

**Minutes of a meeting of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee  
held on Monday, March 10, 2008 at 2:30 p.m. in Maggie Benston Centre 2212**

Present:

Jonathan Driver, Chair  
Gwen Bird  
Mary Ann Gillies  
Heesoon Bai  
Andrew Calvert  
Martin Hahn  
Michael Letourneau  
Vivian Blaker, Secretary

George Agnes  
Wade Parkhouse  
Ed Bukszar  
Michel Joffres  
Fred Popowich  
Lannie Kanevsky  
Clea Moray

Regrets:

Barry Williamson  
Bhuvinder Vaid

Colleen Collins-Dodd

**1. Approval of agenda**

The agenda was approved as presented.  
(M. Hahn / M. Letourneau)

**Motion carried**

**2. Approval of minutes**

Meeting minutes of February 11<sup>th</sup> 2008 were approved as presented.  
(M.A. Gillies / M. Letourneau)

**Motion carried**

**3. Business arising from the minutes**

Nil.

**4. Chair's report**

4.1. Graduate student

The Chair reported that Michael Letourneau was elected by acclamation to serve on SGSC as graduate student representative for the one-year term beginning June 1, 2008. Post-election vacancies would be filled by election by Senate.

4.2. Administrative changes

The Chair reported that there would be administrative changes beginning in April, when he would wrap up his dean's projects – external review, scholarships, while George Agnes would assume his role as acting dean of graduate studies.

**5. SGSC composition: Changes [GS2008.09]**

Due to the formation of Graduate Student Society effective May 1, 2008, it was moved and seconded to amend the title change of "Graduate Issues Officer, SFSS (or designate)" to "President, GSS (or designate)", and forward to Senate for approval.  
(M. Letourneau / C. Moray)

**Motion carried**

6. **Graduate funding (for discussion)** [GS2008.10]

The Chair noted that it was not the role of SGSC to deal with funding, but it was appropriate to discuss the effects of funding shortfalls on university priorities. The Graduate Issues Officer presented graduate students' concerns regarding TA budget cuts. In particular, there is considerable uncertainty regarding how recent university budget funding cuts will affect TA budgets across all campuses, and how such effects may influence graduate enrollment. Advice from SGSC was solicited as to whom students could approach to address future funding concerns.

Committee members offered various ways their respective 'home' departments and faculties have dealt with the challenges of addressing all aspects of their mandate, for all students. These comments were however focused on graduate funding issues: revised course and tutorial deliveries, transfer of responsibility to students to apply for internal and external research funding, decentralized model and full-time enrollment targets, graduate student supervision, and effort at the faculty level to preserve TA funding.

The Chair stated that he would provide some statistics on graduate funding.

7. **Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences: Calendar changes**

7.1. **History** [GS2008.11]

**Minor course changes** (titles)

HIST 805-5 The North American West	HIST 852-5 Middle Eastern history
HIST 812-5 History and theory	HIST 864-5 African history
HIST 814-5 Historical methods	HIST 870-5 Asian history
HIST 821-5 Early modern world	HIST 884-5 Science and society
HIST 822-5 British and Irish history	HIST 888-5 Indigenous peoples
HIST 843-5 United States history	HIST 896-5 Race and ethnicity
HIST 845-5 Latin American history	

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

(M.A. Gillies / M. Letourneau) (1 opposed) **Motion carried**

**New courses**

HIST 815-5 Prospectus workshop	HIST 883-5 Film and history
HIST 879-5 Environmental history	HIST 889-5 Colonialism/Post-colonialism
HIST 882-5 Oral history	

It was moved and seconded to approve the new courses, with minor editorial revision, and forward to Senate for information.

(M.A. Gillies / C. Moray) **Motion carried**

**Course deletions**

HIST 819-5, 820-5, 828-5, 844-5, 846-5, 851-5, 854-5, 881-5, 893-5

It was moved and seconded to approve the course deletions and forward to Senate for information.

(M.A. Gillies / M. Letourneau) **Motion carried**

**M.A. program requirements**

Changes to calendar entry – the Committee noted some required changes, to conform to current graduate general regulations.

It was moved and seconded to approve the changes, subject to minor revision, and forward to Senate for information.

(M.A. Gillies / M. Letourneau)

**Motion carried**

7.2. **Public Policy Program** [GS2008.12]

**Minor course change** (pre-requisite)

MPP 807 Introduction to policy analysis

It was moved and seconded to approve the course change, and forward to Senate for information.

(M.A. Gillies / F. Popowich)

**Motion carried**

7.3. **Sociology & Anthropology** [GS2008.13]

**Program descriptions**

Changes to M.A. and Ph.D. programs

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

(M.A. Gillies / L. Kanevsky)

**Motion carried**

**Minor course change** (title)

SA 896 MA Research

It was moved and seconded to approve the course change, and forward to Senate for information.

(M.A. Gillies / M. Letourneau)

**Motion carried**

7.4. **International Studies**

**New course proposal**

IS 887-3 Pre-project

It was moved and seconded to approve the new course, and forward to Senate for information.

(M.A. Gillies / G. Bird)

**Motion carried**

8. **Faculty of Business Administration: Calendar changes** [GS2008.15]

8.1. **Minor course change**

BUS 982-4 Dissertation development workshop

It was moved and seconded to approve the minor course change, subject to editorial change to the short title, and forward to Senate for information.

(E. Bukszar / M.A. Gillies)

**Motion carried**

8.2. **PhD comprehensive exam**

It was moved and seconded to approve the format and calendar changes of the PhD comprehensive exam. The Committee noted that

written agreement with Economics was needed for the list of core courses.

(E. Bukszar / M.A. Gillies)

**Withdrawn**

**9. Faculty of Science: Calendar changes [GS2008.16]**

**9.1. Bioinformatics graduate diploma**

Changes to the lists of core courses and elective courses were proposed for the joint program with UBC. It was moved and seconded to approve the calendar changes under the Department of Molecular Biology & Biochemistry, and forward to Senate for information.

(A. Calvert / F. Popowich)

**Motion carried**

**10. Faculty of Health Sciences: Calendar changes [GS2008.17]**

**10.1. New HSCI courses**

New courses were proposed. Committee members were concerned with the manner of program development and overlap issues. It was suggested that special topics courses would address the demand, and allow time to explore collaboration and consultation with other departments, e.g., Psychology, Education, Public Policy, Sociology & Anthropology, Management of Environmental Toxicology, etc.

It was moved and seconded to approve the new courses, and forward to Senate for information.

(M. Letourneau / C. Moray)

**Withdrawn**

**11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.