SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

MINUTES

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

Attendees: W. Parkhouse (Chair), E. Elle (Vice-Chair), K. Nordgren (secretary), S. Birnie, J. Chou, M. Crouch, D. Hik, P. Kingsbury, C. Murray, K. Oldknow, A. Parmar, P. Pasquier (via Bluejeans), S. Smith (S. Chorney), S. Spector, N. van Houten, K. Whittle

Regrets: S. Chorney

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

2. Approval of the Minutes of October 3, 2019

The minutes were amended to reflect: the new course proposal for PHYS 416 was inadvertently sent to Senate for approval while an overlap and a Q designation were pending. D. Hik has sent the overlap check to SCUS members for review; the discussion with Keeling and Associates included the hiring of Indigenous faculty and staff to support course development, and student retention and success.

The minutes were approved as amended.

3. Open Discussion

a. Classroom Scheduling Policy

Motion 1
It was moved by S. Spector and seconded by A. Parmar

“that SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information the Classroom Scheduling Policy.”

CARRIED

The Chair provided an overview of the Classroom and Course Scheduling Policy, stated that the new policy captured recommendations made by SCUS and the faculties, and noted that the policy will be student-focused. The Chair then opened up the floor for questions.
S. Birnie and the Chair answered questions from the SCUS members.

A question was asked regarding the nature of discussion with the Directors and Chairs. The feedback was that it was beneficial to spread out the options for teaching. A question was asked regarding available alternatives since some courses have been scheduled the same way for 40 years. Faculties will be asked to review their class schedules; conflicts will be dealt with if they arise. A question was asked regarding communication to staff. The intent is to hold workshops with staff and the Schedules team to review the policy and the new Infosilem scheduling software. A question was made regarding accessibility for students. The Learning Space Design Committee (LSDC) is reviewing accessibility, safety, and risk requirements. A question was asked regarding the process for exceptions. SCUS was informed that scheduling for the Fall 2020 term will begin in March/April and the Scheduling Exemption Committee should be in place by then. A question was asked regarding the definition of “capacity. Classrooms should at least be filled to 50% capacity; the LSDC is also looking at the capacity issue.

All agreed the policy is clear and easy to understand; the policy was approved and will be forwarded to Senate.

The Chair and S. Birnie thanked those members who are interested in piloting the new software, Infosilem. and welcomed any others to participate. Interested faculties should contact S. Birnie.

4. New Business

COURSE CHANGES (SCUS 19-56)

The following course changes, effective Summer 2020, were approved by delegated authority.

a. Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

1. School of Criminology

   (i) Deletion of CRIM 384 (Fall 2020)
   (ii) Prerequisite change for CRIM 335

2. Department of Economics (Fall 2020)

   (i) Deletion of ECON 388, 389, 496
   (ii) Description and prerequisite change for ECON 333
   (iii) Prerequisite change for ECON 362
   (iv) Title and description change for ECON 428

3. Department of First Nations Studies (Fall 2020)

   (i) Acronym name change from FNST to INDG
4. Department of French
   (i) Title and description change for FREN 301W

5. Global Asia Program
   (i) Description change for GA 202
   (ii) Prerequisite change for GA 302 and 303
   (iii) Title, description and prerequisite change for GA 400

6. Department of Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies (Fall 2020)
   (i) Title change for GSWS 333
   (ii) Prerequisite change for GSWS 431

7. Department of History
   (i) Deletion of HIST 461
   (ii) Title and description change for HIST 206

8. School of International Studies
   (i) Course number and prerequisite change for IS 339
   (ii) Prerequisite change for IS 497 and 499

9. Labor Studies Program
   (i) Equivalent statement change for LBST 201

10. Department of Philosophy
    (i) Title change for PHIL 343 and 344

11. Department of Political Science
    (i) Deletion of POL 327, 405, 416, 421 and 423

12. Department of Psychology
    (i) Deletion of PSYC 451, 452 and 453

13. Department of Sociology and Anthropology
    (i) Equivalent statement change for SA 201W, 218, 275, 302W, 317, 328, 329, 330, 335, 353, 355, 364, 375, 421, 496 and 497
b. Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology

1. Publishing Program
   (i) Title change for PUB 431 (Fall 2020)

2. School of Communication
   (i) Prerequisite change for CMNS 334, 342, 353, 358, 362, 425, 431, 443, 445 and 446

c. Faculty of Environment

1. Department of Geography
   (i) Deletion of GEOG 300
   (ii) Temporary withdrawal of GEOG 318
   (iii) Prerequisite change for GEOG 386

NEW COURSE PROPOSALS

a. Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (SCUS 19-57)

Motion 2
It was moved by S. Spector and seconded by K. Oldknow

“that SCUS approve en masse, under delegated authority and send to Senate for information, the following new course proposals for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences effective Summer 2020.”

CARRIED

1. Department of Economics
   (i) New Course Proposals (Fall 2020):
      • ECON 233-4, Introduction to Economics Data and Statistics
      • ECON 334-3, Data Visualization and Economic Analysis
      • ECON 335-3, Introduction to Causal Inference and Policy Evaluation
   (ii) Q designations for ECON 233, 334 and 335

2. Department of English
   (i) New Course Proposal: ENGL 272-3, Creative Reading
   (ii) B-Hum designation for ENGL 272

3. Department of History
   (i) New Course Proposal: HIST 135-3, Capitalism and the Making of the Modern World
   (ii) B-Hum and B-Soc designations for HIST 135

4. School for International Studies
   (i) New Course Proposal: IS 301-2, Returning from Abroad
5. **Department of Linguistics (Fall 2020)**

   (i) New Course Proposal: LING/SDA 250-3, Computational Text Analysis

6. **Department of Philosophy (Fall 2020)**

   (i) New Course Proposal: SDA 270-3, Data, Ethics and Society – New Addition

7. **Department of Political Science**

   (i) New Course Proposals:
   - POL 340-4, Terrorism and the Mass Media
   - POL 390-4, Data Visualization and Politics with Q designation (Fall 2020)
   - POL 414-4, Global Feminist Politics
   - POL 488-4, Topics in Empirical Research Design and Analysis (Fall 2020)
   - SDA 490-5, Capstone Project Seminar (Fall 2020)

8. **Department of Psychology**

   (i) New Course Proposals:
   - PSYC 425-1-6, Field School 1
   - PSYC 426-1-6, Field School 2

**b. Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (SCUS 19-58)**

1. **Publishing Program**

   **Motion 3**
   It was moved by P. Pasquier and seconded by M. Crouch

   “that SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information the New Course Proposal: PUB 458-4, Journalism as a Publishing Problem effective Fall 2020.”

   CARRIED

   A question was raised regarding the rationale for offering this course the summer term. P. Pasquier will follow up. A recommendation was made to change the rationale to make more clear the intent of this agenda item as to not seem so foundational in nature.

2. **Faculty of Education (SCUS 19-59)**

   **Motion 4**
   It was moved by S. Smith and seconded by K. Oldknow

   “that SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information the New Course Proposal: EDUC 359-4, Introduction to Outdoor Education effective Summer 2020.”

   CARRIED
There was brief discussion regarding the title of the course using the word Introduction for a third year course. S. Smith explained it is introductory for this level of courses and that it occasionally occurs with other faculties as well.

A concern was raised by SCUS members regarding interdisciplinary “introduction” courses, whether they are valuable, causing confusion among students, and/or detrimental to their CGPA. A suggestion was made to create a website with clear definitions as to why certain faculties have interdisciplinary courses as program requirements. The Chair suggested creating a working group to discuss these concerns.

Discussion ensued beginning with an overview of the process of temporarily withdrawing or ‘mothballing’ courses. Courses not offered in two years are temporarily withdrawn/mothballed. The new scheduling software, Infosilem, can also capture this information.

The Chair will add this as a discussion topic at a future SCUS meeting, including recommending possible changes to the process for consistency.

**PROGRAM CHANGES**

**a. Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (SCUS 19-60)**

1. School of Criminology (Fall 2020)

**Motion 5**

It was moved by C. Murray and seconded by N. van Houten

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

- Lower division (Group B) requirement changes to the Criminology Major and Honours programs
- Lower division Criminology requirement changes to the Criminology and Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies Joint Major program
- Upper division and course access and requirements changes to the Legal Studies Minor program
- Lower division (Group B) requirement changes to the Legal Studies Extended Minor program
- Requirement changes to the Legal Studies Certificate program
- Requirement changes to the Legal Studies Post Baccalaureate Diploma effective Fall 2020.”

**CARRIED**

**Motion 6**

It was moved by C. Murray and seconded by N. van Houten

“that SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information the changes to the Admission, Program Declaration and Continuation requirements for the:

- Correctional Studies Certificate
- Criminology General Certificate
- Forensic Studies Certificate
- Legal Studies Certificate
- Police Studies Certificate

**TABLED**
There was a question posed as to how the GPA is tracked as there may be inconsistencies across campuses regarding the calculation of gpa for certificate requirements and program requirements. This item was tabled until the process is clarified and finalized.

2. Department of Economics (Fall 2020)

**Motion 7**
It was moved by C. Murray and seconded by N. van Houten

(i) Lower division requirement changes to the:
- ECON Major
- ECON Honours
- ECON-BUS Joint Major
- ECON-POL Joint Major
- ECON-BUS Joint Honours
- ECON Extended Minor programs

3. First Nations Languages Program

(i) Description and requirement changes for the Certificate in First Nations Language Proficiency (CFNLP)
(ii) Description change for the Diploma in First Nations Language Proficiency (DFNLP)
(iii) Department name change from FNST to INDG (SCUP)

4. Department of French

(i) Upper division requirement changes for the French Honours program

5. School for International Studies

(i) Upper division requirement changes to the International Studies Minor program

6. Department of Psychology

(i) Upper division requirement changes for the:
- PSYC Minor, Extended Minor, Major, Honours, Joint Major with Crim, Joint Major with Business, Joint Major with Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies
- Behavioural Neuroscience Major and Honours
- PSYC Major with ABA Concentrations
- PSYC Honours with ABA Concentrations
(ii) Upper division requirement changes to the PSYC Major, Major with ABA Concentration, PSYC Joint Major with CRIM, PSYC Joint Major with GSWS and PSYC Joint Major with BUS
(iii) Upper division requirement changes to the PSYC Extended Minor program
b. Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (SCUS 19-61)

Motion 8
It was moved by P. Pasquier and seconded by C. Murray

“That SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information the following program changes effective Summer 2020.”

CARRIED

The chair noted that “Accelerated Master Degree” is not a program; he explained that this is an admissions category.

1. School of Communication

   (i) Changes to description, admission and upper division requirement changes to the Dialogue Minor program

   (ii) Lower division requirement changes to the:
   • Communication Major
   • Communication Honours
   • Anthropology and Communication Joint Major
   • Business and Communication Joint Major
   • Communication and Interactive Arts and Technology Joint Major Bachelor of Arts
   • Communication and Interactive Arts and Technology Joint Major Bachelor of Science
   • English and Communication Joint Major
   • Sociology and Communication Joint Major

   (iii) Changes to the description, admission and upper and lower division requirement changes to the Communication Extended Minor program

2. School of Interactive Arts and Technology

   (i) Adding the Accelerated Master’s Degree Program description to the Interactive Arts and Technology Second Degree (Bachelor of Arts) and (Bachelor of Sciences) programs

   (ii) Requirement changes to the Communication and Interactive Arts and Technology Joint Major Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts programs

c. Faculty of Environment (SCUS 19-62)

1. Department of Geography

   Motion 9
   It was moved by P. Kingsbury and seconded by S. Spector

   “That SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information the:
   • Upper and lower division requirement changes to the Physical Geography Minor Program
   • Changes to the description and the upper and lower division requirements for the Physical Geography Major and Honours (Bachelor of Science) programs effective Fall 2020.”

   CARRIED
PROGRAM SUSPENSIONS

a. Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (SCUS 19-63)

1. School for International Studies

Motion 10
It was moved by C. Murray and seconded by A. Parmar

“That SCUS approve and recommend to SCUP the Suspension of Admission to the Latin American Studies Minor program.”

CARRIED

b. Faculty of Environment (SCUS 19-64)

1. School of Resource and Environmental Management

Motion 11
It was moved by P. Kingsbury and seconded by J. Chou

“That SCUS approve and recommend to SCUP the Suspension of admission to the Sustainable Development Post Baccalaureate Diploma.”

CARRIED

NEW PROGRAMS

a. Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

1. Departments of First Nations Studies and History (SCUS 19-65)

Motion 12
It was moved by C. Murray and seconded by D. Hik

“That SCUS approve and recommend to SCUP the Notice of Intent for the Joint Major in First Nations Studies and History.”

CARRIED

2. Department of Linguistics and First Nations Languages Program (SCUS 19-66)

Motion 13
It was moved by C. Murray and seconded by M. Crouch

“That SCUS approve and recommend to SCUP the Notice of Intent for the Minor in First Nations Languages.”

CARRIED
3. **Department of English (SCUS 19-67)**

**Motion 14**
It was moved by C. Murray and seconded by A. Parmar

> “that SCUS approve and recommend to SCUP the Full Program Proposal: Minor in Creative Writing.”

**CARRIED**

J. Chou raised the issue that the prerequisites for courses within this program could be a significant barrier to students who wish to take this program, but do not have capacity for additional prerequisite courses. The Chair agreed this was a valid point, that this barrier is a flaw in the program. C. Murray agreed to take it back to her faculty for review. She will review with the department, and will attend SCUP with the faculty representatives to speak to this issue.

4. **Department of Political Science (SCUS 19-68)**

**Motion 15**
It was moved by C. Murray and seconded by S. Spector

> “that SCUS approve and recommend to SCUP the Full Program Proposal: Minor in Social Data Analytics.”

**CARRIED**

5. **Other Business**

**a. “Semester in” Courses**

E. Elle provided a brief overview of the “Semester in” program and its intent. She explained that the program/courses will allow departments or faculties to pilot a semester-long program using DIAL courses (proposed DIAL 393, 394, 395) without the need to develop their own new courses. The faculty/department would create course outlines, provide funding; however, they could only offer Semester In program twice using the DIAL courses before developing their own faculty/department specific courses.

There are two options for facilitating a Semester In program. The first would be to go through the AVPLT office (Semester in Dialogue group), to ensure consistency and clarity for students. The AVPLT will serve as the Dean and the Dialogue group would consult and help with logistics. The other option would be to set up faculty/department Special Temporary Topic (STT) courses, which do not require SCUS approval.

A question was raised regarding how the Semester In courses would fit within an existing program; i.e. can these courses be used for major/honours programs? SCUS members agreed that the Semester In and DIAL courses should be brought forward for approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm
Minutes prepared by R. Balletta