

**Minutes of a meeting of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee  
held on Monday, December 13, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. in Maggie Benston Centre 2212**

Present:

Wade Parkhouse, Chair

Samantha Balemba for Christina Bielek

Mary Ann Pope, Director, Records

David Pereira

Gwen Bird

Sheilagh MacDonald, Secretary

Rob Cameron

Jane Fee for Paul Budra

Regrets:

Colleen Collins

George Agnes

Ron Wakkary

Wolfgang Haider

John Nesbit

Tim Takaro for Craig Janes

Christi Garneau-Scott

Derek Bingham

1. Approval of agenda- approved
2. Approval of the minutes of November 8, 2010- approved
3. Business arising from the minutes:  
Cotutelle workshop on December 3, 2010 - The Chair indicated that the workshop had gone very well. Four responses regarding the cotutelle workshop were received by the VPR from the French participants. Material on the cotutelle is on the French embassy's website.
4. Chair's report  
Council of Graduate Schools in Washington, DC - the SGSC Chair had travelled to a CGS conference in early December. The conference had proven to be very enlightening as Deans of Graduate Studies in Canada and the USA have very similar concerns. Some highlights were: Reliance on international students from China, India and Viet Nam; Graduate Studies Legal Issues; Double Bachelors/Masters Programs;  
CGS publications - The Chair has ordered a series of CGS pamphlets to be distributed to Graduate Program Chairs, Associate Deans and the Library.
5. For Discussion:  
**5.1 University-Wide Programmatic Adjustments** – as per the Oct 18th memo from the Chair, no major concerns have been raised by SGSC members so a formal process to make the changes will be started in Spring 2011.  
**5.2 Graduate Student Tuition** – the SGSC was provided with a draft of tuition fee changes for 2011/2012 (memo dated Dec 13, 2010). The document was for discussion and feedback only and not intended for distribution at this point. The intent is to address the changes in the nature of masters programs and set in place a systematic set of procedures based on general principles to address inequities, provide incentives for departments to offer graduate courses at a greater frequency allowing students to complete faster, and to help address the fiscal realities of students.

**5.3 Double Bachelor/Masters Programs** – the Chair asked SGSC members for feedback on the idea. Members agreed that it was a good idea as a way of attracting promising scholars to the graduate program.

**5.4 Graduate Awards Business Practice Project** – In Spring 2011, Director of Administrative Services, Thea Hinds will be assigned to meet with all graduate program faculty and staff to get feedback on the relationship between DGS and graduate units. Feedback will be used to improve business practices.

6. Items for information- minor course changes previously approved

**6.1 Faculty of Applied Sciences** [GS2010.26]

a. School of Computing Science

i) Change of unit value: CMPT 898-15 MSc Thesis

b. School of Engineering Science

i) Change of unit value: ENSC 898-18 MASc Thesis

**6.2 Faculty of Education** [GS2010.27]

a. Counselling Psychology (Master of Arts)

i) Addition of prerequisite: EDUC 862-4 Individual Assessment in Counselling

ii) Addition of prerequisite: EDUC 870-4 Theories of Counselling

**6.3 Faculty of Science** [GS2010.28]

a. Department of Physics

i) Change of prerequisites for: PHYS 841-3 Statistical Mechanics

7. Other Business:

**No thesis defenses the week following Christmas closure** – the Chair recommended that a new policy be instituted. He commented that he has had some difficulties with processing pre-defense reports when thesis defenses are held the first week of the New Year. In one situation, the external stated that the defense was not ready to defend and it was very difficult to follow policy in determining whether to proceed or not. Externals find it difficult to provide reports in accordance with university policy due to the holidays.

Thank you to SGSC members – the Chair thanked all members for their hard work over the year and wished them all the best of the holiday season.

8. Next scheduled meeting **January 10, 2011** (*material deadline –December 27, 2010*)