

**Minutes of a meeting of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee
held on Monday, April 16, 2007 at 2:30 p.m. in Maggie Benston Centre 2290**

Present:

Jonathan Driver, Chair
Megan Crouch for Gwen Bird
Mary Ann Gillies
Michel Joffres
Fred Popowich
Colleen Collins-Dodd
Bhuvinder Vaid
Vivian Blaker, Secretary

Valerie Ackroyd
Wade Parkhouse
Tom O'Shea
George Agnes
Martin Hahn
Richard Lockhart
Anthony Kupferschmidt

Regrets:

Trude Heift
Allan MacKinnon

Ed Bukszar
Joel Blok

Guests:

Danielle Arcand

Steve Easton

1. Approval of agenda

A couple of items were added under new business: Scholarships, Student representation on Senate. The agenda was approved as amended.
(M. A. Gillies / R. Lockhart)

Motion carried

2. Approval of minutes

The minutes of March 12th 2007 were approved as presented.
(M. A. Gillies / R. Lockhart)

Motion carried

3. Business arising from the minutes

Item 7.2 – English language support for international students

The Chair reported that this issue was raised with VP Academic, and discussion was on expanding the international TA program, a pilot EDUC course made available in the Fall. The real issue was funding.

4. Chair's report

Nil

5. Volunteers for ACNGP

The Chair was asking for three volunteers to serve on ACNGP as SGSC representatives, for a two-year term beginning June 1, 2007 to May 31, 2009. A graduate student representative would be elected after the general election, for a one-year term beginning June 1, 2007.

6. Faculty of Education: New programs

6.1. Dual diploma in Education, SFU-France [GS2007.15]

Danielle Arcand was invited to present the program proposal at 2:45 p.m. Copies of revised memoranda of understanding with slight changes were presented. These were same MOU with different institutional names – partners in France. The options were M.Ed. or M.A. and students must meet requirements of both SFU and the respective institutions in France and do additional work equivalent to a dissertation. The EDUC courses would be taught in French.

The committee expressed concerns permitting double-dipping, precedent-setting and fee structure for exchange agreements linked to dual diploma. T. O'Shea moved to table this proposal, as it required further discussion and clarification. The guest departed at 3:30 p.m.

6.2. Ph.D. in Languages, Cultures & Literacies – NOI [GS2007.16]

T. O'Shea withdrew this proposal, and would re-submit this as a new stream of the Ph.D. program.

7. Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences: New cohort program [GS2007.17]

7.1. M.A. in International Studies

Steve Easton, representing the School of International Studies, was invited to present this proposal, including a series of new course proposals. It was intended to run this as a pilot project, prior to submitting a new program proposal through ACNGP.

It was moved and seconded to approve the cohort special arrangements program in International Studies, and forward the proposal to SCUP, and to Senate for information.

(M.A. Gillies / B. Vaid)

Motion carried

8. Faculty of Science: Calendar changes [GS2007.14]

8.1. Earth Sciences – Ph.D. program

Calendar changes were proposed to clarify the Ph.D. entry requirements and program transfer from M.Sc. to Ph.D. program.

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

(G. Agnes / B. Vaid)

Motion carried

9. New business

9.1. Scholarship administration

Method and timing of scholarship payments to incoming students were raised.

The Chair explained the risk involved in disbursing scholarships upfront. The Dean's office was responsible to the granting agencies, i.e., to pay enrolled students, and to refund granting agents if students leave the university.

It was noted that most universities made monthly disbursements of scholarships.

9.2. Graduate student representation on Senate

B. Vaid informed the committee of graduate students' concern regarding the ratio of graduate student representation on Senate, committees and task force. It was noted that equal number of graduate and undergraduate student representations on Senate might not be justified due to the difference of graduate and undergraduate student populations.

9.3. Next meeting

Next meeting scheduled on Monday, May 14, 2007.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.