

**Minutes of a meeting of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee
held on Monday, Apr 12, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. in Maggie Benston Centre 2212**

Present:

Wade Parkhouse, Chair

George Agnes

Mary Ann Pope, Director, Records

Gwen Bird

Art Liestman (alternate for Fred Popowich)

Paul Budra

Ed Bukszar

Tom Calvert

John Nesbit (alternate for Heesoon Bai)

Wolfgang Haider

Michael Hayes

Derek Bingham

Graham Lyons

Josh Newman

Sheilagh MacDonald, Secretary

Regrets:

Duncan Wlodarczak

1. **Approval of agenda** – approved.
2. **Approval of minutes of March 8, 2010** – Carried.
3. **Business arising from the minutes** – **[GS2010.06]**
 - 3.1—MPP 806-5 Research Techniques and Quantitative Methods II (catalogue number from 805, title, description)
 - 3.2—MPP 805-5 Research Techniques and Quantitative Methods I (catalogue number from 806, title, description)

The Chair contacted Nancy Olewiler, the Director of the Public Policy Program and determined that there are no real issues in changing the sequencing. Approved under delegated authority by the Chair.
4. **Chair's Report**
 - **Tri-Council – NSERC results are now available** – the Chair announced that SFU had a 78% success rate this year; 20% higher than last year.

5. **Approve or Not Approve:**

5.1 Faculty of Applied Sciences

[GS2010.09]

School of Computing Science

Notice of intent for SFU/ZU Graduate Dual Degree Program in Computing

a. MSc Proposal – SFU/ZU GDDP

b. PhD Proposal – SFU/ZU GDDP

Art Liestman and Qianping Gu appeared before the committee. Various revisions were indicated; the Chair will provide feedback to Drs. Liestman and Gu following the meeting.

Motion: Move to support the concept of the Notice of Intent; once necessary revisions are made to forward it on to SCUP.

(D. Bingham/M. Hayes)

(Unanimous)

Motion Carried

5.2 Faculty of Health Sciences

[GS2009.10]

Proposal for a PhD in Health Sciences

M. Hayes expressed his concern that while the Notice of Intent a PhD in Health Sciences had been approved over a year ago, the full program had not yet cleared SGSC. The Chair noted that only two external reviews had been received; one was not as comprehensive as would be expected at the SCUP and Senate levels. The norm is five reviews. The Chair indicated that while the process is dependent on the willingness of externals to submit reports, the procedures will be reviewed and brought back to the SGSC.

Motion: Move that the recommendation for a PhD in Health Sciences be forwarded to SCUP along with any External Reviews that are forthcoming after editing the documentation.

(G. Lyons/D. Bingham) (8 in favour/2 abstentions)

Motion Carried

5.3 Faculty of Education

[GS2010.10]

Masters Programs:

a. Arts Education

i) Change to title and description: EDUC 832-5

ii) Change to title: EDUC 852-5

iii) Change to Program Requirements: Core Courses and units of Course Work

b. Curriculum and Instruction

i) Change to Program Requirements

ii) Change to total units of Course Work

iii) Change to Core Courses

c. Educational Technology and Learning Design

i) Change to title, added a prerequisite – EDUC 894-4

ii) Change to Program requirements

iii) Change to Core Courses

iv) Change to MA Requirements

v) Change to MEd Requirements

G. Bird indicated the Library had no concerns.

Motion: Move to approve.

(Unanimous)

Motion Carried

(A.Liestman/P. Budra)

6. Items for information- minor course changes previously approved

6.1 Faculty of Science

[GS2010.11]

Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry

Change to units: MBB 726-4

Approved by the Chair under delegated authority.

7. Other Business

- 7.1 Residency requirements for Masters degree – the Chair asked for feedback on a proposed graduate degree that will be taught overseas; the students will not “set foot on the campus”. Discussion followed with members generally in favour of innovative ways of delivering courses but with the caution that the program organizers need to address a fundamental question: “Why is this an SFU degree?”

- 7.2 Thirty credit hour Masters and concerns for :
 - a. Teacher Qualification Service in B.C.
 - b. PhDs at universities in the U.S.

When SIMS was established, numbers were assigned to various components of a capstone and it would seem that this is becoming increasingly problematic as more and more institutions adopt a 30 credit hour standard. Discussion followed; the general consensus was that DGS will address this issue.

- 7.3 English Competency (international and Canadian students) – The Chair indicated that a number of programs are requesting a waiver on the English requirements. Discussion followed with support for maintaining the entrance standards in order to be fair to incoming students and to avoid using conditions on admission which simply postpone the inevitable and can lead to appeals at a later date.

- 7.4 Transfers of Masters students to PhDs – the Chair noted that the transfer was originally intended as a means of fast tracking exceptional students and it was the norm to make these decisions early in the program. In recent times requests have been made to transfer in semester 11 or 12, or at the end of an MA program. The Chair indicated that he is considering a time limit for and this will be a matter for discussion at a future date.

- 7.5 Withholding capstone research from publication – the Chair noted that the norm is for one year but the Chair is reviewing one case where the student has requested that the thesis be withheld indefinitely for fear of persecution in their country of origin. The Chair asked for feedback before making a decision. In the meantime he will contact the departments and ask them to ensure that senior supervisors are more vigilant and that they make certain students are more selective about the nature of their research.

- 7.6 Vaniers – unfortunately the success with the NSERCs has not translated to the Vaniers. On average, only one in five students was successful. In future, departments will be asked to ensure that only truly outstanding students submit applications.

The Chair noted that the Vanier are a mechanism whereby exceptional international students may choose SFU. Domestic students have an added advantage - if they are unsuccessful, they can then apply for an NSERC.

The Chair indicated that when he holds a GPC meeting in May he will highlight the need to recruit the top-end students one year in advance. (Meeting set for May 11, 2010.)

- 7.7 Supervisory awards –to be dealt with a future time

8. Next scheduled meeting May 10, 2010 (*material deadline –April 26, 2010*)