Minutes of a meeting of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee  
held on Monday, March 10, 2008 at 2:30 p.m. in Maggie Benston Centre 2212

Present:
Jonathan Driver, Chair
Gwen Bird
Mary Ann Gillies
Heesoon Bai
Andrew Calvert
Martin Hahn
Michael Letourneau
Vivian Blaker, Secretary

George Agnes
Wade Parkhouse
Ed Bukszar
Michel Joffres
Fred Popowich
Lannie Kanevsky
Clea Moray

Regrets:
Barry Williamson
Colleen Collins-Dodd
Bhuvinder Vaid

1. Approval of agenda
   The agenda was approved as presented.  
   (M. Hahn / M. Letourneau) Motion carried

2. Approval of minutes
   Meeting minutes of February 11th 2008 were approved as presented.  
   (M.A. Gillies / M. Letourneau) Motion carried

3. Business arising from the minutes
   Nil.

4. Chair’s report
   4.1. Graduate student
       The Chair reported that Michael Letourneau was elected by acclamation to serve 
       on SGSC as graduate student representative for the one-year term beginning 
       June 1, 2008. Post-election vacancies would be filled by election by Senate.

   4.2. Administrative changes
       The Chair reported that there would be administrative changes beginning in 
       April, when he would wrap up his dean’s projects – external review, 
       scholarships, while George Agnes would assume his role as acting dean of 
       graduate studies.

5. SGSC composition: Changes [GS2008.09]
   Due to the formation of Graduate Student Society effective May 1, 2008, it was 
   moved and seconded to amend the title change of “Graduate Issues Officer, SFSS (or 
   designate)” to “President, GSS (or designate)”, and forward to Senate for approval.  
   (M. Letourneau / C. Moray) Motion carried
6. **Graduate funding (for discussion)** [GS2008.10]

The Chair noted that it was not the role of SGSC to deal with funding, but it was appropriate to discuss the effects of funding shortfalls on university priorities. The Graduate Issues Officer presented graduate students’ concerns regarding TA budget cuts. It particular, there is considerable uncertainty regarding how recent university budget funding cuts will affect TA budgets across all campuses, and how such effects may influence graduate enrollment. Advice from SGSC was solicited as to whom students could approach to address future funding concerns.

Committee members offered various ways their respective ‘home’ departments and faculties have dealt with the challenges of addressing all aspects of their mandate, for all students. These comments were however focused on graduate funding issues: revised course and tutorial deliveries, transfer of responsibility to students to apply for internal and external research funding, decentralized model and full-time enrollment targets, graduate student supervision, and effort at the faculty level to preserve TA funding.

The Chair stated that he would provide some statistics on graduate funding.

7. **Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences: Calendar changes**

7.1. **History** [GS2008.11]

**Minor course changes** (titles)

- HIST 805-5 The North American West
- HIST 812-5 History and theory
- HIST 814-5 Historical methods
- HIST 821-5 Early modern world
- HIST 822-5 British and Irish history
- HIST 843-5 United States history
- HIST 845-5 Latin American history
- HIST 852-5 Middle Eastern history
- HIST 864-5 African history
- HIST 870-5 Asian history
- HIST 884-5 Science and society
- HIST 888-5 Indigenous peoples
- HIST 896-5 Race and ethnicity

It was moved and seconded to approve the changes and forward to Senate for information.

(M.A. Gillies / M. Letourneau) (1 opposed) **Motion carried**

**New courses**

- HIST 815-5 Prospectus workshop
- HIST 879-5 Environmental history
- HIST 882-5 Oral history

- HIST 883-5 Film and history
- HIST 889-5 Colonialism/Post-colonialism

It was moved and seconded to approve the new courses, with minor editorial revision, and forward to Senate for information.

(M.A. Gillies / C. Moray) **Motion carried**

**Course deletions**


It was moved and seconded to approve the course deletions and forward to Senate for information.

(M.A. Gillies / M. Letourneau) **Motion carried**
M.A. program requirements
Changes to calendar entry – the Committee noted some required changes, to conform to current graduate general regulations.
It was moved and seconded to approve the changes, subject to minor revision, and forward to Senate for information.
(M.A. Gillies / M. Letourneau) Motion carried

7.2. Public Policy Program [GS2008.12]
Minor course change (pre-requisite)
MPP 807 Introduction to policy analysis
It was moved and seconded to approve the course change, and forward to Senate for information.
(M.A. Gillies / F. Popowich) Motion carried

Program descriptions
Changes to M.A. and Ph.D. programs
It was moved and seconded to approve the program description changes, and forward to Senate for information.
(M.A. Gillies / L. Kanevsky) Motion carried

Minor course change (title)
SA 896 MA Research
It was moved and seconded to approve the course change, and forward to Senate for information.
(M.A. Gillies / M. Letourneau) Motion carried

7.4. International Studies
New course proposal
IS 887-3 Pre-project
It was moved and seconded to approve the new course, and forward to Senate for information.
(M.A. Gillies / G. Bird) Motion carried

8. Faculty of Business Administration: Calendar changes [GS2008.15]

8.1. Minor course change
BUS 982-4 Dissertation development workshop
It was moved and seconded to approve the minor course change, subject to editorial change to the short title, and forward to Senate for information.
(E. Bukszar / M.A. Gillies) Motion carried

8.2. PhD comprehensive exam
It was moved and seconded to approve the format and calendar changes of the PhD comprehensive exam. The Committee noted that
written agreement with Economics was needed for the list of core courses.
(E. Bukszor / M.A. Gillies)  

Withdrawn

9. Faculty of Science: Calendar changes [GS2008.16]

9.1. Bioinformatics graduate diploma

Changes to the lists of core courses and elective courses were proposed for the joint program with UBC. It was moved and seconded to approve the calendar changes under the Department of Molecular Biology & Biochemistry, and forward to Senate for information.
(A. Calvert / F. Popowich)  

Motion carried

10. Faculty of Health Sciences: Calendar changes [GS2008.17]

10.1. New HSCI courses

New courses were proposed. Committee members were concerned with the manner of program development and overlap issues. It was suggested that special topics courses would address the demand, and allow time to explore collaboration and consultation with other departments, e.g., Psychology, Education, Public Policy, Sociology & Anthropology, Management of Environmental Toxicology, etc.

It was moved and seconded to approve the new courses, and forward to Senate for information.
(M. Letourneau / C. Moray)  

Withdrawn

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.