Meeting minutes of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) held on November 3, 2020 remotely via Zoom.

Present:
Jeff Derksen (Chair)
George Agnes (Associate Dean)
Roxanne Panchasi (Associate Dean)
Keshav Mukunda (designate for Library)
Rahil Adeli (GSS representative)
Krista Gerlich-Fitzgerald (Associate Director)
Michelle Grahame (Curriculum)
Janelle Kropp (Secretary)

Graduate Students:
Daniel Lam
Abdul Zahir

Guests:
Andrew Gemino (BUS)
Kelli Whittle (Director, UCIL)

Faculty Chair:
Parvaneh Saeedi (FAS)
Sean Zwagerman (FASS)
Carolyn Egri (designate for BUS)
Philippe Pasquier (FCAT)
Lucy Le Mare (EDUC)
Dongya Yang (FENV)
Frank Lee (designate for FHS)

Regrets:
Michael Silverman (SCI)

1. Approval of agenda   **Approved**

2. Review of the SGSC minutes of September 8, 2020 and October 6, 2020   **Approved**

3. Business arising from the minutes

4. Chair's Report

> The Chair reported recent updates provided at Senate revisited the possibility of an SFU medical school.

5. For Approval
   5.1 Beedie School of Business
   5.1.1   Full Program Proposal: Master of Science in Accounting with Cognitive Analytics
           Calendar Entry: Master of Science in Accounting with Cognitive Analytics

   SGSC inquired about support for the program beyond KPMG. A.Gemino confirmed they are in the process of collecting additional and updated letters of support as the program had previously won a bid and over several other Canadian post-secondary institutions.

   A committee member requested clarification on the recognition of business credentials, and difference between MiM, MBA, and MSc. An MBA is considered to cover a broader range of business knowledge and can include specialized content, whereas an MSc is considered to be more focused on a specific area. It was suggested the program website could include more information on these credentials.

A.Gemino confirmed a program overlap check had been conducted with other faculties and while there is overlap with technical information the approach of the program is much different. In the future, there may be opportunities to collaborate with other departments.

Moved by A.Gemino; seconded by L.Le Mare   **Approved**

5.1.2   Full Program Proposal: Graduate Certificate in Accounting with Digital Analytics
Calendar Entry: Graduate Certificate in Accounting with Digital Analytics

Moved by A.Gemino; seconded by L.Le Mare   **Approved**

5.1.3   Course Changes (title): BUS 830, BUS 831, BUS 841
Course Changes (title, description): BUS 832, BUS 838, BUS 842, BUS 844

Moved by A.Gemino; seconded by L.Le Mare   **Approved**

K.Whittle and A.Gemino left the meeting.

5.2 Faculty of Applied Science
<u>School of Computing Science</u>
5.2.1   Course Change (prerequisite): CMPT 782, CMPT 783

Moved by P.Saeedi; seconded by F.Lee   **Approved**

5.3 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
<u>Department of Psychology</u>
5.3.1   Course Change (description): PSYC 825
Course Change (description, prerequisite): PSYC 830
Course Change (prerequisite): PSYC 831

Moved by S.Zwagerman; seconded by P.Pasquier   **Approved**

5.4 Faculty of Communication, Arts and Technology
<u>School of Contemporary Arts</u>
5.4.1   Course Change (description, other): CA 827

Moved by P.Pasquier; seconded by D.Lam   **Approved**

5.5 Faculty of Education
5.5.1   Program Change: TEAL - Teaching English as an Additional Language (TESL/TEFL) MEd

Moved by L.Le Mare; seconded by R.Panchasi   **Approved**

6. For Discussion

   6.1 Reserve Codes for Graduate Course Enrollment

   SGSC discussed enrollment practices and the reserve code set up option available through SFU Schedules. Currently, reserve codes are more commonly used for undergraduate courses, but some departments may already use them for their graduate courses. Reserve codes can be set up to allow only a specific group of students to enroll. Students outside of that group may still enroll, but need written permission.

   Several committee members raised concerns if widespread use of reserve codes occurs it could create barriers limiting graduate student access to interdisciplinary course work. It was clarified students could seek approval to take the course from their program, supervisor, and the course instructor. If approved, the existing course add/drop form could be used to enroll them. Additionally, this option would minimize inequities arising if a student in a research-based program enrolls in courses designed for a specialty program. A committee member noted they agreed with the use of reserve codes for courses specifically designed for specialty fee programs, but they strongly disagreed with the broader use of this option. Another committee member explained from their experience they could see value in a reserve code being used for courses that are highly discipline specific. In these cases, it would ensure interested students from other disciplines had a conversation with the course instructor before taking the course. SGSC debated the idea of access to open enrollment versus ensuring students are following program requirements. Overall, SGSC found it was important to make sure graduate students would still have access to courses from outside their home department.

   6.2 Covid impact on Graduate Students: Leave Policies

   The committee revisited the discussion on leaves of absence and program time limits. Many graduate students are facing ongoing challenges with Covid-19 and feel added pressure to be able to complete their program within the time limit. K.Gerlich-Fitzgerald reminded the committee students can request a time extension to allow them to complete and compassionate leave is still an option that does not count towards their completion times.

   A committee member noted International students need to be careful about taking leaves as it can impact post-graduate work permits. These students should speak with International Services for Students.

   A committee member suggested communication from GPS reassuring and reminding students of the options may help students understand the support available.

   The committee also discussed support for incoming international students who may be arriving in Canada in the upcoming months and required to quarantine.

7. <u>For Information</u>   **Approved under delegated authority**
   7.1 Temporary and permanent withdrawal of courses

8. The date of the next SGSC meeting is scheduled for December 1, 2020 *(SGSC submission deadline is November 4th at noon).*