Minutes of a meeting of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee
held on Monday, October 20, 2008 at 2:30 p.m. in Maggie Benston Centre 2212

Present:

Wade Parkhouse, Chair	George Agnes
Mary Ann Pope for Barry Williamson	Natalie Gick
Fred Popowich	Paul Budra
Ed Bukszar	Michel Joffres
Andrew Calvert	Martin Hahn
George Blazenko	Lannie Kanevsky
Ursula Arndt	Eli Gibson
Raj Sanghera	Clea Moray
Vivian Blaker, Secretary	

Regrets:

Heesoon Bai	Steven Robinovitch

1. **Approval of agenda**

   The agenda was approved as presented.   **Motion carried**

2. **Approval of minutes**

   Meeting minutes of September 8th 2008 were approved.   **Motion carried**

3. **Business arising from the minutes**

   3.1. The Chair reported that Health Sciences submitted a draft on the Master of Science program changes [GS2008.30] to Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP), who tabled the papers and referred these back to SGSC.

4. **Chair's report**

   4.1. Graduate enrollment targets
   Enrollment increase of 4% in the fall – achieved target for new funding based on FTE enrollment. Target areas were 65% science and technology and 35% non-science/technology. Senate Committee on Enrollment Management & Planning (SCEMP) – active in enrollment management for areas where targets were not met.

   4.2. Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS)
   Issues from the CAGS annual conference in Edmonton:

   - all graduate programs experiencing growth – resulting in increased competition for graduate students

   - China granting more doctoral degrees than U.K. and U.S.A.; *Times Higher Education* World Universities rankings – SFU dropped but 9th in Canada; data of 122 schools with ESL, 80% offering degrees in English language www.timeshighereducation.co.uk

- 2/3 doctoral graduates looking for non–academic careers; 30% seeking academic career were successful but only 15% tenure track

- factors for higher completion rate and faster completion time: primarily quality of supervision and resources

- funding – "front-end loaded" merit-based graduate awards

5. **Discussion**

   5.1. **Graduate awards funding resulting from graduate enrollment targets**
   Funding barrier, recruitment, retention and completion were discussed. Two funding components: TA budget at faculty level - not merit-based; graduate awards should be merit-based. Philosophy and flexibility of graduate awards were discussed – "front-end loaded" and commitment to existing students. Experiences of other institutions were cited. Recommendations must be through the Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards & Bursaries (SPCSAB).
   Summary of issues: Flexibility, merit-based, competition and complexity

   5.2. **Capstone requirements: Examination of extended essays and projects**
   Graduate general relations 1.9.1, 1.10.5, 1.10.6
   More course-based programs emerging: Professional program projects, and non-professional program projects; extended essays
   Summary: Appropriate GGR with quality control – a working committee to propose changes

   5.3. **Graduate supervision: Faculty of Education [GS2008.36]**
   Graduate general relations 1.6.3, 1.6.4
   Supervision for course-based programs: 95% coursework; high number of students with off-campus projects
   Changes were proposed to reflect a practice with permission from the dean of graduate studies on a case-by-case basis, to allow Limited Term Lecturer, Lecturer, Senior Lecturer or Adjunct, to act as senior supervisors. Recognition for graduate supervision and quality control were discussed.

   Motion to recommend the changes of GGR 1.6.3 and 1.6.4, with an amendment "In the Faculty of Education," to Senate for approval.
   (L. Kanevsky / F. Popowich)   **Motion carried**

   5.4. **Graduate recruitment via DGS**
   Participation of Dean of Graduate Studies personnel at recruitment fairs would generally stop except for specific groups or professional groups. Website design and strategy as a recruitment tool, "branding" – building reputation and image outside of the province and country, and resources were discussed.
   Survey of applicants' decision to apply or not apply to SFU would be useful.

   5.5. **Faculty interviews: SFU Teaching & Learning Task Force**
   G. Agnes, representing the committee under the Associate VP Academic, to compile information on cultural learning and teaching, would be conducting

interviews of 20–30 minutes, with faculty on SGSC. He would send the survey via e–mail prior to the interview. A student representative on the task force would likely conduct the interview the student reps on SGSC.

6. **No discussion**

   6.1. **Faculty of Applied Sciences: New course proposal [GS2008.37]**
   Computing Science
   CMPT 768–3 Computer music theory and sound synthesis

   Motion to approve and forward the new course proposal to Senate for information
   (F. Popowich / E. Gibson)   **Motion carried**

   The Chair reminded members that new course proposals should be forwarded to Faculty graduate studies curriculum chairs (fgsc–list@sfu.ca) for their respective departments' perusal, and library reports should be obtained.

7. **For information only: Minor curriculum changes** [GS2008.38]

   The following minor course and calendar changes, approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies under delegated authority, would be forwarded to Senate for information.

   7.1. **Computing Science**
   Minor course change:
   CMPT 829–3 Special topics in bioinformatics (unit change)
   Calendar changes:
   Breadth and Course Requirements: add CMPT 768–3
   Change CMPT 829–6 to CMPT 829–3

   7.2. **Interactive Arts & Technology**
   Minor calendar revisions:
   Degree requirements – MA or MSc and PhD courses: add IAT 802–3 and IAT 834–3; delete IAT 840–3

8. **Adjournment**

   Meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.