

Meeting minutes of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) held on October 3, 2016 in the Thesis Defence Room, SFU Library

Present:

Ex-Officio:

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

Faculty Chairs:

Lisa Shapiro (FASS)
Tom Brown (designate for BUS)
Shawn Bullock (EDUC)
Dongya Yang (FENV)
Stephen Smith (HSCI)
Peter Ruben (SCI)

Graduate Student:

Hannah Celinski

Regrets:

Faisal Beg (FAS)
Zoë Druick (FCAT)
Charanjot Singh (Graduate Student)

1. **Approval of agenda** **Approved**

2. **Review of the SGSC minutes of September 12, 2016** **Approved**

Approved subject to clarification of motions in item 5.3

3. **Business arising from the minutes**

4. **Chair's Report**

The Chair informed SGSC that the October Senate meeting was cancelled due to an insufficient number of agenda items.

The Chair reported on enrollment numbers. There were 2051 admission offers with 1343 students accepting offers and enrolling. Overall, the numbers are satisfactory and are remaining relatively constant. The Chair will report on completion rates and the length of time taken to complete degrees at the November meeting.

5. **For Approval**

5.1 **Faculty of Applied Sciences**

[GS2016.32]

5.1.1 School of Computing Science

a) New course: CMPT 875 Computation for Biomolecular Data

Motion moved by P. Ruben; seconded by D. Yang

Approved

5.1.2 School of Engineering Science

a) Course change (prerequisite): ENSC 854

b) Course change (prerequisite): ENSC 859

c) Course change (description, prerequisite): ENSC 702

Approved under delegated authority

d) New course: ENSC 703 Graduate Co-op Practicum III

Motion moved by P. Ruben; seconded by S. Smith

Approved

e) New course: ENSC 880 PhD Qualifying Examination

An SGSC member cautioned the use of fixed time lines as there are many factors that may lead to delay, from the student or academic unit. The members of SGSC discussed this and it was emphasized that the use of time lines is ideal but they must be feasible.

Motion moved by L. Shapiro; seconded by S. Smith

Approved

5.2 Beedie School of Business

[GS2016.33]

a) Course change (units, title, description): BUS 554

It was noted that the change in units is consistent with the proposed increase in contact hours. The proposed changes would result in the six-week course becoming a 13-week course.

Motion moved by T. Brown; seconded by P. Ruben

Approved

b) New course: BUS 570 Project Management

Concern was raised during the overlap check. It was discussed that while other project management courses currently exist at SFU, the particular merits of running a business-centred course would be the use of business-specific examples, it would make an assumption of previous cohort course knowledge and the online delivery could be consistent with the cohort courses.

It was suggested that students should not be permitted to take project management courses offered by different academic units for credit. SGSC discussed how project management courses are interdisciplinary and how there may be interest from students in other units to take these courses.

A concern was raised about fiduciary responsibility when students bring in real-world problems from their workplace to be discussed in class. SGSC discussed that it would be expected that students not share any confidential or sensitive material with the class. It was also discussed that student/peer evaluation should be limited.

An SGSC member questioned the facilitation of online group work. It was explained that the course platform used is specifically designed for collaborative group work.

SGSC discussed that there would be a potential to make project management and other professional development courses as stand-alone courses that would be offered for credit.

Motion moved by T. Brown; seconded by S. Bullock

Approved

c) Program change: Graduate Diploma in Business Administration

Approved under delegated authority

5.3 Faculty of Science

[GS2016.34]

5.3.1 Department of Mathematics

a) New course: APMA 995 PhD Oral Candidacy Exam

Motion moved by P. Ruben; seconded by J. Derksen

Approved

b) Course change (grading basis): MATH 880

Approved under delegated authority

5.4 Temporary and permanent withdrawal of courses

[GS2016.35]

Motion moved by P. Liljedahl; seconded by D. Yang

Approved

6. Other Business

It was clarified that, although discussed, minimum course enrollment in graduate classes has not been mandated across the university. SGSC discussed the possible impact of course enrollment based on a current program size.

The Chair discussed the upcoming lunch hour open discussion meetings with P. Liljedahl on policy changes and their implications as well as creating best practices. The members of SGSC are encouraged to send possible topic suggestions to defence@sfu.ca. The members of SGSC raised the following potential topics: calculating academic teaching loads, the variation between credit hours across academic units and the impact of credit hours with contact hours.

7. Next SGSC meeting scheduled November 7, 2016 (*Material deadline October 20, 2016*)