

Meeting minutes of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)  
held on February 1, 2016 in the Thesis Defence Room, SFU Library

**Present:**

**Ex-Officio:**

Wade Parkhouse, Chair  
Peter Liljedahl (Associate Dean)  
Mary Ann Pope (Director, Records)  
Patty Gallilee (Designate for the Library)  
Abhishek Nanjundappa (GSS)  
Krista Gerlich-Fitzgerald (Curriculum)  
Gloria Leung (Secretary)

**Faculty Chairs:**

Faisal Beg (FAS)  
Lisa Shapiro (FASS)  
Zoë Druick (FCAT)  
Phil Winne (EDUC)  
Sean Markey (FENV)  
Stephen Smith (FHS)  
Peter Ruben (SCI)

**Graduate Students:**

Matthew Alteen

**Regrets:**

Mary-Ellen Kelm (Associate Dean)  
Ian McCarthy (BUS)  
Essya Mabrouka (Graduate Student)

**Guests:**

Susan Rhodes (University Curriculum)

1. Approval of agenda **Approved**
  
2. Review of the SGSC minutes of January 11, 2016 **Approved**
  
3. Business arising from the minutes
  
4. **Chair's Report**

The Chair reported on the discussions at the Western Canadian Deans of Graduate Studies conference in Victoria; topics included academic writing, and indigenous education in curriculum. Rupert Richardson, SFU Indigenous Graduate Programs Coordinator, was a panelist in this discussion. SGSC would like to invite Rupert to a future SGSC meeting to discuss concepts to consider when creating strategies that will better serve our Indigenous students.

The Chair shared with SGSC that the Three Minute Thesis regional competition will take place at UBC Okanagan this year with the national competition being held virtually. The Dean of Graduate Studies will cover the cost of sending SFU's winner to the regional competition and will continue to provide training for students to participate in the competition.

5. **For Approval**

- 5.1 **Faculty of Environment**  
Department of Archaeology

**[GS2016.02]**

a) Program proposal: Graduate Certificate in Professional Heritage Resource Management (Cohort Special Arrangement)

It was suggested that the wording under Location of Program to be changed from “Online coursework coordinated through the Burnaby campus” to “Online delivery”. Also, under Graduation Requirements, the completion time of two years should be changed to “the intended completion time is two years” as the graduate regulations allow up to three years for certificate completion time.

A concern was raised that the proposal gives the impression that the certificate is comprised of five courses. SGSC requested the proposal remove all references to ARCH 591.

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

**Approved**

b) New course: ARCH 591 Directed Studies

There was confusion regarding the rationale of this course. SGSC requested that “ARCH 591 is required to complement” be changed to “ARCH 591 will complement” in order to reflect that the course is not a required course. The course component of seminar and lab should be removed as no dedicated class space is required.

SGSC also recommended a future amendment to the HRM MA calendar language to show students may take this course in lieu of a required course with permission of the HRM director.

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

**Approved**

5.2 Faculty of Science

**[GS2016.03]**

5.2.1 Department of Mathematics

a) New course: MATH 780 The Art and Craft of Problem Solving

Concern was expressed that the proposed course is equivalent to a 4<sup>th</sup> year undergraduate course. Peter Ruben explained that the course would have additional contact hours for graduate students above the undergraduate requirement. SGSC requested that the course form, outline and rationale be updated to show the additional hours.

It was suggested that a classroom participation rubric be included on the course outline to explain how the 20% requirement is earned.

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

**TABLED**

### 5.2.2 Department of Physics

#### a) New course: PHYS 849 Topics in Nanophysics

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

**Approved**

### 5.3 2015 Annual Report of SGSC

**[GS2016.04]**

Many GGRs have not been changed since the 1980s; hence there were many GGR changes in 2015. It was noted that the number of doctoral degrees awarded has increased, reflecting the SFU mandate to increase the number of doctoral degrees in 2008-2012.

Motion moved by F. Berg, seconded by L. Shapiro

**Approved**

## 6. For Discussion

### 6.1 2012 – 2014 Exit Survey

**[GS2016.05]**

Overall, there is a high satisfaction rate amongst the graduates across the faculties. It was noted that sample bias in the survey is unknown and there might be a bias from how the questions were phrased in the survey. The Chair recommended faculties and departments to use this data as a starting point to conduct their own focus groups. A copy of the Exit Survey can be downloaded here: <http://get.sfu.ca/kreEjS>.

### 6.2 Online Plagiarism Tutorial for Graduate Students

**[GS2016.06]**

Peter Liljedahl reported that the University of Manitoba has recently implemented a mandatory academic integrity tutorial for graduate students which received a positive response. The tutorial is to orient students to the expectations of their university and make them accountable to the standards. There was general support from SGSC to implement an online academic integrity tutorial, at SFU, that will include topics on intellectual property, copyright, research ethics, etc. SGSC members may send Peter a list of suggested topics.

## 7. Other Business

### 8. Next SGSC scheduled meeting March 7, 2016 (*Material deadline February 18, 2016*)