

# Minutes of a meeting of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee held on Monday, June 8, 2009 at 2:30 p.m. in Maggie Benston Centre 2212

Present:

Wade Parkhouse, Chair

Michel Joffres

George Agnes

Derek Bingham

Barry Williamson

Natalie Gick

Josh Newman

Paul Budra

Sheilagh MacDonald, Secretary

Tom Calvert

Regrets:

Heesoon Bai

Ed Bukszar

Wolfgang Haider

Fred Popowich

Graham Lyons

Duncan Wlodarczyk

1. **Approval of agenda** – Carried with correction for item 7. Corrected entry will read Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology
2. **Approval of minutes – Carried with one editorial change.** New curriculum management software program will track new programs and courses from application through Senate.
3. **Business arising from the minutes of May 11, 2009 –**
  - **5.1- Graduate Supervision** – the Dean spoke to V/P Legal Affairs, Judith Osborne, regarding recourse in situations where graduate supervision does not meet university standards. The matter will be raised with SFU Faculty Association with an attempt to address current problems.
  - **5.2 On-leave status-** The Dean is asking whether or not the current policy requires revamping in order to limit the number and types of leaves currently granted. SGSC members are asked to communicate any concerns to the Dean.
  - **5.4 Convocation Medals** – with the addition of new faculties and in order to equitable in terms of number of students in each faculty, changes need to be made to current distribution. The matter will be referred to the Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries (SPCSAB) for consideration.
4. **Chair's report**
  - Enrollment- following on a weekly basis. Current projections show an estimated 900 applicants versus 600 last year.

- Business-related SSHRCs (MA) – Business was not able to submit any applications because the SSHRC criteria did not fit with their program. BUS feels the SSHRC criteria needs to be revamped and made broader.
- PhD SSHRCs- SFU students were very successful. Further analysis is not possible until SSHRC posts the results to their website.

**5. For Discussion:**

- **5.1 Faculty of Arts and Social Science – New Program Proposal – MA in Humanities** [GS2009.09]

Kathy Mezei in attendance to answer questions/respond to concerns

Associate Dean, George Agnes, addressed the committee. The MA was originally proposed in 2007 and was reviewed by the Assessment Committee for New Graduate Programs (ACNGP). The committee recommended the program for approval to SGSC but it was held back due to a funding crisis as well as a change of Dean in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS). The program was sent back to SGSC following a FASS referendum in spring 2009. The result was that Humanities was given permission to proceed with the proposal. Minor editorial changes have been made. Discussion followed; most of the concerns were deemed operational and were not related to the proposal.

**Motion:** Move that SGSC recommend the proposal to the Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP) for implementation. (P. Budra/H. Bai) **Motion Carried Unanimously**

- **5.2 Faculty of Health Sciences – New Program Proposal – PhD in Health Science** [GS2009.10]

Michel Joffres to answer questions/respond to concerns

Associate Dean, George Agnes, addressed the committee. The process is as follows:

1. Letter of intent goes to SGSC
2. SGSC approves and sends to SCUP
3. Full proposal goes to SGSC
4. If there are minor changes, externals are chosen and the proposal is sent out for review
5. External comments go back , without comments or edits, to the faculty/department for discussion and response
6. External reports and the faculty/department response comes back to SGSC
7. Once approved by SGSC, the proposal is sent to SCUP

The committee wanted to ensure that the program's primary focus is on PhD students; the ILIAD: Interdisciplinary Learning in Infectiously-Acquired Diseases component is to be removed and considered separately by the SGSC; the Committee wants to see a greater emphasis on ensuring comprehensives and work on theses is completed very early in the process.

G. Agnes and M. Joffres work together to address the concerns. The proposal will then be sent out to maximum 6 external reviewers having expertise in the field; a minimum of 4, possibly 3, must file reports. The department will respond and the proposal is to be back on an SGSC agenda before September.

- **5.3 New Graduate Awards** [GS2009.11]
  - a) Provost International Scholarship
  - b) Provost's Doctoral Prize of Distinction

Wade Parkhouse is proposing funding the scholarship and prize using existing money normally assigned to graduate fellowships.

**Scholarship (a)** - would be used for recruitment for international students.

**The prize of distinction (b)** - would be used for entrance only and be a way of rewarding SFU PhD students. The Dean noted that currently SFU is the net provider of Tri Council awards to other universities

The Dean asked SGSC members to voice any concerns by email.

6. Items for approval –approval or no approval:
  - Faculty of Health Sciences (HSCI 851, 888,887): [GS2009.12]
  - New courses: Numbering and credit hours revised to HSCI 851-3 Workplace Health and Safety Management
  - 887-6 MSc thesis
  - 888-6 MSc thesis completion
7. Items for Information – previously approved:
  - 7.1 Faculty of Business: Financial Risk Management Program [GS2009.13]  
Calendar revision to graduate degree requirements
  - 7.2 Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology [GS2009.14]  
IAT 830, 8321, 840 (deletion of courses)

**Motion:** To approve 6; 7.1 and 7.2 (P. Budra/M. Joffres )

**Motion Carried**

8. **Next scheduled meeting is July13, 2009.** Materials deadline is June 29, 2009. Acting Dean George Agnes will be responsible for the agenda.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.