

Meeting minutes of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)
held on Monday May 11, 2015 in the Thesis Defence Room, SFU Library

Present:

Ex-Officio:

Mary-Ellen Kelm (Acting Chair)
Nicole White (Library)
Abhishek Nanjundappa (GSS)
Mary Ann Pope (Director, Records)
Shelley Gair (Program Policy, Curriculum)
Sheilagh MacDonald (Acting Secretary)

Faculty Chairs:

Lisa Shapiro (FASS)
Ian McCarthy (BUS) *via Skype*
Lyn Bartram (Designate for FCAT)
Phil Winne (EDUC)
Sean Markey (FENV)
Carl Lowenberger (SCI)

Graduate Students:

Ehsan Jozaghi (Regular)
Jasneet Singh Sabhawal (Regular)

Regrets:

Wade Parkhouse, Chair (on admin leave)
Peter Liljedahl (Associate Dean)
George Agnes (Associate Dean)
Uwe Glässer (FAS)
Marina Morrow (FHS)
Krista Gerlich-Fitzgerald (Secretary)

1. Approval of agenda **Approved**
2. Review of the SGSC minutes of March 2, 2015 **Approved**
3. Business arising from the minutes

4. **Chair's Report**

The Dean of Graduate Studies is on administrative leave from May 4, 2015 to September 1, 2015. Peter Liljedahl is Acting Dean for the summer and will be the contact person for SGSC during this time. Peter has some pre-existing commitments away from campus; in his absence, coverage for the upcoming SGSC meetings will be as follows:

June – Associate Dean George Agnes
July – Associate Dean Mary-Ellen Kelm
August – meeting is cancelled

Nicole White, Head, Research Commons, distributed a handout on Tri-Agency Open Access Policy: How the Library can help. The policy reads that all peer-reviewed journal publications resulting from funding by the Tri-Agency (i.e. CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC) must be freely available online within 12 months of publication. Faculty will need to build in funding for article processing charges. N. White emphasized while there is no cost if a student chooses to meet the basic requirement by archiving published articles, there is a fee for the article processing charge, or unlocking fee.

5. **For Approval**

5.1 **Faculty of Environment**

[GS2015.21]

a) New program proposal: Professional Doctorate in Sustainable Development (Notice of Intent)

Mark Roseland, Director, Centre for Sustainable Community Development, attended to speak to the proposal. He indicated this program will provide mid-career professionals with a relatively new doctorate in the field of sustainable development. SFU will link to a program already in existence in Australia. Cost recovery is expected within 37 months and courses will be offered almost exclusively on-line. There are four annual residence requirements. The program has the support of the Faculty of the Environment (FENV) and the Professional Online Scholarship & Training Initiative (POST). It is anticipated students will enroll for September 2016. By the second year it is predicted the program will be self-sustaining. The total program cost for students will be approximately \$60,000 which is in the mid-range for comparable programs. This program will greatly benefit international students who will be able to remain in their home countries while completing the degree.

Based on the questions that were raised at the meeting, it was recommended that some additional information be added to the Full Program Proposal when it is submitted:

- rationale for why this is a PhD instead of a master's degree
- how the success of this program will be measured
- explanation for why the course titles are generic
- information on what will happen if there aren't enough senior supervisors available (i.e. limit admission to the program, use of co-supervisors)
- more information regarding the admission process (i.e. applicants being interviewed)
- how international students will manage to meet the annual five day residency requirement (i.e. financial assistance for international students)
- clarification as to the requirements of the program's research component
- how students will be funded without Tri-Council support (i.e. bursary)

Other recommendations:

- the numbering of the courses should be in the 900's because this is a PhD program
- there should be a reference to the comprehensive exam as either a course or a milestone so that it is recorded on the student's transcript
- on page 5 the reference to major comprehensive papers should be changed to "Comprehensive examination papers"

M. Roseland indicated the full program proposal (FPP) will address these concerns and provide more detail.

Motion moved by S. Markey, seconded by Lynn Bartram

Approved

5.2 **Faculty of Science**

[GS2015.22]

Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry

a) New course MBB 729: RNA-Mediated Gene Regulation

C. Lowenberger spoke to the motion. The course will be combined with MBB 429. Part of the evaluation of MBB 729 includes graduate students giving a presentation to the undergraduate students. The evaluation will be done by the instructor and will include feedback from the graduate and undergraduate students.

Motion moved by C. Lowenberger, seconded by P. Winne

Approved

6. **For Discussion**

- 6.1 GGR 1.12, 1.12.4, 1.4.8, 1.4.9, 1.4.10 Maximum time for Completion of the Requirements for the Degree, Readmission, Reactivation and Extensions

[GS2015.17 & GS2015.20]

There was a discussion at SGSC regarding the feedback provided by the academic units and possible ways to resolve those issues. Acting Chair M-E Kelm indicated that the feedback from SGSC and the academic units would be used to prepare a revised proposal which will be submitted to a future SGSC meeting.

- 6.2 GGR 1.4.3, 1.8.4, 1.8.5 Continuity of Enrolment, Application to go on Leave and Extended Leave of Absence

[GS2015.19]

SGSC members discussed the submission and feedback received from the academic units. Acting Chair M-E Kelm indicated that the feedback from SGSC and the academic units would be used to prepare a revised proposal which will be submitted to a future SGSC meeting.

7. **For Information (approved under delegated authority)**

- 7.1 **Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

Department of Political Science

[GS2015.23]

a) Course reinstatement: POL 844

- 7.2 **Faculty of Science**

Department of Chemistry

[GS2015.24]

a) Course change (units): CHEM 898

b) Course change (description): CHEM 801, CHEM 802

8. Other business

9. Next SGSC scheduled meeting June 8, 2015 (*Material deadline May 21, 2015*) *June 8, 2015 is the last meeting to clear new courses, course changes and program changes for the Spring 2016 calendar.