

Meeting minutes of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) held on June 5, 2018 in the Thesis Defence Room, SFU Library

Present:

George Agnes (Acting Chair)
Nicole White (Library)
Chantal Turpin (GSS Representative)
Shelley Gair (Associate Director)
Krista Gerlich-Fitzgerald (Curriculum)
Kathleen Vieira-Ribeiro (Secretary)

Faculty Chair:

Faisal Beg (FAS)
Andrew Gemino (BUS)
Stuart Poyntz (FCAT)
Allan MacKinnon (designate for EDUC)
Alex Clapp (designate for FENV)
Stephen Smith (HSCI)
Peter Ruben (SCI)

Guest

Daria Babeshko (GPS)

Regrets:

Jeff Derksen (Chair)
Ed Park (Associate Dean)
Lisa Shapiro (FASS)
Sarah Lord Ferguson (Graduate Student)
Shuna Ho (Graduate Student)

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| 1. Approval of agenda | Approved |
| 2. Review of the SGSC minutes of March 6, 2018 | Approved |
| 3. Business arising from the minutes | |
| 4. Chair's Report | |

The Chair thanked L. Shapiro and P. Ruben for their many years on SGSC and valuable contributions. The Chair also recognized the student members who participated in 2017-2018, E. Hogg and S. Lord Ferguson, alternatives K. Hegeman and N. de Weers for their service. The committee welcomed the new student members and Faculty.

The Degree Audit Project was scheduled to be complete. Currently there are still outstanding program calendars in the new format. Handouts were provided to each faculty member which list the calendars that need to be submitted. Please be aware of an increase of these submissions over the next two months as we look to finalize all entries.

5. For Approval

5.1 Faculty of Applied Sciences

School of Engineering Science

- 5.1.1 New course: ENSC 813 Deep Learning Systems in Engineering

K. Gerlich-Fitzgerald noted that there is a revised version that contains a repeat for credit and editorial changes to the description.

Moved by F. Beg; seconded by P. Ruben

Approved

5.2 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Department of Linguistics

5.2.1 Calendar revision: Linguistics MA, PhD

Department of Sociology and Anthropology

5.2.2 Calendar revision: Anthropology MA, PhD

5.2.3 Calendar revision: Sociology MA, PhD

Moved by C. Turpin; seconded by F. Beg

Approved

5.3 Beedie School of Business

5.3.1 Course change (unit change and equivalency): BUS 783

Moved by A. Gemino; seconded by A. Clapp

Approved

5.3.2 Course change (equivalency): BUS 643

Moved by A. Gemino; seconded by C. Turpin

Approved

5.3.3 Program change: Management of Technology MBA

Moved by A. Gemino; seconded by C. Turpin

Approved

5.4 Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology

School of Interactive Arts and Technology

5.4.1 New course: IAT 848 Mediated, Virtual and Augmented Reality

A committee member questioned the use of “OR” in the prerequisite. The committee was informed that this is the preferred format to ensure accuracy in the course set-up.

The committee discussed the use of participation marks in graduate course work. A best practices guidelines will be created and brought forward to SGSC to address assessment rubric, percentage of grade given, informing the students while still giving the instructor academic freedom.

The committee discussed the merits of interdisciplinary studies across all research fields, and agreed that these types of course collaborations are an absolute necessity and should be encouraged.

Moved by G. Agnes; seconded by C. Turpin

Approved

School of Communication

5.4.2 New course: CMNS 893 MA project

5.4.3 Course change (unit change and prerequisite): CMNS 896

5.4.4 Program change: Communication MA, PhD

S. Poyntz clarifies that these programs have not been updated since 2015 and these changes are to reflect the correct University minimum requirements under Graduate General Regulations 1.7.2.

Moved by S. Poyntz; seconded by P. Ruben

Approved

5.5 Faculty of Education

5.5.1 Program change: Curriculum and Instruction Graduate Certificate

5.5.2 Program change: Educational Leadership Graduate Certificate

C. Turpin would like it to be made explicitly clear to students admitted prior to Spring 2019 that these program changes do not impact their program requirements.

Moved by A. Mackinnon; seconded by C. Turpin

Approved

5.6 Faculty of Science

Department of Chemistry

5.6.1 Course change (title and description): CHEM 754

Moved by P. Ruben; seconded by C. Turpin

Approved

Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science

5.6.2 Course change (title and description): STAT 840

Moved by P. Ruben; seconded by F. Beg

Approved

5.7 Individualized Interdisciplinary Studies

5.7.1 Course change (units): INS 899

Moved by G. Agnes; seconded by A. Clapp

Approved

5.7.2 Program change (new): MA, MASc, MSc, PhD Individualized Interdisciplinary Studies

A committee member questioned why the program requirements are based on the number of courses and not the number of units, like other graduate programs. It was clarified that depending on the home department of the student, the units are different for each course. This is to give flexibility reflecting the program name (individualized).

Moved by G. Agnes; seconded by A. Clapp

Approved

6. For Information

6.1 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Department of Urban Studies

6.1.1 Course change (repeat for credit): URB 697

**Approved under
delegate authority**

6.2 Faculty of Health Sciences

6.2.1 Program change: MPH in Health Sciences

**Approved under
delegate authority**

7. For Discussion

7.1 Course descriptions

There are many ways of phrasing course descriptions; it is recommended to be in paragraph format with proper punctuation and flow. Consideration should be given to audience interpretation as students do use the academic calendar to help them choose a prospective program and in course planning.

7.2 Tuition fee change process

At the May meeting of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC), the Graduate Studies Dean/Associate Provost (GS Dean) will get information about (a) whether any programs are planning to introduce an international differential fee, and (b) for programs which have international differential fees, whether they have any plans about how much these fees will increase.

Associate Deans must report in writing to Graduate Studies if units plan to change their fee structure or have a rationale for not applying the 2% increase for domestic students or 4% for International students in any specialty fee program for the 2019-2020 academic year. A discussion occurred regarding if the

assumption was that the fees would increase or if tuition is only increasing with a rationale. It was agreed it is the former.

8. Other Business

Outgoing member P. Ruben thanked the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies for their spectacular work in making his curriculum work easier.

9. The date for the next SGSC meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2018 (*Material Deadline June 21, 2018*)