SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

MINUTES

February 7, 2019 ~ 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm
W.A.C. Bennett Library Room 7200

Attendees: W. Parkhouse (Chair), M. Crouch, E. Elle, N. Gajdamaschko, D. Hik, P. Kingsbury, C. Murray,
K. Nordgren (Secretary), K. Oldknow, S. Poyntz, S. Rhodes, S. Spector, N. van Houten

The Chair asked everyone to introduce him or herself before the meeting began.

1. Approval of the Agenda

There was one agenda item added under Other Business to discuss updates for the IAUPP program.

The agenda was approved as amended.

2. Approval of the Minutes of January 10, 2019

Amendments were made to the minutes regarding the definition of curriculum simplification/streamline and the purpose of the Open Discussion agenda item.

The minutes were approved as amended.

3. Open Discussion

a. What Constitutes an Honours Program?

The Chair gave a brief preamble and asked the members to speak to this agenda item as to what constitutes an honours program for their faculty and what they feel is acceptable. E. Elle also provided some background and history and through discussion, hoped to be able to set a general rule and establish principles.

S. Poyntz noted that an honours program was once understood to be a requirement for admission to a master’s program; however, this does not apply anymore. He posed the questions, “What is the distinctiveness of an honours program?”; “Do we want to set up for distinctiveness?”; “What do students get out of taking an honours program?”

S. Spector spoke about Beedie keeping the 132-credit requirement for the honours program as a distinctive part of the business honours program, which sets it apart or recognizes gifted students.

K. Oldknow stated that not many FAS students enroll in the honours program specifically the Mechatronics program as their program requires higher GPAs for continuance and the total required units are often higher than 132, and they generally include a thesis. For FAS co-op students, they use their experience for their honours thesis, so there is value for some.

For the Faculty of Health Sciences, N. van Houten explained the 132-unit model was kept and only a select few high achieving students take the honours program. For these students, she noted that there are great
opportunities to create their own research questions and to collect and analyze data, which prepares them for a career in the field once they have graduated.

The Chair reiterated his view that if students have the grades and potential, why not graduate sooner and go straight into a master’s program. He noted that UBC courses set up specifically for honours students.

E. Elle added that some students take the honours programs for the opportunity to publish.

For the Faculty of Education, N. Gajdaschko noted that gifted students in her faculty are eager to take the honours programs; they need that challenge. She fully supports the honours program and finds value in it especially for those gifted students.

P. Kingsbury added that an honours program on a CV is beneficial to the student.

C. Murray added that honours programs once stimulated student-led research and development, but currently it varies from faculty to faculty. Unless the proposal is well defined, students may not be taking these programs because of confusion with capstone projects vs. honours thesis.

The Chair wrapped up the discussion and concluded of the SCUS group that this is a topic of interest as we move forward with the revitalization of curriculum. He proposed to revisit this at a future SCUS meeting.

The questions posed were: should we be pursuing the accelerated masters program and post graduate work, and if so, what impact that has on our honours programs?; Do we have a philosophical problem with these single courses towards an honours degree program with the exception of capstone and the confusion that that entails? All agreed to revisit this for further discussion.

4. Old Business

b. Faculty of Science (REVISED SCUS 19-05)

1. Department of Earth Sciences

Motion 1
It was moved by D. Hik and seconded by C. Murray

“that SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information the:

- Upper division requirement changes to the Earth Sciences Major and Honours programs
- Requirement changes to the Earth Sciences and the Genomics Certificate programs effective Fall 2019.”

CARRIED
5. New Business

COURSE CHANGES (SCUS 19-08)

The following course changes were approved under delegated authority. There were a few minor amendments.

a. Faculty of Applied Sciences

1. School of Computing Science
   (i) Equivalent statement change for CMPT 105W

2. School of Engineering Science
   (i) Equivalent statement change for ENSC 105W, 204, 220, 225, 280, 380, 383, 385, 405W, 406, 410 and 440

3. School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering
   (i) Equivalent statement change for MSE 100, 101W, 210, 211, 220, 221, 223, 250, 251, 280, 353, 381, 402, 410 and 411
   (ii) Prerequisite change for MSE 300

b. Beedie School of Business

   (i) Prerequisite change for BUS 439
   (ii) Deletion of BUS 342

c. Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology

1. School for the Contemporary Arts
   (i) Description change for CA 306 and 406
   (ii) Course number and equivalent statement change for CA 167 and 168
   (iii) Prerequisite change for CA 235, 260, 314, 335, 360, 366, 412W and 414

d. Faculty of Environment

1. School of Environmental Science
   (i) Title and description change for EVSC 391, 395, 491 and 495
e. Faculty of Science

1. Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology
   (i) Description change for BPK 105, 205, 208 and 417

2. Department of Earth Sciences
   (i) Prerequisite change for EASC 411

3. Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science
   (i) Prerequisite change for STAT 285

NEW COURSE PROPOSALS

a. Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (SCUS 19-09)

1. Publishing Program

Motion 2
It was moved by S. Poyntz and seconded by S. Spector

“that SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information the New Course Proposal: PUB 448-4, Publishing and Social Change: Tech, Texts, and Revolution with B-Hum/Soc designation effective Fall 2019.”

CARRIED

PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS

a. Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (SCUS 19-10)

1. School for the Contemporary Arts

Motion 3
It was moved by S. Poyntz and seconded by N. Gajdamaschko

“that SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information the:

• Lower division requirement changes to the Art, Performance and Cinema Studies Major and Honours programs’ Art and Performance Studies and Cinema Studies streams
• Lower division requirement changes to the Art, Performance and Cinema Studies Minor program
• Lower division requirement changes to the Visual Arts Major, Extended Minor and Honours Programs effective fall 2019.”

CARRIED
b. Faculty of Environment (SCUS 19-11)

1. Department of Geography

Motion 4
It was moved by P. Kingsbury and seconded by S. Poyntz

“That SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information the upper and lower division requirement changes to the BENV Global Environmental Systems Major effective Fall 2019.”

CARRIED

There was brief discussion regarding the omission of the capstone project and substituting with courses that some members felt were not equal to capstone requirement or experience. P. Kingsbury provided a response and all were satisfied with the rationale.

c. Faculty of Science (SCUS 19-12)

Motion 5
It was moved by D. Hik and seconded by K. Oldknow

“That SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information the following program changes effective Fall 2019:

1. Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology
   - Requirement changes to the Behavioural Neuroscience Major and Honours programs
   - Admission procedure change to the BPK Major and Minor programs
   - Admission requirement changes to the Biomedical Physiology Major and Minor programs

2. Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science
   (i) Requirement changes to the STAT Major and Honours program

CARRIED

6. Other Business

a. Update on Exam Policy

K. Nordgren spoke to this agenda item and gave a brief overview of the policy and its intent to revise the Terms of Reference to reflect policy for all university exams.

The Chair provided some history and the reasons for the changes to the exam policy where the main issue was overlap of the midterm and final exams. The Chair further explained additional language will include input from the Scheduling department and once finalized would like to bring forward to SCUS for further discussion and approval.

All agreed and suggested to also address and discuss at that time, the take home exams.
b. Update on the IAUPP program – procedure for student records

The Chair approved, under delegated authority, the IAUPP Interim Pilot program and procedure. If there are any formal changes made, the Chair will bring back to SCUS for discussion and approval.

C. Murray provided history and an overview of this agenda item. She thanked R. Khan Hemani, S. Birnie and the SCUS committee for their input and support throughout this process. R. Khan Hemani spoke to this agenda item providing the highlights of the changes to the IAUPP in terms of procedure for student records. She explained that procedure was modified to fully support a student entering the IAUPP program and answered questions from the members. Discussion ensued with focus on the modifications, procedures and the withdrawal process. The Chair requested a memo of agreement between faculties regarding the splitting of the FAL and FAN courses and the no-repeat policy.

R. Khan Hemani and K. Nordgren will investigate policy for academic standing to reflect calendar language accordingly. The SCUS group was supportive of this program.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm
Minutes prepared by R. Balletta