

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

Present:

Jeff Derksen (Acting Chair)
Ed Park (Associate Dean)
Nicole White (Library)
Chantal Turpin (GSS Representative)
Krista Gerlich-Fitzgerald (Curriculum)
Daria Babeshko (Secretary)

Faculty Chairs:

Faisal Beg (FAS)
Lisa Shapiro (FASS)
Andrew Gemino (BUS)
Dongya Yang (FENV)
Steven Smith (SCI)

Graduate Students:

Erin Hogg
Sarah Lord Ferguson

Regrets:

Stuart Poyntz (FCAT)
Peter Liljedahl (EDUC)
Peter Ruben (SCI)
Shelley Gair (Associate Director)

1. Approval of Agenda **Approved**
2. Review of SGSC minutes of January 8, 2018 **Approved**
3. Business arising from the minutes
4. Chair's Report
The Chair reported that a GPA and GPC meeting took place to discuss Graduate Progress Report. The chair has explained that adoptions to better fit departments' needs were reviewed.

The Chair confirmed that the BASS funding will be released shortly with an overall increase due to changes at the provincial level. Two additional scholarships will be established – one is to help PhD students who are outside the limits to apply for the Graduate Fellowship and the other one is to support international students more robustly. The Chair has informed the committee that the Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies has recorded a 33% increase in applications from international students for the upcoming academic year and a 20% increase in acceptance from the international students from the countries affected by the US travel ban. SFU currently has six refugee students in the graduate programs across campus and one more student can be accepted.

A small increase was made to Graduate Dean's Scholarship; an additional Aboriginal entrance scholarship was added at the Master's level.
5. **For Approval**
5.1 Beedie School of Business
 - 1) New course: BUS 616 Philosophy of Management
 - 2) New course: BUS 633 Topics in Sustainability
 - 3) New course: BUS 634 Policy and Governance

- 4) New course: BUS 647 Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- 5) New course: BUS 648 Indigenous Business and Communities
- 6) New course: BUS 649 Corporate Responsibility
- 7) Course change (units): BUS 632
- 8) Course change (title and description): BUS 642
- 9) Course change (description and prerequisite): BUS 696

SGSC raised a question regarding unit increase for BUS 648 and BUS 649 and how they will affect students' tuition. A. Gemino explained that BUS 648 teamed up with BUS 649 and two instructors are teaching these courses. Students will visit indigenous communities and then write a project. Because EMBA has per term tuition, taking two separate courses within a term will not affect students' tuition. A committee member commented that the word indigenous needs to be used consistently in course outlines and across the board. The committee discussed the percentage of female authors in the reading lists. Although the percentage is area specific, it was recommended to establish a norm and stay consistent. A committee member recommended reviewing the outline and course title for the Philosophy of Management course it is more suitable for an ethics course.

Moved by A. Gemino; seconded D. Yang

Approved

L. Shapiro left the meeting

- 10) Program change (cohort name change): EMBA Aboriginal Business and Leadership

- 11) Program change (revised calendar entry): EMBA

SGSC expressed concern that the EMBA streams did not have a distinctive core. A. Gemino suggested that the Coordinator, Academic Programs, Policy and Curriculum attends one of the GPC meetings at Beedie to talk about core requirements and discuss possible solutions.

A. Gemino confirmed that the school will contact the students who are in the program to make sure they are aware of the change and that the money for rebranding comes out of the general marketing fund, which will not affect funding for the students.

Moved by A. Gemino, seconded C. Turpin

Approved

5.2 Faculty of Environment

Ecological Restoration

- 1) New course: ECO 600 Ecological Restoration

BCIT allows their students not to register in the summer term and get access to their resources but at SFU it is against the policy to work on a project while on leave. ECO 600 will allow the students to have access to the Library while working on their project over the summer term. Not being enrolled impacts students' health plan, GSS membership, and U-Pass. Students enrolled in ECO 600 will not pay tuition but the auxiliary fees will be charged.

Moved by D. Yang; seconded A. Gemino

Approved

5.3 2017 Annual Report for SGSC

Moved by F. Beg; seconded A. Gemino

Approved

6. **For Information** **Approved under delegated authority**
- 6.1 Faculty of Health Sciences**
- 1) Course change (prerequisite): HSCI 801
 - 2) Course change (description): HSCI 802
 - 3) Course change (Course title, description, prerequisite): HSCI 807, HSCI 835, HSCI 849, HSCI 855
7. **For Discussion**
- 1) Thesis name change protocol
N. White informed the committee that when a thesis becomes public, it is hard to erase all the trace of it on the web. It is important to consider whether name change will diminish searchability of the work. Thesis name change form which will outline the limitations of the process and requirements will be created.
 - 2) Senior Supervisor appointments (no documents attached)
As adjunct professors would like to get more involved, some departments are looking to have supervisory policies loosened. Other universities allow adjunct professors to supervise graduate students. E. Park informed the committee that the University of Calgary has a formal mechanism, specifically, giving a co-supervisor full supervisory privileges. It was agreed that the issue will be discussed further at SGSC retreat in April.
8. **Other Business**
- D. Yang informed SGSC that English language requirements for admission to SFU are among the highest in Canada. University of Toronto and Queens University are the only other two universities in Canada that require IELTS score of 7.0. UBC, UVic and University of Alberta require the score of 6.5. D. Yang expressed concern that by keeping the score at 7.0 level we might be missing out on some students who are otherwise qualified and have scholarships. The Chair informed the committee that this issue has been raised at SGSC. In 2012 the committee felt that lowering the language scores may affect the quality of written work, which is a big part of the graduate students' experience. E. Park confirmed that although UBC has a general requirement for IELTS test scores of 6.5, individual academic units have higher requirements; for example, Molecular Biology has a 7.5 IELTS admission score requirement. After discussion, it was decided that a decrease in program requirements may be seen negatively and that the current test requirements should remain. If a student has a lower test score and the academic unit is interested in recommending the student for admission, the unit should contact the Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.
9. Next SGSC meeting scheduled for 2:30 PM on March 6, 2018 (*Material deadline February 15, 2018*)