

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

Present:

Wade Parkhouse, Chair

David Pereira

George Agnes

Sheilagh MacDonald, Secretary

Mary Ann Pope, Director, Records

Gwen Bird

Regrets:

Rob Cameron

Christi Garneau-Scott

Paul Budra

Christina Bielek

Colleen Collins

Ron Wakkary

John Nesbit

Wolfgang Haider

Craig Janes

Derek Bingham

1. Approval of agenda- approved
2. Approval of the minutes of October 18 2010- carried with one correction; Colleen Collins was in attendance.
3. Business arising from the minutes:
 - Graduate Admissions Reports- P. Lougheed, Director of Business and Policy Analysis for the Registrar and Student Enrolment Services, will be making a few final adjustments before the reports are distributed to the departments.
 - Teaching English As An Additional Language – the SGSC Chair has discussed the matter with J. Nesbit (EDUC). Changes will be sent to an SGSC meeting in the near future.
 - English Language Requirements – the SGSC Chair indicated that the requirements would remain in accordance with graduate regulations as this was the consensus of the committee.
 - Financial support for graduate students – corrections need to be made; the report will be released to the Dean's Council in the coming weeks.
 - Graduate Enrollment Management – discussion on how departments will handle enrollments will be a discussion for a later date.
 - Masters Capstones – the Chair continues to receive feedback from the faculties.
 - Credits for Masters degrees - the Chair continues to receive feedback from the faculties.
 - Timing of curriculum changes – Senate has approved a one-semester wait for undergraduate and graduate studies. If departments want this moved up, they will have to send a request to SGSC along with a strong rationale.
 - Closure of student record upon award of degree-Senate has been asked to close records once a graduate student credential has been awarded.
 - Protocol for new programs – to be posted to the website.

4. Chair's report

- Acting Deans- the SGSC Chair thanked P. Budra and J. Nesbit for serving as Acting Deans while the Dean and Associate Dean, George Agnes, were at a Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) in Toronto.
- Cotutelle/joint degrees- institutions from France have sent high-ranking officials to encourage SFU students to consider joint degrees with French universities, specifically in the Sciences, Technology, Engineering Science and Mathematics/Statistics. A workshop to deal with joint degrees with non-Canadian institutions will be held December 3, 2010 in the Halpern Centre. The SGSC Chair has contacted all Deans, SGSC members and Graduate Program Chairs and Program Assistants and asked them to attend. SGSC member are asked to RSVP to the Dean's Secretary.

Positives: Depending on the circumstances, a joint degree could involve working with the top two percent of students from foreign countries. Negatives: Joint degrees are not without problems and any new agreement will have to deal with problems such as a lack of interaction between the students and institutions and with the fact that departments are expected to compromise on some requirements.

Associate Dean, G. Agnes, will be in charge of the workshop. He will be working with a new DGS general assistant, B. DuPerron. SGSC members are asked to contact the graduate program chairs in their units and to ask them to join the workshop.

Outcomes: CAGS conference in Toronto in early November –

Legal issues and IT support - two issues became apparent – that SFU is far behind in terms of IT support and that the SGSC and Graduate Program Chairs need greater training related to legal issues. The Chair is working on training sessions for all concerned.

Professional development and Post-Doctoral Fellowships - Associate Dean, G. Agnes, reported no other institution could provide a clearer way of handling either matter.

More effective methods for SIMS - Director of Records, Mary Ann Pope, indicated that the conference proved very useful in that the University of Calgary and Waterloo might be able to provide solutions for the following: annual report, better approval process for admissions, on-line applications systems, processing unofficial transcripts, TOEFL adjudication. The challenge now is to process the changes through SIMS.

5. For Discussion:

5.1 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

[GS2010.25]

a. School of Criminology

i) New Courses:

CRIM 812-3 Criminal Networks

CRIM 820-3 Criminal Justice Policy Analysis I

Motion: Move to approve.

(P. Budra/R. Wakkary)

(Unanimous)

Motion Carried

CRIM 864-3 Research Methods V: Advanced Qualitative Methods

CRIM 865-3 Research Methods VI: Program Evaluation Theory and Practice

Motion: Move to approve.

(P. Budra/J. Nesbit)

(Unanimous)

Motion Carried

b. Department of French

i) New Course:

FREN 852-5 Selected Topics in French or Francophone Cinema

Motion: Move to approve.

(P. Budra/D. Bingham)

(Unanimous)

Motion Carried

c. Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies

i) New Course:

WS 844-5 Directed Studies II

Motion: Move to approve.

(P. Budra/C. Janes)

(Unanimous)

Motion Carried

d. Department of History

i) Master's Program

Change to program requirements

Change to language requirements

ii) PhD Program

Change to language requirements

(P. Budra/C. Janes)

(Unanimous)

Motion Carried

e. School for International Studies

i) New Course:

IS 813-4 African Economic Development: Theory and Practice

Concerns were raised about the number of graduate students piggybacked onto a third year course. P. Budra (FASS) to investigate this matter further with International Studies and report back to the next SGSC meeting.

Motion Tabled

5.2 Faculty of Science

[GS2009.28]

a. Department of Chemistry

i) Change to Chemistry Graduate Masters Admissions Requirements:

While SGSC was supportive of changing the minimum entrance GPA from 3.00 to 3.33, this was viewed as an internal matter and does not require SGSC approval.

5.3 Time limits for degree completion – currently the caps are MA students – 12 semesters or 6 years; PhD – 24 semesters of 12 years. The Chair suggested that a review of these timelines is in order to ensure that we are in line with other institutions. SGSC members are expected to provide feedback.

6. Items for information- minor course changes previously approved

6.1 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

[GS2010.25]

a. School of Criminology

- i) Change of title and description: CRIM 830-3 Legal Studies I
- ii) Change of title and description: CRIM 831-3 Legal Studies II

b. Department of English

- i) Deletion of the MA by Special Arrangements option

c. Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies

- i) Deletions: I
 - WS 821-5 Graduate Seminar in the Psychology of Women
 - WS 825-5 Graduate Seminar in Women, Technology and Social Change

7. Other Business

Admissions requirements for students applying from on-line programs –the consensus of the SGSC was that admission would depend on the quality of the institution.

8. Next scheduled meeting **December 13, 2010** (*material deadline –November 29, 2010*)