

**Minutes of a meeting of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee
held on Monday, December 14, 2009 at 2:30 p.m. in Maggie Benston Centre 2212**

Present:

George Agnes, Acting Chair

Mary Ann Pope, Acting Director, Records

Gwen Bird

Paul Budra

Susan Warren (for Heesoon Bai)

Duncan Knowler (for Wolfgang Haider)

Michel Joffres

Derek Bingham

Regrets:

Wade Parkhouse

Fred Popowich

Ed Bukszar

Tom Calvert

Graham Lyons

Josh Newman

Duncan Wlodarczak

Sheilagh MacDonald, Secretary

1. **Approval of agenda** – approved.
2. **Approval of minutes of November 9, 2009** – Carried.
3. **Business arising from the minutes** – none.
4. **Chair's Report**
 - **PhD in Health Sciences** – Acting Chair, George Agnes, indicated that he had not received reviews which means the program cannot move forward; he will expand his search.
 - **Graduate Student enrollment** – Acting Director, Records, Mary Ann Pope, reported that there are 5,209 graduate students in the system either enrolled or on leave. 241 are brand new for the spring. 2800 are currently enrolled in at least one course; M. Pope asked members of the SGSC to remind their students to enroll.
 - **Tri-Council results**

NSERC – 68 applications left the university and only four needed letters of support. Last year, 78 left the university and 23 required letters of support so there is a much higher standard in terms of grades.

Trudeau- 8 (the quota) are anticipated to leave the university versus 2 last year; SFU appears to be doing a better job of advertising internally.

Vanier - 11 left the university. There was a problem this year with an excellent student, a current grant holder, whose application to NSERC as a Vanier applicant was refused because it focused on Health Science. The selection committee indicated that the student needed to have applied for a CIHR; unfortunately the deadline had passed. The Acting Chair

emphasized the importance of identifying the end user/benefactor of the research early in the application process because there are new rules that do not allow applicants to be transferred from one tri-council agency to another by tri-council cooperation.

5. For Discussion:

5.1 Faculty of Science

Neuroscience Graduate Certificate

[GS2009.33]

The committee reviewed the changes requested at the November meeting and felt all the concerns had been met with the exception of feedback from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Graduate Studies Committee. FASS Associate Dean, Paul Budra, indicated that an email vote would take place. The results will be available December 22, 2009.

Motion: Move to approve contingent upon the approval of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Graduate Studies Committee vote.

(D. Bingham/D. Knowler) (Unanimous)

Motion Carried

5.2 Faculty of Science

Department of Earth Science

New courses:

EASC 601-3 Advanced Groundwater Geochemistry

EASC 602-3 Environmental Isotopes

The committee determined that concerns about overlap with other departments had been addressed.

Motion: Move to approve the new courses.

(D. Bingham/M. Joffres) (Unanimous)

Motion Carried

5.3 Graduate Student Experience

The Acting Director, Records, spoke to the report and asked for feedback for the Chair. Discussion followed.

5.4 GGR 1.6.3, 1.6.4, 1.8.1, 1.8.2 – (adherence to)

Tracking the establishment of supervisors, supervisory committees, and annual student progress evaluations

The SIMS system is to be modified to ensure the timely tracking and reporting of Senior Supervisors, Supervisory Committees and annual progress reports. Discussion followed re: the consequences for non compliance with general graduate regulations (GGR).

5.5 Graduate Student On-Leave Approvals

MA Pope indicated that the Dean of Graduate Studies office wants to move towards a system that is fair, equitable, and clear. Currently there is no consistency across faculties, even within departments. The Dean wants to ensure that the reasons given are valid and to eliminate abuse of the system.

5.6 External Examiners

- Cost of video-conferencing – internal and external financial pressures
- Honorarium – future plans

Discussion followed regarding ways of dealing with escalating costs for some areas on campus who must cover technician costs, ways of eliminating extra workload.

Discussion followed regarding various ways of dealing with honorarium costs in future.

6. **Next scheduled meeting** January 11, 2010 (*material deadline – December 21, 2009*)

Meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.