

**Minutes of a meeting of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee
held on Monday, February 8, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. in Maggie Benston Centre 2212**

Present:

Wade Parkhouse, Chair

George Agnes

Gwen Bird

Fred Popowich

Paul Budra

Ed Bukszar

Tom Calvert

Heesoon Bai

Wolfgang Haider

Michael Hayes

Derek Bingham

Regrets:

Mary Ann Pope, Acting Director, Records

Graham Lyons

Duncan Wlodarczak

Josh Newman

Sheilagh MacDonald, Secretary

1. **Approval of agenda** – approved.
2. **Approval of minutes of December 14, 2009** – Carried.
3. **Business arising from the minutes**
 - Timely tracking of the establishment of supervisors, supervisory committees, and annual student progress evaluations – SIMS to be modified as of May 2010.
 - Graduate Student Educational Experience (gsee)- the initial working group consisted of 6 members; more groups will be consulted over time.
 - Current priorities for DGS are graduate supervision and professional development skills with a focus on “life after graduate school”
4. **Chair’s Report**
 - **applications** – To date, there are 3700 applications for 2010/2011 versus 3200 for 2009/10. It is anticipated that we will match the 5500 applications received last year once Business and Education process their students.
 - **Canada-India Graduate Student Mobility Workshop in Delhi, India in December 2009** – the Chair noted that five Deans were invited from Canada; there are some excellent opportunities for work between Indian and Canadian institutions. The plan is to prepare a list of universities that are most compatible with SFU; currently SFU accepts third year students from some Indian institutions on a case-by-case basis. Meanwhile employment opportunities

are available for SFU graduate students to work in Indian universities after graduation in non-tenure track positions.

5. For Discussion:

5.1 Faculty of Health Science

Proposal for a PhD in Health Sciences

[GS2009.10]

The proposal was sent out for external review and has been delayed month after month due to a lack of response from external reviewers. One review is attached but this does not meet the minimum of 3 currently required. Michael Hayes has stepped into the role of SGSC representative on a temporary basis and has managed to find two other external reviewers.

The Chair raised the issue of delays caused by an inability to find reviewers. Other universities do not require reviews and this helps them speed approval of new programs. The Chair asked if it wouldn't be more sensible to eliminate the need for an external review at SFU since new program proposals are also processed by the ministry responsible for post-secondary education.

Concerns were also raised by SGSC members as to the continued problems in each new draft of the HSCI PhD proposal. There are concerns with the lack of courses, comprehensive exams and a lack of strong focus in the area of research fields, as well as editorial problems in the curriculum materials.

Motion: Move to table pending receipt of the two additional External Reviews and until the curriculum concerns are addressed in the paperwork.

(P. Budra/W. Haider) (Unanimous)

Motion Carried

6. Approve or Not Approve:

6.1 Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology

[GS2010.02]

School of Interactive Arts and Technology

New course: IAT 847-3 Metacreation: Endowing Machines with Creative Behaviours

Motion: Move to approve the new courses

(P. Budra/F. Popowich) (Unanimous)

Motion Carried

6.2 Faculty of Environment

[GS2010.03]

Department of Geography

New course: GEOG 657-4 Geovisualization Interfaces

Motion: Move to approve the new courses

(D. Bingham/W. Haider) (Unanimous)

Motion Carried

7. Items for Information – previously approved:

7.1 Faculty of Education

[GS2010.04]

Change to minimum units from 31 to 30 - Graduate Programs- MEd

8. **Other Business** – follow up on items introduced at the December 2009 SGSC meeting
- Supervisory misconduct – this is a matter of negotiation between the V/P Legal and the SFU Faculty Association (SFUFA) and will involve monitoring supervisors and supervisory committees.
 - Supervisory workshops will be reinstated and will include all supervisors rather than new supervisors as has been past practice.
 - Graduate student expectations -how to deal with issues arising from the disparity between student expectations and reality.
 - Job descriptions for Graduate Program Chairs with special emphasis on graduate student supervision.
 - Annual graduate orientations are held in some areas; DGS will recommend that this be a usual practice for all departments; DGS will follow up.
 - Departments to publish satisfactory progress guidelines and consequences for unsatisfactory progress.
 - Departments are to institute and publish standards of practice for supervisory committees.
 - Departments are to establish graduate student agreement forms and a graduate student expectation document .
 - Outstanding graduate supervision award - the Dean will make a recommendation to SPCSAB.
9. Next scheduled meeting **March 8, 2010** (*material deadline –February 22, 2010*)

Meeting was adjourned at 3.30 p.m.