

**Minutes of a meeting of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee
held on Monday, December 8, 2008 at 2:30 p.m. in Maggie Benston Centre
2212**

Present:

Wade Parkhouse, Chair

Barry Williamson

Fred Popowich

Ed Bukszar

Andrew Calvert

George Blazenko

Ursula Arndt

Natalie Gick

Paul Budra

Michel Joffres

Martin Hahn

Lannie Kanevsky

Eli Gibson

Clea Moray

Vivian Blaker

Sheilagh MacDonald, Secretary

Regrets:

George Agnes

Heesoon Bai

Steven Robinovitch

Guests:

Rob Gordon

Jo Hinchliffe

1.

Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Motion carried

2.

Approval of minutes

Meeting minutes of October 20, 2008 were approved with two changes:

4.1) change to wording - 65% science and technology and 35% non-science/technology

7.1) spelling-change to breadth requirements

Motion carried

3.

Business arising from the minutes

- 3.1. Health Science provided an outline of changes to the MSc in compliance with a request from the Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP), who tabled papers [GS2008.30] in October.

4.

Chair's report

- 4.1. Graduate recruitment:

The Chair reported 5500 new hits per month to the Dean of Graduate Studies website.

- 4.2. Budget:

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The Chair discussed the budget exercise and indications are that some funds will be recovered and will go towards scholarships.

5.

Code of Student Conduct and procedural code [GS2008.52]

Guests: Rob Gordon and Jo Hinchliffe from the Senate Committee on Academic Integrity in Student Learning and Evaluation. Dr. Gordon, Chair of the committee, presented the proposal of FD grade for all graduate courses, this is consistent with undergraduate procedures.

Motion: to approve the FD grade and forward to Senate.

(M. Joffres/L. Kanevsky)

Motion carried

6.

Capstone Examination Process Working Group

The working group reported on their discussions and findings. The Chair noted that he will take all comments under advisement before bringing it back to SGSC.

7.

Curriculum Changes (For information):

Minor curriculum and calendar changes, approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies under delegated authority, to be forwarded to Senate for information:

- Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences: [GS2008.45]
 - Geography – Minor changes to MA and PhD degree requirements and MSc course work
 - Gerontology – Minor changes to MA curriculum and description, and PhD coursework
 - Latin American Studies – Minor changes to MA admission requirements and degree requirements
 - International Studies [GS2008.39] – minor course changes
 - IS 888-6 MA Project (grading)
 - IS 889-3 MA Project Completion (grading)

- Faculty of Health Sciences: [GS2008.46]
 - HSCI 803-3 Qualitative and survey research methods (unit, pre-requisite)
 - HSCI 821-3 Problems in global health (title, description)
 - HSCI 822-3 Globalization and health inequities (title)
 - HSCI 824-3 Comparative health care systems (title)
 - HSCI 880-3 Practicum (unit, grading, pre-requisites)
 - HSCI 900-1 Seminars in population and public health (title, description)
 - HSCI 901-1 Practicum preparation seminar (description, grading)
- Faculty of Science: [GS2008.47]
 - MBB 726-3 Molecular Immunology (course number, description, pre-requisites)
 - PHYS 801-2 Student Seminar (grading)
- Faculty of Business Administration: [GS2008.50]
- BUS 727-0 Co-op Practicum III (grading)

8.

Curriculum changes for approval:

Motion: to approve the following curriculum changes:

(P. Budra/M. Joffres)

Motion carried

- Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences: Curriculum changes [GS2008.39]
 - International Studies - IS 816-4 Global Security Studies: Concepts, Theories and Issues (new course)
 - Political Science - PhD program: Course work
 - Urban Studies- - URB 635-4 Urban Inequality and the Just City (new course)
 - Psychology - Program descriptions; program requirements

 - Psychology [GS2008.48]
Calendar description: department requirement
- Faculty of Health Sciences: Curriculum changes [GS2008.40]
 - HSCI 806-3 – Principles of Demographic Analysis for Health Researchers (new course)
 - HSCI 870-3 – Global Health And International Affairs (new course)
Library report (for information)
- Faculty of Science: Curriculum changes [GS2008.47]
 - Molecular Biology

- MBB 724-3 Membrane Transport Mechanisms (new course)
- MBB 727-3 Immune System II: Immune Responses in Health and Disease (new course)
- Library report (for information)
- Physics
 - Physics PhD Requirements (calendar change)
- Faculty of Education: Curriculum changes [GS2008.49]
TESL Program changes
- Faculty of Applied Sciences: Curriculum changes [GS2008.51]
 - REM 656-5 – Environment and Development (new course)

9.

New Program Proposal and program change :

- Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences: New program proposal
Graduate certificate in Latin American Studies [GS2008.41]
Program uses existing resources.

Motion: Move to approve.

(P. Budra/F. Popowich)

Motion carried

The Chair noted that the certificate programs are currently managed by the Dean of Graduate Studies; however, this will change after April 2009 as a result of the restructuring and may require changes to the graduate general regulations.

- Faculty of Health Sciences: Program changes

MSc program [GS2008.42]

This item [GS2008.30] was recommended to SCUP for approval and was referred back to SGSC due to clarity issue of documentation. The Chair noted that only the first four pages of the current document [GS2008.42] are pertinent and he will recommend the program changes with a memo to SCUP to clarify the following issues:

Whether the proposed program represented a new program: MSc program changes are not substantially different; the Faculty granted MSc degrees at the last convocation and minor course issues were resolved.

MPH Program and Calendar Changes [GS2008.53, GS2008.54]

The Committee reviewed the two-page summary of the changes to the MPH Program, and discussed the difference between the MSc and the MPH programs.

Motion: Approve MPH curriculum changes, and approve the calendar entries subject to language revisions and forward to Senate for information.

(M. Hahn/U. Arndt)

Motion carried

In future, faculties will be encouraged to limit calendar entries and to use websites for more general information.

10.

Graduate scholarships(Tri-council)

The Chair reported on completion of the NSERC scholarship competition, including Vanier awards, and noted that the top-ranked applications were exceptional. The lower-ranked applications generally failed in terms of the quality of research proposals and letters of support. The Dean plans to coordinate workshops that will help faculty and students with grant/scholarship writing.

11.

Graduate supervision

Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of expanding beyond tenure-track faculty e.g. Lecturers or Lab Instructors

12.

SFU calendar changes – SGSC deadline is January/February. March 9th is the absolute deadline for Senate.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.