

Meeting minutes of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)
held on September 14, 2015 in the Thesis Defence Room, SFU Library

Present:

Ex-Officio:

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

Graduate Student:

Essya Mabrouka Nabbali (Regular)

Faculty Chairs:

Uwe Glässer and Faisal Beg (FAS)
Lisa Shapiro (FASS)
Ian McCarthy (BUS) via Skype
Zoë Druick (FCAT)
Phil Winne (EDUC)
Stephen Smith (Designate for FHS)

Regrets:

Sean Markey (FENV)
Carl Lowenberg (SCI)
Matthew Alteen (Graduate Student)

Guests:

Joy Johnson, Vice President Research
Joanne Currie, Dean pro tem, Lifelong Learning
Wendy Steinberg, Lifelong Learning

1. Approval of agenda **Approved**
2. Review of the SGSC minutes of June 8, 2015 **Approved**
3. Business arising from the minutes

4. **Chair's Report**

The Chair thanked Peter Liljedahl, Mary-Ellen Kelm and George Agnes for their assistance with SGSC while he was on leave. SGSC welcomed Stephen Smith and Faisal Beg to the committee.

The Chair acknowledged that it would be a challenging semester with the TSSU labour issues. Currently four graduate students who have applied to graduate have been impacted by missing grades.

The Chair was pleased to announce that there were over 2,500 offers of admission this year, which is the highest number of offers in SFU graduate studies history. There also were a record number of 500 deferrals, which is principally a result of the changes in processing time at Canadian Immigration. Visa processing times have increased up to 11 months for some countries; therefore, there may be a need to start sending admission offers earlier.

An exit survey has been conducted for graduate students who graduated six months earlier. Three years of data has now been collected and is being analyzed. Data will be made available shortly to faculties, departments and composite data to the Graduate Student Society. The graduate supervision survey's data is being organized and will be available to the same groups in the future.

5. **Other business**

5.1 **Mitacs Scholarships (for information)**

Joy Johnson, VPR, briefly explained the background information on Mitacs. SGSC was informed that the number of SFU students benefiting from the Mitacs Accelerate program has

decreased and that a working group will be formed to create a plan by the end of the term. Mitacs has expanded their scope and the working group's focus will be on promoting the Accelerate program to students outside the field of Science. Concern was expressed over the number of not-for-profit organizations that may not be able to sponsor half the salary of the student's internship. The discussion focused on the need to show industry leaders and not-for-profit organizations the benefits of the program and the value of having a student intern.

6. For Approval

6.1 Lifelong Learning [GS2015. 30]

- a) Program proposal: Professional MA in Translation and Interpretation (Cohort Special Arrangement)
- b) New course acronym: MTI (MA Translation and Interpretation)
- c) New courses: MTI 810, 820, 830, 840, 850, 860, 870, 880, 890

Joanne Curry and Wendy Steinberg introduced the proposal. It was reported to SGSC that Lifelong Learning has 30 years of experience offering programs to the sector and there is a demand for a higher level of credential. Clarification was requested in how this program would vary from the existing Interpretation and Translation Diploma and Certificate. SGSC requested that in order to strengthen the proposal, it should be clearly identified how this proposed program would meet the requirements for the professional designation domestically and abroad. Concrete data on the job market and potential candidate pool was also requested.

Concern was expressed over the governance issues as Lifelong Learning does not have faculty members, and does not have a faculty which would approve the credential. It was reported that FASS was not consulted and therefore a finalized agreement has not been made to have the MTI program housed in World Literature. As the focus for the program would be Chinese and English translation and interpretation in a legal and medical context, concern was raised over the level of expertise from current faculty members with the technical and contemporary experience.

The proposal will be resubmitted at a future date.

TABLED

6.2 Beedie School of Business [GS2015. 31]

- a) Admission change: EMBA

A friendly amendment was suggested that "not a mandatory component" be changed to "is an optional component".

Motion moved by I. McCarthy, seconded by P. Winne

Approved

- b) Program change: MBA
- c) Program change: MOT
- d) Course changes: (equivalency, description) BUS 510, 511, 552, 555, 556, 557, 702, 703,

705, 707, 708, 719, 751, 753, 754, 764, 766

Advance credit for completed courses will be offered in the student's first semester in their Master's program. SGSC discussed alternative methods to make the course equivalencies more straightforward which can be explored in future calendar clean-up.

Motions moved by I. McCarthy, seconded by Z. Druick **Approved**

- 6.3 **GGR 1.9.4, 1.9.5, 1.9.6** **[GS2015.32]**
Preparation for Examination of Doctoral Thesis, The Role of the External Examiner,
Notification of Doctoral Thesis Examination

Motion moved by P. Liljedahl, seconded by P. Winne **Approved**

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

- 7.1 **Faculty of Health Science** **[GS2015.33]**
a) Course change (description): HSCI 808

It was recommended that the word "healthcare", found in the course description, be corrected to "health care", and that the second line of the description be removed because it is confusing and not necessary information.

8 **Other Business**

SGSC was informed that at a future meeting, time would be set aside to discuss the difference between traditional and professional master's program.

- 9 Next SGSC scheduled meeting is October 5, 2015 (*Material deadline September 17, 2015*)