to creation of the Major in Integrated Sciences)	In Integrated Sciences
Honours	Honours in Physiology
Combined Honours	Combined Honours in Biochemistry and Chemistry

Some B.Sc. students will have a secondary specialization which normally will be a Major or Honours either in a second Science discipline or one in the Faculty of Arts. The second specialization should appear after the first specialization using the standards in the table above. Examples would be:

- Two programs in Science disciplines: Major in Physics and Major in Cell Biology and Genetics,
- One Science program and one Arts program: Honours in Mathematics and Major in German.

The second example demonstrates the need to include the “type” even if it is “Major” for if “Major” were omitted the nature of the student’s studies could be misrepresented (i.e., “Honours in Mathematics and in German” would imply a double honours program).

B.Sc. students can also be approved to complete one of many types of Minor programs in addition to a primary specialization (sometimes even in addition to primary and secondary specializations). No request is being made to include a description of a Minor on the parchment because although such study is indicative of a student’s interests and accomplishments, it is not core to the B.Sc. degree and it will be acknowledged on the transcript.

Line 3: Other Information

- a) “Co-operative Education Program” should appear to acknowledge a significant component of a graduate’s educational experience which amounts to from three to five terms without contributing to the academic credits required for the B.Sc. degree. The office of Science Co-op determines when the requirements for the designation have been met.
- b) Standing: The Faculty is requesting Senate through a separate proposal to institute a graduating standing (“with Distinction”) for scholars who meet certain requirements.

Line three, therefore, may be blank or it may include one or both of the above, as appropriate. If both, separating them by a comma may be the clearest way to represent the student’s status so that the “standing” will not seem to apply only to “Co-operative Education Program”.