
Meeting minutes of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) held on December 4, 2017 in the Thesis Defence Room, SFU Library

Present:

Jeff Derksen (Acting Chair)
Nicole White (Library)
Chantal Turpin (GSS Representative)
Shelley Gair (Associate Director)
Krista Gerlich-Fitzgerald (Curriculum)
Daria Babeshko (Secretary)

Faculty Chairs:

Lisa Shapiro (FASS)
Andrew Gemino (BUS)
Stuart Poyntz (FCAT)
Allan MacKinnon (EDUC)
Dongya Yang (FENV)
Tim Beischlag (HSCI)
Faisal Beg (FAS)
Peter Ruben (SCI)

Graduate Students:

Erin Hogg
Sarah Lord Ferguson

Regrets:

Ed Park (Associate Dean)

1. Approval of agenda **Approved**
2. Review of the SGSC minutes of November 6, 2017 **Approved**
3. Business arising from the minutes
4. Chair's Report

The Chair reported on his attendance of the Canadian Association Graduate Studies Conference. SGSC was informed that among subjects discussed at the forum were rethinking dissertations, value of PhDs in Canada, student housing, and mental health programs. Recommendations were made by the students from across Canada at the Open Graduate Forum. The committee wanted to know if there were any specific suggestions on how to improve students' experience at SFU. The Chair explained that most experience issues were reported having to do with housing or food problems; for example, students having to go to food banks. There was a clear call for more funding. Concern was raised by one of the committee members regarding the absence of Graduate Club or space at SFU that would allow students get together and participate in social activities. C. Turpin informed the committee that GSS regularly organizes social events for graduate students. S. Lord Ferguson confirmed that GSS was doing a great job at organizing events and thanked them for their efforts. The Chair confirmed that finding new social space for the students is a long-term goal for GS.

L. Shapiro inquired about possible increase in SSHRC funding and the number of international students who are not eligible for tri-council support. The Chair explained that there was a request for more SSHRC funding and there might be a small change but it would not be significant.

The Chair informed the committee that next year's BASS funding allocations will be released shortly. SGSC was informed that a slight rise for graduate students' enrollment is expected for the next academic year.

5. **For Information**

Course Changes

Approved under delegated authority

Faculty of Health Sciences

- 1) Prerequisite removal HSCI 776
- 2) Prerequisite removal HSCI 774
- 3) Temporary withdrawal HSCI 892
- 4) Temporary withdrawal HSCI 850

Faculty of Education

- 5) Permanent withdrawal of courses

6. **For Approval**

Beedie School of Business

- 1) New course BUS 741 Business & Indigenous Peoples
- 2) New course BUS 730 Business & Indigenous Communities

As a past student of the program, S. Lord Ferguson expressed concern regarding increase in fees and 2 mandatory trips that the students in the full-time MBA will be required to take. Concern was raised that there may be family commitments that prohibit student's travelling and possible health risks (example exposure to zika virus). She also noted that a large percentage of students in the MBA are international students and raised the question of relevancy of these courses. A. Gemino answered these questions, confirming student consultation when considering the proposed changes. Regarding relevancy, it was explained that while the Indigenous communities discussed in the course are in BC, many international students will go back to their home countries which will have indigenous communities as well; therefore, a better understanding of indigenous cultures will be beneficial. A. Gemino confirmed that Beedie School of Business will inform all the students ahead of time of the approximately \$3,000 course supplemental fee plus airfare associated with BUS 730. SGSC questioned if it was anticipated that students' performance may be impacted by increasing the number of units taken within the same period. A. Gemino did not anticipate this to occur due to the interactive engagement within these courses.

- 3) Master of Business Administration MBA

A question was raised regarding why two courses and both field experiences are being mandated into the full-time MBA and only one of the two mandatory for the part-time MBA. A. Gemino explained that the part-time MBA program has been designed for students who work full-time. Most of their classes are taken over the weekend or in the evenings. Currently, BUS is investigating options to provide an equivalent international experience utilizing online components which may be available as an alternate in the future.

Moved by S. Poyntz; seconded A. Gemino

Approved

7. **For Discussion**

GGR Revisions

- 1) GGR 1.3.5 (Admission Under Special Arrangements)

The committee agreed that a change of name was appropriate and the discussion focused on finding a suitable name for the program. Among other options, the committee suggested Non-traditional Studies, Interdisciplinary Studies, Individualized Studies, Cross-faculty Studies and Individualized Interdisciplinary Studies. The GGR will be brought forward as a motion at the next meeting with feedback from Ed Park, Graduate Program Chair of SAR.

F. Beg left the meeting

2) GGR 1.3.5a (Cohort Special Arrangements)

Support was given to keep the Cohort Special Arrangements title for this program.

3) GGR 1.4 (Enrollment)

4) GGR 1.9 (Preparation for Examinations)

5) GGR 1.9.3 (Examining Committee for Doctoral Thesis)

The committee recommended in addition to the changes, to also correct “the same department as the one granting the degree” as the department recommends the awarding of the degree but do not have the authority to grant the degree.

6) GGR 1.9.4 (Preparation for Examination of Doctoral Thesis)

7) GGR 1.9.5 (The Role of the External Examiner)

8) GGR 1.9.6 (Notification of Doctoral Thesis Examination)

9) GGR 1.10.2 (Classification of the Thesis)

A member of the committee questioned why a deadline was added. It was explained that in the past some students took longer than one term to complete thesis revisions after their defence. The deadline will remind students and their supervisors of the expected revision completion time.

P. Ruben left the meeting

10) GGR 1.10.3 (Recommendation for the Award of the Degree)

11) GGR 1.10.4 (Submission of the Thesis to the Library)

A committee member noticed that there are items that fall outside 1.72a and 1.72b categories that need to be added. Language revision was suggested.

12) GGR 1.11.3 (Postponement of Publication)

It was suggested to use either the term “Summit” or “Library institutional repository” throughout the GGR. Since the software might change, it was suggested the usage of “library institutional repository” throughout the text. It was noted that there is an unintended strike out on p. 45.

E. Hoggs left the meeting

13) Agenda Format

The discussion focused on returning to the previous agenda format. It was agreed that it is hard to review linked submissions when they are separated into different categories. The previous agenda format is easier to follow when reviewing large meeting packages.

14) Curriculum contact representative (no attachment)

It was requested that for SGSC submissions academic units provide contact information of the person who has the most information about the submission.

This normally should be the graduate program chair.

- 8.** Next SGSC meeting scheduled for 2:30 pm January 8, 2017