

Meeting minutes of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) held on November 5, 2019 in the Thesis Defence Room, SFU Library

Present:

Zoë Druick (Acting Chair)
Nicole White (Library)
Lucian Rinke-Hardekopf (GSS representative)
Krista Gerlich-Fitzgerald (Associate Director)
Daria Babeshko (Curriculum)
Kathleen Vieira-Ribeiro (Secretary)

Faculty Chair:

Parvaneh Saeedi (FAS)
Sean Zwagerman (FASS)
Andrew Gemino (BUS)
Lucy Le Mare (EDUC)
Philippe Pasquier (FCAT)
Dongya Yang (FENV)
Duncan Saunders (designate for FHS)
Michael Silverman (SCI)

Guests

Arne Eigenfeldt (SCA)
Peter Dickinson (SCA)

Regrets:

Jeff Derksen (Chair)
George Agnes (Associate Dean)

1. Approval of agenda **Approved**
2. Review of the SGSC minutes of October 8, 2019 **Approved**
3. Business arising from the minutes
4. Chair's Report
5. For Approval

5.1 Faculty of Communications, Art and Technology

School for the Contemporary Arts

5.1.1 NOI: PhD in Contemporary Arts

P. Dickinson informed SGSC that the proposed PhD in Contemporary Arts will have practice based curriculum that does not currently exist in the Province. SGSC requested clarification on the rationale for additional funds required for external examiners. It was explained that most external examiners are practicing artists; therefore, the potential funding is required to bring them in. It was recommended to focus on the proposed program instead of Individualized Interdisciplinary Studies (INS).

Moved by P. Pasquier; seconded by L. Le Mare

Approved

5.2 Faculty of Applied Sciences

School of Computing Science

5.2.1 Program change: Computer Science MSc

A committee member inquired if the students who are unable to secure a Co-op will have to complete their program with a graduate project in the final term. P. Saeedi has confirmed that students will be required to complete a project. Therefore, it was requested to remove “or additional courses” from the last paragraph under Co-op.

Moved by P. Saeedi; seconded by M. Silverman

Approved subject to revisions

5.2.2 New course: CMPT 729: Introduction to Reinforcement Learning

A committee member requested to remove prerequisite as per discussion with the faculty member who created the new course. It was also requested remove the word “introduction” from the title.

Moved by P. Saeedi; seconded by A. Gemino

Approved subject to revisions

School of Engineering Science

5.2.3 Program change: Engineering Science MEng, MAsC, and PhD

5.2.4 Course changes (title, consent): ENSC 701, ENSC 702, ENSC 703

Moved by P. Saeedi; seconded by N. White

Approved
L. Rinke-Hardekopf abstained

5.3 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Urban Studies

5.3.1 New course: URB 691: International Field Studies

Moved by S. Zwagerman; seconded by P. Saeedi

Approved

5.4 Faculty of Environment

School of Resource and Environmental Management

5.4.1 Program change (suspension of admission): Development and Sustainability Graduate Certificate

Moved by D. Yang; seconded by M. Silverman

Approved

6. For Discussion

6.1 Postponement of Publication

There has been a large number of requests to postpone thesis publications, mostly citing pending publication with journals as the rationale. The majority of journals do not disqualify previous publications that are in the form of a thesis. N. White confirmed that although the overall number of applications is decreasing, it is growing in one faculty in particular. It seems then that there is a perceived barrier as opposed to actual practice.

SGSC discussed publication practices in their own faculties, which can be dependent on the academic field and noted that perhaps there is just a lack of awareness of copyright. Committee members recognize that publication is a sign of achievement but questioned why it would be an issue if the embargo is only for one year. Pending publication does not constitute a good reason to embargo and that requests generate extra work for staff as each application must be reviewed and approved.

A committee member asked if there can be certain thesis that may be protected permanently and when necessary from publication. N. White confirmed that permanent embargoes are extremely rare. The sensitive materials may be placed in an appendix that will not get published.

6.2 Theses Co-authorship (attachments)

M. Silverman raised the issue of acknowledgment of co-authorship of the thesis between students and collaborators. It is important to make it clear to the committee and the external examiner the amount of contribution that has been made by the student and the co-author(s) in terms of their research. Committee members have agreed that there needs to be more transparency and that the process of acknowledgment by all committee members needs to be established. This may be accomplished via new form that will be filled-out by the student and signed by the supervisor. GPS will look into creating a template that each faculty can modify.

7. For Information

- 8. The date for the next SGSC meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2019 (*SGSC submission deadline is November 14, 2019 at noon*).**