

**Minutes of a meeting of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee
held on Monday, February 13, 2006 at 2:30 p.m. in Maggie Benston Centre 2212**

Present:

Jonathan Driver, Chair
Trude Heift
Gwen Bird
Carolyne Smart
Ken Kasa
Michel Joffres
Vivian Blaker, Secretary

Valerie Ackroyd
Mary Ann Gillies
Ted Milner
Chris Veld
Mona Vajihollahi

Regrets:

Wade Parkhouse
Richard Lockhart
Allan MacKinnon
Michael Caulkins

Tom O'Shea
Peter Mustard
Larry Dill
Ariel Hornstein

Guests:

Craig Janes, Health Sciences
Elaine Fairey, Library

Bhuvinder Vaid, GIC

1. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved after a brief introduction of guests.

Motion carried

2. Approval of minutes

The minutes of December 12th 2005 were approved.
(M.A. Gillies / C. Smart)

Motion carried

3. Business arising from the minutes

The Chair informed the committee that all approved items from December 12, 2005 and January 16, 2006 were sent to the appropriate committees – SCUP and Senate. Item 4.3 – GGR 1.8.2 Review of unsatisfactory progress - was deferred, pending faculty-level response. T. O'Shea reported to the Chair that Education saw no problem with the proposed changes.

4. Student Learning Commons

Elaine Fairey, appointed director of SFU Student Learning Commons, was invited to talk about services for graduate students. Materials distributed were:

- Planning and preparation for SFU Student Learning Commons <http://www.lib.sfu.ca/slc>
- Sample programs at U of Guelph's SLC for graduate students
<http://www.learningcommons.uoguelph.ca/WinterWorkshops.html>

Location in the Library, in-person and on-line service, difference and overlap on writing and language issues, need for presentation skills, and student awareness were discussed. A room for thesis defence and presentation practice was in the planning. E. Fairey suggested that frontline personnel make students aware of the service and support available. She also asked for feedback and questions on the SLC (email: efairey@sfu.ca).

5. Graduate regulations: Time limits (GS2006.05)

J. Driver proposed a 3-year time limit on former students' applications for readmission under GGR 1.12.4 to defend theses. A case example was given of an applicant after 20 years of withdrawal from the program. The concerns were academic issues, existence of supervisory committee, institutional memory and record management. It was noted that time loss due to maternity or sick leave would be added on to the end of the time limit for degree completion under the Human Rights Act.

The chair was asked to change the proposal to include:

- Recommendation of department graduate program committee
- Date of effect
- Provision of appeal of the GGR 1.12.4 to Senate Appeals Board

The chair noted that students should be informed at the end of the time limit of the grace period and appeal provision.

6. Faculty of Health Sciences: Curriculum changes

6.1. M.Sc. Population & Public Health (GS2006.06)

Curriculum changes included:

- i. a simplified program description for the Calendar
- ii. coursework requirement from 36 to 43 credit hours
- iii. minor course changes to:
 - HSCI 691-1 Seminars in population and public health (description)
 - HSCI 801-4 Biostatistics I (prerequisite)
 - HSCI 802-4 Principles of epidemiology for public health (title and description)
 - HSCI 803-5 Research methodology for the health sciences (credit hours and description)
 - PPH 823-3 Analysis of health care delivery systems (from HSCI 804-4; name, title, credit hours and description)
 - PPH 880-0 Practicum (from HSCI 896-4 – name, credit hours, title, description; S/U grading)
 - PPH 897-3 Seminar in workplace integrated learning (from HSCI 897-4; credit hours, prerequisite and description)
 - PPH 822-3 Social and behavioral contexts of health and disease (from PPH 801-4; title, credit hours and description)
 - GLOH 670-3 Disease prevention and control (description)
- iv. deletion of course:
 - HSCI 895-4 Research conceptualization and design in the health sciences
- v. new course proposal:
 - PPH 821-4 Concepts and principles of population and public health

C. Janes explained that the changes would enhance the quality of the program, and bring it into line with international accreditation standards for master's degrees in community/public health.

It was moved to approve the curriculum and calendar changes, with an added

statement about practicum coordinator, and forward to Senate for information.
(C. Veld / K. Kasa) **Motion carried**

6.2. **Graduate Diploma in Global Health (GS 2006.07)**

Changes to coursework requirements were necessary. A detailed list of electives was deleted; credit hours and core course requirements were not affected.

It was moved to approve the calendar changes, and forward to Senate for information.
(C. Veld / K. Kasa) **Motion carried**

7. **DEV 801 – New course proposal (GS 2006.08)**

A new course proposed by the Steering Committee for the Certificate Program in Development Studies was considered. This steering committee reports to the dean of graduate studies. The committee supported an interdisciplinary course in principle, but raised administrative, academic and resource/teaching issues which the dean's office was not set up to handle.

It was moved and seconded that this item be taken to the Deans' Council for consideration.
(C. Smart / M. Joffres) **Motion carried**

8. **New business**

There was no other business. Meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.