

Meeting minutes of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)  
held on December 7, 2015 in the Thesis Defence Room, SFU Library

**Present:**

**Ex-Officio:**

Wade Parkhouse, Chair  
Mary-Ellen Kelm (Associate Dean)  
Mary Ann Pope (Director, Records)  
Nicole White (Library)  
Abhishek Nanjundappa (GSS)  
Shelley Gair (Program Policy, Curriculum)  
Krista Gerlich-Fitzgerald (Secretary)

**Faculty Chairs:**

Faisal Beg (FAS)  
Lisa Shapiro (FASS)  
Ian McCarthy (BUS) via video conference  
Zoë Druick (FCAT)  
Phil Winne (EDUC)  
Sean Markey (FENV)  
Stephen Smith (FHS)

**Graduate Students:**

Essya Mabrouka Nabbali (Regular)

**Regrets:**

Peter Liljedahl (Associate Dean)  
Carl Lowenberger (SCI)  
Matthew Alteen (Graduate Student)

1. Approval of agenda

An item on the Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Policy and an item on Concurrent Bachelor/Master's programs were added to the agenda under other business.

**Approved**

2. Review of the SGSC minutes of November 9, 2015

**Approved**

3. Business arising from the minutes

SGSC was informed that a follow-up meeting took place with Muriel Klemetski, Director of Work Integrated Learning, regarding the graduate Co-op discussion that took place at the last SGSC meeting. Muriel will follow up directly with Engineering Science to assist with their concerns.

4. **Chair's Report**

The next SGSC meeting will be held January 11, 2016 instead of January 4, 2016.

The chair provided no report.

5. **For Approval**

5.1 **Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology**

School for the Contemporary Arts

a) Course change (prerequisite): FPA 829

**[GS2015.43]**

Motion moved by Z. Druick, seconded by L. Shapiro

**Approved**

5.2 **Faculty of Education**

a) Program change: MA in Counselling Psychology, M.Ed. in Counselling Psychology

b) Course changes (units): EDUC 801, EDUC 802

**[GS2015.44]**

While it is uncommon for course units not to be whole numbers (i.e. 1.5), there is a precedent.

Motion moved by P. Winne, seconded by S. Markey

**Approved**

c) New course: EDUC 895 Conceptions of Numeracy

The course is part of an off-campus master's program and therefore has concentrated contact hours over four weekends. A question was raised on the justification of using a textbook written over 30 years ago. It was explained that the textbook remains relevant and compared its timelessness to Darrell Huff's "How to Lie with Statistics".

Motion moved by P. Winne, seconded by L. Shapiro

**Approved**

### 5.3 **Faculty of Science**

**[GS2015.45]**

Department of Earth Science

a) New course: EASC 626 Applied Geochronology

Motion moved by S. Markey, seconded by P. Winne

**Approved**

### 5.4 **Temporary withdrawal of courses**

**[GS2015.46]**

All departments that have courses being temporarily withdrawn have been contacted. The members of SGSC were reminded that after a course has been temporarily withdrawn it can be reinstated quickly without the need to go through the regular approval process because it is already an approved course.

Motion moved by Z. Druick, seconded by P. Winne

**Approved**

## 6. **For Discussion**

### 6.1 **Professional Graduate Programs**

**[GS2015.40]**

The Chair reported that the rigour needed for a professional graduate program needs to be considered in context to the type of program: preparatory for external accreditation, upgrading, or enhancement for mid-career professionals. The discussion continued from last month's meeting on the value of housing these programs in existing faculties and the potential options for when the program does not fit within a faculty. The chair explained that all credentials must be awarded by a faculty and therefore each program would need to have a home faculty. While the demand for professional programs is increasing, SGSC agreed that a proposal will not be accepted if there were not enough current SFU faculty members in the area to create a steering committee.

The Cohort Special Arrangements process (CSAR) allows for new programs to be created and run for a period of 3 years. If the program is to run for a longer period, approval at SCUP, Senate, Board of Governors, and the Ministry of Education is necessary. The chair noted that as some professional programs have shorter viability due to market and economic issues, there may be a benefit to approving an existing

CSAR program for an additional 2 years rather than submitting a proposal to the Ministry for permanent status. SGSC was supportive of this idea.

7. **For Information**

7.1 **Faculty of Environment**

School of Resource and Environmental Management

[GS2015.47]

a) Course Reinstatement: REM 655

**Approved under delegated authority**

7.2 **Faculty of Science**

[GS2015.48]

Department of Earth Science

a) Course Reinstatement: EASC 606

**Approved under delegated authority**

8. **Other business**

8.1 Sexual harassment policy and sexual misconduct

Mary-Ellen Kelm discussed SFU's policy on sexual harassment and misconduct. An SFU sexual violence prevention protocol has been created which will undergo a large community consultation in 2016. The new protocol seeks to incorporate sexual assaults on faculty and staff, in addition to delineating what should be done when faculty and staff have a sexual assault or misconduct reported to them.

The handout provided to SGSC provides a list of contacts at the university. An initiative from SFU students, Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies, First Nations Studies, the Conduct Officer and Simon Fraser Public Interest Research Group are launching a campaign to set up at Sexual Assault Support Centre and are investigating funding options. More details can be found on the SFPIRG website. Policy and procedures are in place when sexual harassment or misconduct occurs, however, more communication is necessary to increase awareness, transparency and clarify what services are available.

8.2 Concurrent Bachelor's and Master's Program

Concurrent Bachelor's and Master's Programs are relatively new to SFU. The Office of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Fellows are aware of some misunderstandings regarding the program. It was explained to SGSC that a student must complete their Bachelor program prior to enrollment in their Master's program. It was noted that department websites may have misleading information which should be amended. Additionally, conditions for the program should be included in the student's admission letter. The chair reported that graduate funding for the student should occur during their graduate enrollment and not during their undergraduate coursework.

9. Next SGSC scheduled meeting 2:30pm January 11, 2016 (*Material deadline December 10, 2015*)