Meeting minutes of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)
held on October 5, 2015 in the Thesis Defence Room, SFU Library

Present:

Ex-Officio:
Wade Parkhouse, Chair
Mary Ann Pope (Director, Records)
Patty Gallilee (Designate for Library)
Shelley Gair (Program Policy, Curriculum)
Krista Gerlich-Fitzgerald (Secretary)

Faculty Chairs:
Faisal Beg (FAS)
Lisa Shapiro (FASS)
Ian McCarthy (BUS) via Skype
Zoë Druick (FCAT)
Sean Markey (FENV)
Stephen Smith (FHS)
Peter Ruben (Designate for SCI)

Graduate Students:
Matthew Alteen (Regular)

Regrets:
Phil Winne (EDUC)
Peter Liljedahl (Associate Dean)
Mary-Ellen Kelm (Associate Dean)
Essya Mabrouka Nabbali (Graduate Student)
Abhishek Nanjundappa (GSS)

1.	Approval of agenda	**Approved**
2.	Review of the SGSC minutes of September 14, 2015	**Approved**
3.	Business arising from the minutes	

4. **Chair's Report**

The Chair acknowledged that the curriculum revisions for Business, Health Sciences and GGRs 1.9.4, 1.9.5, 1.9.6 are on Senate's October 5, 2015 agenda.

The Lifelong Learning proposal for an MA in Translation and Interpretation will be brought forward again at a future meeting.

5. **For Approval**

5.1 **Faculty of Applied Science**
   5.1.1 School of Computing Science   **[GS2015.34]**
   a) Program change: Master of Science in Big Data

   SGSC was informed that many students and employers prefer an 8 month co-op term which leads to the creation of this option.

   Motion moved by F. Beg, seconded by S. Markey   **Approved**

   5.1.2 School of Engineering Science   **[GS2015.35]**
   a) Program change: Master of Engineering

A friendly recommendation was to clarify in the calendar language that the grading basis for the MEng project course is In Progress/Complete and that students will not receive a letter grade.

Motion moved by F. Beg, seconded by P. Ruben   **Approved**

5.2 **Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology**
     School of Interactive Arts and Technology   **[GS2015.36]**
     a) Program change: Master of Arts
     b) Program change: Master of Science
     c) Program change: Doctor of Philosophy

     A friendly amendment in the program change for the MSc should list IAT 898 and not IAT 897 in the thesis section on SGSC page 19.

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

6. **Other business**

    The chair raised some questions for short discussion in regards to current challenges in graduate affairs.

    GGR 1.7.6 Courses in Master's and Doctoral Programs was drafted for students who are completing graduate courses at other institutions. However, this policy also applies to SFU students who are taking graduate courses at SFU prior to being admitted to a program, including laddering programs. The regulation states that grades from the graduate course taken outside the program are not considered when calculating CGPA. SGSC was consulted if they thought if SFU graduate courses should be included in the CGPA calculation if they were taken prior to commencement of a program. The meeting attendees generally regarded that the grades should be included.

    The GGRs prohibit courses graded on S/U grading basis not to be used towards a minimum course requirement. This policy is not being enforced and currently there are programs in violation of the policy. Having multiple S/U courses can result in an unfair weighting of a student's CGPA. A discussion was focused on the need for S/U and IP/CO as grading basis and how to balance its use to protect students.

    A brief discussion was centered on the use of undergraduate courses in a student's graduate credential minimum requirements. It was seen that use of undergraduate courses allowed potential knowledge gaps to be filled and that admitting students as qualifying students to complete the undergraduate course work first is not always an option. A working group is being created to examine the use of cross-listed courses and ensuring that graduate students receive graduate value for the course.

7. Next SGSC scheduled meeting 2:30pm November 2, 2015 *(Material deadline October 15, 2015)*