

Meeting minutes of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)
held on June 6, 2016 in the Thesis Defence Room, SFU Library

Present:

Ex-Officio:

Wade Parkhouse, Chair
Mary Ann Pope (Director, Records)
Patty Gallilee (Designate for Library)
Shelley Gair (Designate for Curriculum)
Melanie Trotto (Secretary)

Faculty Chairs:

Binay Bhattacharya (Designate for FAS)
Lisa Shapiro (FASS)
Ian McCarthy (BUS attending via Skype)
Zoë Druick (FCAT)
Phil Winne (EDUC)
Sean Markey (FENV)
Stephen Smith (FHS)
Petr Lisonek (Designate for SCI)

Guests:

Nancy Hedberg (LING)

Regrets:

Mary-Ellen Kelm (Associate Dean)
Peter Liljedahl (Associate Dean)
Hannah Celinski (Grad Student)

1. Approval of agenda **Approved**
2. Review of the SGSC minutes of April 18, 2016 **Approved**
3. **Business arising from the minutes**
Action items from the retreat are beginning to be worked on.
4. **Chair's Report**
Track, Report, and Connect, Exchange (TRaCE) is a one-year project being conducted in collaboration with 24 Canadian universities, the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) and other partner organizations. The purpose is to TRACK PhDs who graduated in the Humanities between 2004 and 2014, REPORT through interviews and create a website for CONNECTION and EXCHANGE of knowledge. The intention is that this project will continue gathering data for future cohorts if funding is secured. At SFU data is being collected on our PhD students that have completed on average five years ago. Reportable data should be available in the Fall.

The chair reported he attended a conference on Re-thinking the PhD in Humanities which examined the length of degrees, the lack of academic jobs and lack of data. Two points of interest are that the majority of PhD students were hired into their career prior to completing their doctoral degree, and candidacy exams have greater importance as they provide breadth for the many positions outside academia. It was emphasized that there should be a commitment to re-think the format of the degree to allow opportunities for the degree to be more student-focused when appropriate while still having the traditional model available without lowering academic standards.

P. Liljedahl will be heading two working groups in the Fall. The first will look at the instances of concurrent undergraduate/graduate courses and the second group will be examining the use of 3, 4 and 5 units in graduate courses.

5. For Approval

5.1 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences [GS2016.16]

5.1.1 Department of Linguistics

Program proposal: Graduate Certificate in the Linguistics of a First Nations Language

Concern was raised regarding the effective date for the program. It was recommended the program effective date be Summer 2017 but students would start April 1, 2017 for the first cohort. SGSC was informed that the intention of the program is for an MA to be created in the near future. The courses being used in the proposed certificate will be regularized when this occurs. The course descriptions are intentionally generic due to the need to customize the study based on each language family.

A discussion took place regarding a potential relationship between the current undergraduate First Nations Language Proficiency Certificate and the Graduate Certificate in the Linguistics of a First Nations Language. The proposed graduate certificate would focus on applied application in lieu of being purely theoretical.

It was suggested that it be clarified that languages are specific to the languages in the communities of BC and the Yukon earlier in the proposal.

It was noted that communication across faculties could be increased during the creation of new proposals in order to make the most use of SFU's resources.

Motion moved by L. Shapiro, seconded by Z. Druick **Approved with revisions**

5.1.2 Department of English

Program change: Master of Arts in English

It was clarified that Option B is geared toward students pursuing entry to further graduate studies.

It was recommended to change the title "Project Option" to "Extended Essay/Project Option" and add "two extended essays or" into the first paragraph of the aforementioned section.

Motion moved by L. Shapiro, seconded by P. Winne **Approved with revisions**

5.1.3 Department of History

Program change: Master of Arts in History

It was recommended that the information under Admission Requirements that is already stated in GGRs and specific to the online application be removed from the calendar description. It was also suggested that the list of major study areas in the calendar description be alphabetized, and that “the Americas” be changed to “the Americas, including Canada.”

SGSC discussed the need for clarity in the minimum language proficiency (competency or fluency) specific to the research project. As this requirement leaves discretion to the senior supervisor, there was concern that there could be different levels of expectations and/or raise issues of fairness among students/supervisors.

Tabled

5.1.4 School for International Studies

Program change: Master of Arts in International Studies

Motion moved by L. Shapiro, seconded by S. Markey

Approved

5.1.5 Department of Political Science

Program change: Master of Arts in Political Science

Program change: Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science

In the program change for the Doctor of Philosophy, it was recommended a descriptor such as “proficiency” be added to the second language program requirement.

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

Approved with revisions

5.1.6 Urban Studies Program

New course: URB 605 Great Urban Thinkers

Motion moved by L. Shapiro, seconded by S. Markey

Approved

5.2 Beedie School of Business

[GS2016.17]

a) Program change: Graduate Diploma in Business Administration

b) Program change: Executive Master of Business Administration

It was request that the rationale for change for the GDBA be amended to be more descriptive.

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

Approved with revisions

c) Program change: Master of Business Administration

d) New courses:

- BUS 733 Negotiations
- BUS 734 Entrepreneurship
- BUS 735 Sustainability
- BUS 736 Leading Self and Others

- BUS 737 Business Strategy
- BUS 738 Operations Management
- BUS 739 Managing Information
- BUS 740 Managing Across Cultures

Motion moved by I. McCarthy, seconded by L. Shapiro

Approved

5.3 Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology

[GS2016.18]

School of Communication

Course change (title, description): CMNS 830

Approved under delegated authority

5.4 Faculty of Health Sciences

[GS2016.19]

a) Suspension of admission: Graduate Diploma in Foundations of Global Health

It was requested that the wording of the subject line in the cover memo be revised from Temporary Withdrawal to Suspension of Admission for clarity.

Motion moved by S. Smith, seconded by I. McCarthy

Approved

b) Course change (title, description): HSCI 822

Approved under delegated authority

5.5 Faculty of Science

[GS2016.20]

5.5.1 Department of Biological Sciences

Course change (title, description): BISC 827

Approved under delegated authority

5.5.2 Department of Earth Science

New course: EASC 628 Advanced Mineral Deposits

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

Approved

5.5.3 Department of Mathematics

a) Program change: Master of Science in Mathematics

b) Program change: Doctor of Philosophy in Mathematics

c) New courses:

- MATH 801 Computer Algebra
- MATH 846 Cryptography
- MATH 875 PhD Preliminary Examination
- MATH 876 PhD Comprehensive Examination

It was suggested that the rationale for change for the MSc program be simplified and the reference to the working group be removed.

A question was raised on why doctoral students need to be examined on upper-level undergraduate material. P. Lisonek explained that it is an opportunity for students to refresh their knowledge, identifies students whose knowledge are not up to par, and it is important for students who will be teaching in the future to have a firm grasp of the potential areas they will be instructing

It was suggested that the doctoral program description clarify the five distinct groups of Mathematics as this information is only included in the MSc description.

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

d) Course change (description): MATH 701

Approved under delegated authority

5.5.4 Department of Physics

New course: PHYS 890 General Relativity and Gravitation

New course: PHYS 891 Cosmology

Tabled to July meeting due to time constraint.

Tabled

5.5.5 Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science

New course: STAT 641 Introduction to Statistical Computing and Exploratory Data Analysis – R

New course: STAT 642 Introduction to Statistical Computing and Exploratory Data Analysis – SAS

Tabled to July meeting due to time constraint.

Tabled

6. For Discussion

6.1 Tuition fee schedule 2017-18 academic year

[GS2016.21]

The chair raised two points regarding the tuition fee schedule. First, the practice of grandfathering tuition fees needs to cease and the schedule should state a set amount which is subject to change annually (i.e. 2% increase).

Second, there is no interest in creating a differential tuition fee schedule for international students in research-based programs but there is an opportunity to create a differential for specialty programs in certain circumstances. If there is creation of a new program that carries the same credential, it is possible that the new program could have a different fee structure. Also, it is possible to change the tuition fee structure from per credit to per term.

Any proposals for tuition fee structure would be submitted to SGSC's June meeting with the finalized decision submitted to the Associate VPA by the end of June for consultation over the summer. If the change is substantive, an open consultation is also required.

7. **Other Business**

7.1 Policies around reasons for grade changes

Not discussed.

8. Next SGSC scheduled meeting July 4, 2016 (*Material deadline June 16, 2016*)