

Meeting minutes of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) held on September 12, 2016 in the Thesis Defence Room, SFU Library

Present:

Ex-Officio:

Wade Parkhouse, Chair
Jeff Derksen (Associate Dean)
Mary Ann Pope (Director, Records)
Nicole White (Library)
Abhishek Nanjundappa (GSS)
Krista Gerlich-Fitzgerald (Curriculum)
Melanie Trotto (Secretary)

Graduate Student:

Hannah Celinski

Faculty Chairs:

Faisal Beg (FAS)
Lisa Shapiro (FASS)
Zoe Druick (FCAT)
Shawn Bullock (EDUC)
Dongya Yang (FENV)
Stephen Smith (HSCI)
Gwenn Flowers (Designate for SCI)

Regrets:

Peter Liljedahl (Associate Dean)
Ian McCarthy (BUS)
Charanjot Singh (Graduate Student)

1. Approval of agenda **Approved**

Approved with the addition of Other Business

2. Review of the SGSC minutes of July 4, 2016 **Approved**

3. Business arising from the minutes

Regarding the July Chair's report: the two Associate Deans will be examining and reporting on the exit surveys and student experience over the next year.

4. **Chair's Report**

W. Parkhouse reported that there has been an official change in his title to Dean and Associate Provost, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. The change highlights the idea that graduate studies is a horizontal responsibility across the institution and emphasizes the focus on postdoctoral studies.

The Chair related that Senate would like to see more persuasive rationales for all curriculum changes with explanations as to how the changes are in line with practices at other institutions or why the changes are needed in line with the specific academic field.

The Chair reported that due to an increasing trend in student litigation, students are becoming more aware of their real and perceived rights with regards to academic requirements, and in some cases have threatened legal action in a perceived failure to educate.

The Graduate Student Orientation was a resounding success with an impressive turnout and engaged student participation. There were 450 grad students and 25 postdoctoral fellows in attendance which was an increase from last year's attendance of 350 students.

5. For Approval

5.1 Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology [GS2016.26]

5.1.1 School of Interactive Arts and Technology

- a) New course: IAT 803 Interdisciplinary Engagements with Science, Technology, Society and Culture
- b) New course: IAT 804 Foundations of Research Design for Human-Centered Design of Interactive Technologies
- c) New course: IAT 806 Interdisciplinary Design Approaches to Computing

A concern was raised regarding a perceived overlap between IAT 803 and IAT 804. It was recommended that the rationale or description for these courses is updated to make a stronger distinction between the course content.

SGSC also discussed how to best facilitate overlap concerns or collaborations between faculties and departments.

Motion moved by Z. Druick; seconded by S. Smith

Approved

5.2 Faculty of Science [GS2016.27]

5.2.1 Department of Earth Science

- a) Program change: Doctor of Philosophy in Earth Sciences

SGSC discussed the merits of having the calendar refer to external sources such as the program website and other regulations. It was clarified that the new calendar format will include that information in a concise manner.

A question was raised regarding exceptions to academic unit specific requirements. When the unit requirements are in addition to the university requirements the exceptions are the responsibility of the academic unit. It is the responsibility of DGS to ensure the University admission requirements are still being upheld.

Motion moved by G. Flowers; seconded by F. Beg

Approved

5.2.2 Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science

- a) New course: STAT 897 PhD Comprehensive Examination
- b) Course change (title, description): STAT 898
- c) Course change (title, other): STAT 899
- d) Program change: Graduate Diploma Financial Engineering
- e) Program change: Master of Science Actuarial Science
- f) Program change: Master of Science Statistics
- g) Program change: Doctor of Philosophy Statistics

A discussion took place regarding the difference between program changes and editorial changes as a result of the new degree audit project. It was clarified that program changes are any variation to the requirements of the program, typically a change in the minimum

number of units or required courses. Editorial changes will happen when formatting of the calendar occurs only. As an example, items D, E, and F are editorial changes only.

Motion moved by G. Flowers; seconded by D. Yang

Approved

[GS2016.28]

5.3 Approval process for calendar revisions resulting from the degree audit project

A question was raised about how changes to the academic calendar are being tracked as a modification might inadvertently result in a fundamental change in program requirements. It was explained that there is a comprehensive system of checks and balances conducted by both the academic unit, DGS and the Senate office in place to minimize the chances of this happening. For future calendar revisions it will be requested that it is more apparent through the cover memo if the revisions are formatting in nature as opposed to content revision.

Motion 1

That SGSC approves the graduate studies committee for each academic unit to submit calendar revisions, resulting from the degree audit project where there are no changes to the program requirements, directly to SGSC rather than the faculty graduate studies committee.

Moved by F. Beg; seconded by L. Shapiro

Approved

Motion 2

That SGSC approves the Chair of SGSC, or designate, to be given delegated authority to approve the revisions and submit the calendar revisions resulting from the degree audit project, where there are no changes to the program requirements, directly to Senate if required.

At this stage motion two was tabled to allow SGSC time to see more examples of the editorial and program changes from the degree audit project.

Tabled

[GS2016.29]

5.4 Revision to GGR 1.3.8a Admission to a Concurrent Bachelor's-Master's Program

The name of the program implies the student will be enrolled in both their undergraduate degree program and their graduate program at the same time which is not the case. The revision to the GGR is to renaming the program to be in line with other Canadian institutions.

Motion 1 That SGSC approve the revision to GGR 1.3.8a (Admission to a Concurrent Bachelor's-Master's Program)

Motion 2 That SGSC approves the Chair of SGSC to be given delegated authority to approve the editorial calendar revisions resulting from the change to GGR 1.3.8a directly to Senate.

Motions 1 and 2 moved by F. Beg; seconded by Z. Druick

Approved

6. **For Information (approved under delegated authority)**
 - 6.1 **Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences** [GS2016.30]
 - 6.1.1 Department of Political Science
 - a) Course reinstatement: POL 839 Comparative Development **Approved**
 - 6.2 **Faculty of Health Sciences** [GS2016.31]
 - a) Course change (prerequisite): HSCI 855 **Approved**
7. **Other Business**

The degree audit project is currently underway with all faculty and academic unit meetings scheduled to be complete by the end of September. The program calendar revisions which require more than editorial changes will be sent to their respective FGSC shortly and the degree audit testing is underway for many units. The scheduled completion for the entire project is April 2017.

The online graduate student progress reports was implemented in December 2015 for REM and now has been rolled out to several academic units. Phase 2 will include making improvements to the system and should be implemented for all academic units by the end of summer 2017.

Various graduate general regulations are being considered for revision, specifically those addressing part-time status graduate supervision and courses in master's and doctoral program. Any revisions will be brought forward for discussion at future meetings.
8. Next SGSC meeting scheduled October 3, 2016 (*Material deadline September 15, 2016*)