

Meeting minutes of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) held on October 2, 2018 in the Thesis Defence Room, SFU Library

Present:

Jeff Derksen (Chair)
George Agnes (Associate Dean)
Zoë Druick (Associate Dean)
Nicole White (Library)
Chantal Turpin (GSS Representative)
Krista Gerlich-Fitzgerald (Associate Director)
Daria Babeshko (Curriculum)
Kathleen Vieira-Ribeiro (Secretary)

Faculty Chair:

Faisal Beg (FAS)
Sean Zwagerman (FASS)
Andrew Gemino (BUS)
Stuart Poyntz (FCAT)
Wanda Cassidy (EDUC)
Dongya Yang (FENV)

Guests:

Rachel Dawson (GPS)

Regrets:

Timothy Beischlag (HSCI)
Carl Lowenberger (delegate for SCI)
Sarah Lord Ferguson (Graduate Student)
Shuna Ho (Graduate Student)

1. Approval of agenda

Item 6.2 will be discuss first to allow R. Dawson to address the committee.

Approved

2. Review of the SGSC minutes of September 11, 2018

The minutes were revised to reflect that SEE courses were still being assessed by the library for resources.

Approved

3. Business arising from the minutes

A. Gemino confirmed title revision for the two Cohort Special Arrangements proposals from Master of Science in Accounting with Business Analytics to Master of Science in Accounting with Cognitive Analytics and from Graduate Certificate in Accounting with Business Analytics to Graduate Certificate in Accounting with Digital Analytics. Admission requirements for the MSc program were also revised as per the SGSC discussion.

4. Chair's Report

The Chair noted that this meeting is mainly to facilitate discussion and receive feedback.

5. For Approval

6. For Discussion

6.1 2019-2021 BC Graduate Programs (BCGS) awards

An overview of the proposed framework for the BCGS was given. After the new B.C. government was elected, additional funds were allocated for competitive, merit-based graduate level scholarships. This is a one-time funding opportunity and the funds must be spent by March 2021. Nomination process will be announced by December 2018. It was emphasized that this funding is in addition to BASS funding.

R. Dawson informed the committee that some of the funds will be allocated towards Indigenous entrance awards and out of the projected 150 awards, eight will be withheld for the Indigenous awards, and payouts will be in increments of \$15,000 per student per year. Allocated funds must be used for recruitment purposes and there will be consultations with Graduate Chairs and Graduate Program Assistants throughout October and November. A committee member suggested that the feedback to the Ministry includes making this funding permanent and to inquire about additional support for international students. The Chair added that academic units will be notified at the time of the next BASS funding announcement and a best practices document will accompany it. The Chair recommended encouraging academic units to match these awards with the existing private awards. In Addition, BCGC awardees must apply for Tri Agency funding – an increase of federal funding will help SFU lobby to make BCGS permanent funding.

R. Dawson left the meeting.

6.2 Strategic Management Enrollment Committee at the graduate level (no documents attached)

The Chair informed SGSC that an Enrollment Committee already exists at the undergraduate level. Currently, the number of graduate students at SFU is 35% over the amount funded by the government. It will be reviewed if this percentage would be significantly different if students in professional programs were excluded. A committee will be established to discuss the language, policies, and goals for enrollment management, and a five-to-ten year plan at the graduate departmental level. The approach will be more tactical rather than strategic.

D. Yang suggested to put strategies or incentives in place to help students complete their degrees timely. The Chair informed the committee that the goal is to have a broad membership which will include student representation. The committee was reminded that graduate student enrollment affects Graduate Student Society budget as well.

6.3 Extension of Cohort Special Arrangements (CSAR)

CSAR programs are effective for three years, however the committee was informed that some academic units would have benefited if they had more time to obtain application, admission, and enrollment numbers to shape the program prior to regularizing it. Additional time would also allow a buffer while waiting for Ministry approval. A committee member asked if permanent faculty should be hired before an FPP is drafted. K. Gerlich-Fitzgerald cautioned against it as there is no guarantee of approval. A concern was expressed regarding student resources during the trial period and leaving them in a limbo if there are no plans for an FPP. K. Gerlich-Fitzgerald agreed that there can be resource issues with temporary proposals; however, so far only one proposal has not turned into an FPP.

7. Other Business

N. White confirmed an update from the Office of Research Ethics that there is an outage for online submissions from November 23, 2018 to January 2, 2019 as they migrate to a new Human Ethics online system which will become available after January 2, 2019.

8. The date for the next SGSC meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2018 (*Material Deadline October 18, 2018*)