

Meeting minutes of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)
held on Monday February 2, 2015 in the Thesis Defence Room, SFU Library

Present:

Ex-Officio:

Wade Parkhouse, Chair
Nicole White (Library)
Emma Liu (GSS)
Mary Ann Pope (Director, Records)
Shelley Gair (Program Policy, Curriculum)
Krista Gerlich-Fitzgerald (Secretary)

Faculty Chairs:

Lisa Shapiro (FASS)
Phil Winne (EDUC)
Sean Markey (FENV)
Margo Moore (FHS)

Graduate Students:

Jasneet Singh Sabhawal (Regular)

Regrets:

Uwe Glässer (FAS)
Ian McCarthy (BUS)
Zoë Druick (FCAT)
Carl Lowenberger (SCI)
Mary-Ellen Kelm (Associate Dean)
Peter Liljedahl (Associate Dean)
Ehsan Jozaghi (Graduate Student)

1. Approval of agenda **Approved**
2. Review of the SGSC minutes of January 5, 2015 **Approved**
3. Business arising from the minutes
4. **Chair's Report**

The Western Dean's Conference took place in Victoria with 19 universities participating. SFU and UBC are currently the only universities not actively expanding enrolments in their research programs. Supervisory activity and mentorship for new faculty members were addressed as key development areas. A presentation regarding the need to consistently re-evaluate the individual needs of graduate students with disabilities took place and the speaker may be invited to host a workshop in Vancouver on the topic in the future. The potential for more collaboration between universities for professional skills programs both regional and nationally was also considered.

An informal discussion on internal scholarships with the different universities took place at the conference. SFU students are doing very well in terms of being competitive for external awards. SFU received more tri-council scholarship funds than the University of Calgary despite having 20% less students.

5. **For Approval**

- 5.1 **Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**
Department of Economics

[GS2015.05]

- a) Program change: MA
- b) Course deletion: ECON 997 MA Exam
- c) New course: ECON 899 MA Research Paper

Motion moved by L. Shapiro, seconded by S. Markey.

It was confirmed that ECON 899 is a capstone course; therefore, it was agreed that the course should be identified as a capstone on the course form.

Approved

Department of Linguistics

- a) Program change: Concurrent BA/MA

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

Approved

5.2 Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology
School for Contemporary Arts

[GS2015.06]

- a) Course change (description): FPA 822

Motion moved by P. Winne, seconded by M. Moore.

Approved

5.3 Special Arrangements Program

- a) New course: SAR 890 Comprehensive Exam

[GS2015.07]

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

SGSC was informed that although the course units are zero, the academic progress units will be six so that students will show as being full-time students.

Approved

5.4 Revision to GGR 1.5.1 (Normal Grading System)

[GS2015.09]

Motion moved by P. Winne, seconded by M. Moore.

Approved

6. For information

6.1 2014 Annual Report of SGSC

[GS2015.08]

It was noted that the reduction in admission application numbers in 2013/2014 may be attributed to the political situation in Iran, the increase in the required IELTS score and the economy.

The report had an error in P. Winne's title; "Chair FGSC" should be changed to "Associate Dean, Graduate Studies & Research".

7. Other business

The chair informed SGSC of some upcoming Graduate General Regulation changes in regards to continuous enrolment, leave of absence, maximum time completion, readmission and extensions. It was reported that the length of time students are taking to complete their degree requirements is concerning. This is one of the reasons for the changes coming forward. It was requested that if completion plans are going to be required that this be incorporated in the online annual report. A handbook is currently being drafted for Graduate Chairs which may include aids for interpreting the GGRs.

8. Next SGSC scheduled meeting March 2, 2015 (*Material deadline February 12, 2015*).
*March 2, 2015 is the last meeting to clear new courses, course changes and program changes for the Fall 2015 calendar.