

**Minutes of a meeting of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee
held on Monday, October 16, 2006 at 2:30 p.m. in Maggie Benston Centre 2212**

Present:

Jonathan Driver, Chair
Valerie Ackroyd
Wade Parkhouse
Ed Bukszar
Michel Joffres
Fred Popowich
Larry Dill
Anthony Kupferschmidt
Miraj Khaled

Trude Heift
Megan Crouch for Gwen Bird
Tom Perry for Mary Ann Gillies
Tom O'Shea
George Agnes
Martin Hahn
Bhuvinder Vaid
Joel Blok
Vivian Blaker, Secretary

Regrets:

Colleen Collins-Dodd

Allan MacKinnon

Guest:

Tom Calvert, School of Interactive Arts &
Technology

1. Approval of agenda

After introduction of members, the agenda was approved.
(B. Vaid / M. Hahn)

Motion carried

2. Approval of minutes

The minutes of September 11th 2006 were approved.
(B. Vaid / M. Hahn)

Motion carried

3. Business arising from the minutes

Item 5 - The chair recommended to Senate no changes to SGSC and ACNGP terms of reference. Item 6 - An ad hoc appeals subcommittee was established, and documentations of the appeal were distributed to members of the subcommittee last week.

Item 7 – Visiting research students – was forwarded to Senate. A student representative enquired and confirmed the intent of the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies to solicit government funding in the future.

4. Chair's report

There was no report.

5. Calendar wording re: DE grade (GS2006.38)

V. Ackroyd, Director of Graduate Records, Admissions and Registration, proposed an amendment to the wording of the graduate general regulation 1.5.1 regarding DE grade notation – DE grade may not be extended beyond the current one-month time limit, but may be changed to a WE if the student has medical grounds for incomplete work. Students would be able to retake the same course in a subsequent semester.

Members had a lengthy discussion on how the proposed change would affect the following issues:

- scholarship applications and selection processes
- fairness to students
- work quality versus completion time
- flexibility and varied departmental practices
- WE grade - signal of health problem leading to potential discrimination
- course fee versus semester fee
- infrequent course offering and delay in program completion
- transcripts reflecting reality
- chronic pattern - administrative costs to departments and university

The chair agreed to revisit this item after further exploring the advantages and disadvantages.

6. Faculty of Education: Curriculum changes (GS2006.39)

6.1. Minor course changes – credit hours and description:

EDUC 845-4 to 845-5 Learning mathematics with computers (credit hour change)

EDUC 946-5 Doctoral seminar in mathematics education (pre-requisite change)

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

(T. O'Shea / B. Vaid)

Motion carried

6.2. Minor course changes – re-number:

EDUC 831-5 to 921-5 Seminar in philosophy and educational theory

EDUC 836-5 to 922-5 Advanced seminar in epistemology and education

to differentiate EDUC 800 level for master's, and 900 level for PhD programs.

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

(T. O'Shea / J. Blok)

Motion carried

6.3. New stream to PhD program in Curriculum Theory & Implementation:

Philosophy of Education

The calendar entry for proposed new stream would include the course changes in Item 6.2. There was a brief discussion on market demand, and possible collaboration with Philosophy on courses, and a suggestion to change the calendar entry to different focuses, rather than a new stream.

It was moved to approve the curriculum changes – Philosophy of Education, pending minor revision to the calendar entry, an added statement restricting students to take EDUC 921 and 922 if they have taken EDUC 831-5 and 836-5 respectively.

(T. O'Shea / J. Blok)

Motion carried

Education was encouraged to consult Philosophy regarding possible collaboration.

7. Faculty of Science: Minor course changes (GS2006.40)

STAT 602-3 Generalized linear and nonlinear modeling

The changes to prerequisites were housekeeping changes following the separation of

mathematics and statistics departments.
(G. Agnes / T. Perry)

Motion carried

**8. Faculty of Applied Sciences: New program proposal – Notice of Intent (GS2006.41)
Master of Digital Media**

Guest: Tom Calvert, SIAT

The Chair outlined the approval process of the notice of intent and full program proposal, and noted that the uniqueness of the proposed professional degree program – developed out of an initiative by the media industry and the province - being offered jointly by four institutions in British Columbia (BC Institute of Technology, Emily Carr Institute of Art & Design, Simon Fraser University, and University of British Columbia), and being housed at the Great Northern Way Campus in Vancouver. The proposal must go through approval process of all four institutions. Responses to the market survey were positive.

Some following general issues were discussed: Industry demand and university's mandate to develop professional training; compliance to SFU guidelines for developing professional degree programs; teaching and supervision by tenure-track faculty, and critical thinking; comparison of enrollment in professional and research-intensive master's programs at SFU.

The program has a significant component of creative arts. Dr. Calvert stated that applicants were expected to be approx. 40% from computing, 40% from arts, and 20% from other fields.

It was moved to approve the new master's program proposal – notice of intent, and recommend to Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP) for approval.
(W. Parkhouse / F. Popowich)

Motion carried

9. New business

9.1. Next meeting

Scheduled on November 20, – material deadline November 6, 2006. The Chair asked that agenda items be directed to him personally, as the Secretary was expected to be absent for a period of time.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:48 p.m.