

Meeting minutes of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) held on December 1, 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)

**Faculty Chair:**

Parvaneh Saeedi (FAS)  
Sean Zwagerman (FASS)  
Carolyn Egri (designate for BUS)  
Philippe Pasquier (FCAT)  
Dongya Yang (FENV)  
Frank Lee (designate for FHS)  
Michael Silverman (SCI)

**Regrets:**

Lucy Le Mare (EDUC)

1. Approval of agenda **Approved**
2. Review of the SGSC minutes of November 3, 2020 **Approved**
3. Business arising from the minutes
4. Chair's Report

The Chair informed SGSC of recent budget updates discussed at the public town hall with faculty, staff and students. Graduate student funding remains stable and an additional \$300,000 was able to be moved over to support needs-based bursaries for graduate students. The Chair also reminded the committee of the change to the time limit eligibility for GFs and the addition of a Thesis Completion Fellowship to help provide support for students whose time has been extended due to Covid-19.

5. For Approval

**5.1 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

Department of International Studies

5.1.1 New Course: IS 833 Chinese Development and its Discontents

5.1.2 Course Change (title): IS 801

Moved by S. Zwagerman; seconded by F. Lee

**Approved**

**5.2 Beedie School of Business**

5.2.1 Program Change: MSc Finance

A.Gemino attended this portion of the meeting to answer questions. SGSC was informed the program has been in place since 2012 and the changes would add more of a management focus into the finance curriculum.

A committee member requested changing the order of the program requirements so the elective requirement applicable for all students is listed before the choice of the investment management or risk management stream. The addition of standard language indicating elective graduate course work may be substituted with approval was also discussed.

SGSC reviewed the extent of the changes being proposed and determined there were no major changes to the structure of the program. It was noted the changes do reflect a shift in some of the course content, but the format, overall objectives and outcomes align with the program as it was originally approved.

Moved by C. Ergi; seconded by K. Gerlich-Fitzgerald **Approved subject to revisions**

5.2.2 New Courses: BUS 798 Accounting Foundations  
BUS 827 Principles of Investments  
BUS 828 Business Strategy, Ethics and the Regulatory Environment  
BUS 829 Investment Banking and Private Equity  
BUS 861 Managerial Communication  
BUS 888 Special Topics  
BUS 889 Special Topics

Moved by C. Ergi; seconded by K. Gerlich-Fitzgerald **Approved**

5.2.3 Course Changes (title): BUS 870, BUS 877  
Course Changes (title, description): BUS 810, BUS 823  
Course Changes (title, description, prerequisite): BUS 802, 818  
Course Changes (temporary withdrawal): BUS 809, BUS 814, BUS 857

Moved by C. Ergi; seconded by K. Gerlich-Fitzgerald **Approved**

### **5.3 Faculty of Environment**

School of Resource and Environmental Management

5.3.1 Course Change (title): REM 650

Moved by D. Yang; seconded by M. Silverman **Approved**

## **6. For Discussion**

### **6.1 Program Requirements and Interdisciplinary Electives**

SGSC considered the addition of standard language to calendar entries clarifying students may be able to select course work outside the listed requirements upon consultation with

their supervisor and the program director/chair. It was noted this could help start a dialogue between students and supervisors, encourage interdisciplinary selections and collaboration between academic units. The committee will look at including this language in future program changes when they are submitted for approval.

## **6.2 Thesis Template Additions: Co-Authorship and Research Certifications (documents attached)**

G.Agnes introduced the recent work to update components of the thesis template. The addition of the research certifications and approvals page aligns with policy changes from the Office of Research Services. Going forward, a continuing employee becomes the applicant on all Research Certifications. SGSC discussed the options to fill out Principle Investigator or Supervisor as the applicant for the certification on behalf of the graduate student.

The addition of an Author's Declaration and Statement of Contributions revisits SGSC's past discussions on identifying and declaring collaborative instances or co-authorship within theses. The committee discussed minor revisions to the language used in the statements and updates from the copyright office. Work published elsewhere may not be replicated in a thesis, but reformatted works conforming to the library and copyright requirements may be allowed.

## **7. For Information**

8. The date of the next SGSC meeting is scheduled for January 5, 2021 (*SGSC submission deadline is December 2nd at noon*).