

**Minutes of a meeting of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee  
held on Monday, March 12, 2007 at 2:30 p.m. in Maggie Benston Centre 2212**

Present:

Jonathan Driver, Chair  
Trude Heift, Chair  
Gwen Bird  
Mary Ann Gillies  
Michel Joffres  
Martin Hahn  
Allan MacKinnon  
Bhuvinder Vaid  
Vivian Blaker, Secretary

Valerie Ackroyd  
Wade Parkhouse  
Tom O'Shea  
George Agnes  
Colleen Collins-Dodd  
Richard Lockhart  
Miraj Khaled

Regrets:

Ed Bukszar  
Anthony Kupferschmidt

Fred Popowich  
Joel Blok

**1. Approval of agenda**

An announcement of a pending graduate student society was added under new business. The agenda was approved as amended.

(M. A. Gillies / B. Vaid)

**Motion carried**

**2. Approval of minutes**

Item 7.1 – Master's program in Digital Media (GS2007.12) – an expressed concern from student representative regarding the student appeals process at UBC was noted.

The minutes of March 12<sup>th</sup> 2007 were approved as amended.

(B. Vaid / M. A. Gillies)

**Motion carried**

**3. Business arising from the minutes**

**3.1. Faculty of Education: curriculum changes [GS2007.01]**

Curriculum changes of the Counselling Psychology program were reviewed by the Director of the Clinical Psychology Program in the Department of Psychology, and concluded that there was no overlap issue.

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

(A. MacKinnon / W. Parkhouse)

**Motion carried**

**3.2. Professional Graduate Programs [GS2007.08]**

As a result of a concern by Analytical Studies that there was no clear definition of a "professional program", the Chair proposed changes to the graduate general regulations 1.6.4 Supervisory committee and 1.9.1 Examining committee for a master's degree candidate, and 1.10.6 Examination of projects submitted in partial fulfillment of degree requirements. He also proposed renaming "professional" to "applied" master's programs

at SFU.

There were lengthy discussions on the subject, including effect on graduate fellowships for students in professional programs, course work versus research intensive component of programs, fee consequences, guidelines for supervision of theses, projects, extended essays, and structure of examinations.

The Chair agreed to work on the project further and bring back the subject to SGSC in the future.

#### **4. Chair's report**

- 4.1. The Chair visited the M.Ed. cohort in S.E. Asia, and was impressed by the work done there.
- 4.2. The provincial government was developing a new process to fund new graduate enrollment, with a ratio 60/40 for Science and Arts. Two new funding plans were a provincial scholarship program and an internship program. The Chair would be meeting with staff from MITACS, administrators of the internship program, this week.
- 4.3. The Graduate Supervision Task Force posted its report on the website <http://www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies/> and the Chair has invited comments from faculty and students.

#### **5. Faculty of Health Sciences: Curriculum changes [GS2007.13]**

##### **5.1. M.Sc. in Population & Public Health**

Minor calendar changes to the program description were proposed, including core degree and coursework requirements.

##### **5.2. PPH 897-3 – minor course change**

Minor changes were proposed: course name from Practicum project to M.Sc. project, calendar description.

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

(W. Parkhouse / R. Lockhart)

**Motion carried**

#### **6. Assessment process for new graduate programs**

The Chair of the Assessment Committee for New Graduate Programs (ACNGP) proposed that the assessment process for new programs be re-evaluated. The issue of external review and its value were discussed.

It was moved that the number of required external reviewers be reduced from 6 to 3, effective immediately, and to ask that ACNGP re-evaluate the assessment process, and present any proposed changes to SGSC in the near future.

(W. Parkhouse / M. Joffres)

**Motion carried**

7. New business

**7.1. Independent graduate student society**

B. Vaid requested that information regarding an independent graduate student society be conveyed to graduate program chairs from SGSC. The Chair cautioned that information should not appear that SGSC was promoting the issue, and therefore any information must be approved before transmitting to the departments.

**7.2. English language support for international students**

T. O'Shea expressed the need for a course designed to give graduate students English language support. W. Parkhouse commented that the language program to assist teaching assistants was effective and worthwhile. G. Bird indicated that the Students Learning Commons had plans to hire an ESL instructor in the coming year. Cost for such a course was raised.

8. Next meeting

Next meeting scheduled on Monday, May 14, 2007.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.