

Meeting minutes of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) held on November 7, 2016 in the Thesis Defence Room, SFU Library

Present:

Ex-Officio:

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

Faculty Chairs:

Faisal Beg (FAS)
Lisa Shapiro (FASS)
Ian McCarthy (BUS)
Zoë Druick (FCAT)
Shawn Bullock (EDUC)
Dongya Yang (FENV)
Tim Beischlag (designate for HSCI)
Peter Ruben (SCI)

Graduate Students:

Charanjot Singh
Mikayla Roberts (Alternate)

Guests:

Fred Popowich (CMPT)
Jeremy Brown (HIST)
Susan Rhodes (University Curriculum)

Regrets:

Jeff Derksen (Associate Dean)
Mary Ann Pope (Director, Records)

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

Z. Druick requested the graduate co-op designation and MSP premiums for international graduate students to be added to Other Business to be discussed time permitting.

2. **Review of the SGSC minutes of October 3, 2016** **Approved**

3. **Business arising from the minutes**

4. **Chair's Report**

The Chair distributed hard copies of three-year average enrollment and completion data. An electronic copy will be distributed to the SGSC members. The data will be available shortly on the Graduate Studies website along with the past reports.

The Chair and Associate Dean, Jeff Derksen, attended the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) annual conference on November 2nd- 4th. The chair will discuss the conference further at the next SGSC meeting.

5. **For Approval**

5.1 **Faculty of Applied Sciences** **[GS2016.36]**

5.1.1 School of Computing Science

a) Full Program Proposal: Professional Master of Science in Computing Science

F. Popowich presented the proposal which currently is in its third year of being a Cohort Special Arrangement program. Concern was raised by the members of SGSC on gender equity. F. Popowich explained actions are being taken during the

recruitment phase as well as with involvement in the Women in Computing Science initiative. More details will be included in the proposal when submitted to SCUP.

S. Rhodes requested expanded information on the successes and lessons learned from while the program was being offered as a CSAR including what changes have been made between the CSAR and the FPP. It was also requested that the National Occupational Classifications codes are included to demonstrate the skill level and type.

The intention is that the research and professional programs will complement each other and a decline in the quality of students has not been seen in admissions for either program. The program is revenue-generating which will create awards available for the research-based program.

Further points clarified that many of the courses are being co-taught by University Research Associates (URA) and faculty members, and URAs have been assisting with the admission committee.

Supplementary support letters will be officially included in the SCUP proposal.

Motion moved by F. Beg; seconded by I. McCarthy

Approved

5.1.2 School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering

a) New course: MSE 890 PhD Qualifying

The creation of this course will require a program change to the PhD program which will be brought to SGSC at a future date. SGSC recommended adding the word “Examination” to the title of the course for clarity.

A question was raised as to why the course would be graded satisfactory/unsatisfactory (S/U) as opposed to in progress/complete (IP/CO). It was explained the S/U grading basis allows the flexibility to show if a student did not successfully pass the exam on their first attempt. Additionally, if a student takes more than one term to complete, an IP can be used and the student would enroll in the same course in the subsequent term.

Motion moved by F. Beg; seconded by D. Yang

Approved

b) Course change (prerequisite): MSE 899 **Approved under delegated authority**

5.2 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

5.2.1 Department of History

[GS2016.16]

a) Program change: Master of Arts in History

J. Brown addressed the concerns of the committee regarding inconsistent standards for language competency by explaining that recommendations would be submitted to the GPC while the senior supervisor would be responsible for administering the language exam. The departmental process was explained further whereby if the student is

unsuccessful at the exam it is recommended that the student improve their competency through self-study.

The decision to eliminate the French requirement for students studying Canadian history (unless their research necessitates it) is limited to the master's program only. Doctoral candidates in Canadian history still have the French language requirement.

Motion moved by L. Shapiro; seconded by S. Bullock **Approved**

5.2.2 School of Criminology **[GS2016.37]**

a) Program change: Master of Arts in Criminology

A suggestion was made to indicate the approximate number of students who apply from the BA program into the MA program instead of a "significant number."

Motion moved by L. Shapiro; seconded by F. Beg **Approved**

5.3 Beedie School of Business **[GS2016.38]**

- a) New course: BUS 698 Orientation Retreat
- b) New course: BUS 877 Mathematics for Computational Finance
- c) New course: BUS 878 Statistics for Financial Economics

It was recommended BUS 698 changes the proposed units from 0.5 to 0 units.

Motion moved by I. McCarthy; seconded by P. Ruben **Approved**

- d) Program change: Executive Master of Business Administration
- e) Program change: Master of Science in Finance

A concern was raised regarding the mechanics of how the program minimum units would be satisfied if a student successfully challenges BUS 877 and/or BUS 878. The Office of Graduate Studies will ensure students will meet the requirements in the event of a course challenge.

Motion moved by I. McCarthy; seconded by F. Beg **Approved**

5.4 Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology **[GS2016.39]**
Centre for Digital Media

a) Program change: Master of Digital Media

The Master of Digital Media is a collaborative degree between four institutions. The current calendar does not include the program requirements.

Motion moved by Z. Druick; seconded by M. Roberts **Approved**

5.5 Faculty of Science **[GS2016.40]**
5.5.1 Department of Earth Sciences

a) New course: EASC 630 Groundwater Contamination and Transport

b) New course: EASC 635 Water, Environment and Climate Change

An overlap check was conducted; however, further clarification may be necessary between EASC and the Faculty of Environment.

The Chair requested that this item be tabled until the December SGSC meeting so that the Department of Earth Sciences and the Faculty of Environment could meet to address these concerns. **Tabled**

5.5.2 Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry

a) Program change: Doctor of Philosophy in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry

b) Program change: Master of Science in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry

Motion moved by P. Ruben; seconded by A. Nanjundappa **Approved**

c) Program termination: Bioinformatics Graduate Diploma

It has been requested that further information be provided for the submission to SCUP detailing why this program did not garner the expected interest from students.

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

d) New course: MBB 728 Microbial Pathogenesis

Motion moved by P. Ruben; seconded by C. Singh **Approved**

5.5.3 Department of Statistics and Actuarial Sciences

a) New course: STAT 652 Statistical Learning and Prediction

The Chair clarified that this course was intended to fill a need for students whose home academic unit does not have the resources to offer program-specific statistics courses. It is noted that the creation of this course will not impact the ability for future academic units to mount their own program-specific basic statistic course.

A request was made that data is gathered on which graduate programs are requiring graduate-level statistics courses that are not offered within their own discipline.

Motion moved by P. Ruben; seconded by T. Beischlag **Approved**

6. For Information

6.1 Faculty of Environment **[GS2016.41]**

Department of Archaeology

a) Course change (title, description): ARCH 531, 541, 551, 561

Approved under delegated authority

6.2 Faculty of Science **[GS2016.40]**

Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry

a) Course change (description, other): MBB 727

- b) Course change (other): MBB 821
- c) Course change (description): MBB 861
- d) Course deletions:
 - MBB 822 Cell and Molecular Biology Colloquium
 - MBB 823 Cell and Molecular Biology Colloquium
 - MBB 862 Biomolecular Structure and Function Colloquium
 - MBB 863 Biomolecular Structure and Function Colloquium

Approved under delegated authority

7. For Discussion

7.1 Office of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Fellows

[GS2016.42]

7.1.1 Special Arrangements

- a) Course change (title): SAR 897

The recommendation for the change in title as per the course change form was the favoured choice. The course change form was then presented to the committee for approval.

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

Approved

8. Other Business

- a) Program changes

The Chair expressed the value in making program changes with careful deliberation so as to avoid changing program requirements multiple times in the same calendar year. While the electronic calendar does allow this flexibility and it allows programs to keep current, having too frequent changes may cause confusion.

- b) Graduate co-op designation

Z. Druick expressed that Work Integrated Learning presented at a faculty meeting regarding co-op designation on graduate parchments. It was clarified that no official decision has been made and currently faculties are being asked to consider the benefits and disadvantages to the designation.

- c) Issues of MSP premiums for international students

Due to time constraints it has been requested that the MSP premium for international students is discussed at a future meeting. Concern has been raised that international students are not eligible for premium assistance and therefore if the student does not have the premium covered through a group coverage this can be burdensome.

- 9. Next SGSC meeting scheduled for December 5, 2016 (*Material deadline November 17, 2016*)