

**Minutes of a meeting of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee
held on Monday, October 18, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. in Maggie Benston Centre 2212**

Present:

Wade Parkhouse, Chair

Sheilagh MacDonald, Secretary

George Agnes

Mary Ann Pope, Director, Records

Gwen Bird

Regrets:

Rob Cameron

Derek Bingham

Paul Budra

Craig Janes

Colleen Collins

John Nesbit

Ron Wakkary

Wolfgang Haider

Christina Bielek

Christi Garneau-Scott

David Pereira

- 1. Approval of agenda** – approved.
- 2. Approval of minutes of September 13, 2010** – Carried.
- 3. Business arising from the minutes – (Senate SGSC items)**
 - SGSC curriculum changes from July and September- were processed during the October 4th Senate meeting.
- 4. Graduate Admissions presentation** – Patrick (Pat) Lougheed, Director of Business and Policy Analysis for the Registrar and Student Enrolment Services, made a presentation to SGSC on graduate enrollments. SGSC members were asked to vet the reports and to let Pat know if any corrections or amendments were to be made before the reports are distributed to the departments. The Chair noted that the reports don't capture deferred enrollments.
- 5. Chair's Report:**
 - Graduate Enrollment targets-now that the ceiling has been reached, there will be less emphasis on new programming and more on enrollment management. The Senate Committee on Enrolment Management and Planning (SCEMP) will now play a greater role in graduate studies. Unless there is a demonstrated need for a new graduate program, it will be difficult to resource new programming in the current economic climate.
- 6. For Discussion:**
 - 6.1 Faculty of Education** **[GS2010.24]**
 - a. Teaching English as an Additional Language (TEAL)
 - i) Master of Education Program:
 - Reduction of degree from 35 units to 30
 - Change to core courses
 - Change to elective courses
 - ii) Master of Arts Program:

Addition of Masters of Arts route to TEAL

SGSC members raised various questions about the proposal including the emphasis on a new MA route and the change in total units. The Chair will contact Education. **Tabled**

6.2 English Language Requirements – the Chair noted that he was receiving an increasing number of requests to set aside the current TOEFL scores to allow admission. He asked the committee for their views on changes to the current standards. Discussion followed. The Chair summarized the feedback by saying it was obvious there is no appetite for changing the standards and that there should be a harder line on admissions until such time as systems were in place to support lower-scoring students after they were admitted.

6.3 Financial support to graduate students-SGSC members were provided with an overview of graduate funding which will eventually give graduate program chairs a clearer idea of the amount of funding available for incoming students. The report is for information only; to be reviewed and revised before further distribution to the departments.

6.4 Graduate Enrollment Management –Given that SFU will not be increasing graduate enrollment until such time as new money is provided by the government. This raises the question of how graduate enrollments will be managed at the departmental level. Discussion followed as to how productive departments are to be rewarded and what this might mean for underperforming units.

6.5 Masters Capstones – In order to standardize capstones across the faculties, it is recommended that capstones be limited to three categories – thesis, non-thesis (project, extended essay, research report), and examination. In order to comply with GGR 1.7.2, it is recommended that minimum units/course standards be set as follows:

12 units made up of 4 courses plus a thesis (6-18 credits)

20 units made up of 6 courses plus a non-thesis capstone (3 to 10 credits)

30 units made up of 8 courses plus a final examination (0 to 6 credits)

6.6 Credits for Masters degrees - it is recommended that all master's credentials should be a minimum of 30 credit units. This matter is forwarded to the committee for discussion.

6.7 Timing curriculum changes – while in the past, the norm was a two-semester wait for curriculum changes, Senate will be asked to approve a one-semester wait for both undergraduate and graduate studies.

6.8 Closure of student record upon award of degree –in future, when Senate awards a graduate student credential, the student record will be considered closed for all purposes including grade and name changes, degree standing and all changes to transcripts and parchments

6.9 Protocol for new programs (revised ACGNP protocol) –As per a previous request from SGSC, G. Agnes indicated that the two page document included an abbreviated overview for the website with a link to a more comprehensive summary. Members are asked to read the document over and email any concerns to G. Agnes.

7. Next scheduled meeting **November 18, 2010** (material deadline –**October 25, 2010**)