

Meeting minutes of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) held on September 8, 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:

Abdul Zahir

Faculty Chair:

Parvaneh Saeedi (FAS)
Sean Zwagerman (FASS)
Andrew Gemino (BUS)
Philippe Pasquier (FCAT)
Dongya Yang (FENV)
Frank Lee (designate for FHS)

Regrets:

Lucy LeMare (EDUC)
Michael Silverman (SCI)
Daniel Lam (Graduate Student)

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| 1. Approval of agenda | Approved |
| 2. Review of the SGSC minutes of July 7, 2020 | Approved |
| 3. Business arising from the minutes | |
| 4. Chair's Report | |

The Chair welcomed and introduced new members Keshav Mukunda (designate for Library), Abdul Zahir (alternate graduate student), and new GPS Associate Dean, Roxanne Panchasi. The committee was informed Fall 2020 enrollment is down by 6%, but the Spring 2021 term may have increased face to face teaching opportunities, and greater flexibility for in person graduate classes. A committee member asked for an update on the number of international graduate students arriving in Canada for Fall 2020. The Chair noted students are still arriving and this update could be provided for the next meeting.

5. For Approval

5.1 Beedie School of Business

- 5.1.1 Full Program Proposal: Graduate Certificate in Financial Analysis
Calendar Entry: Graduate Certificate in Financial Analysis

The certificate provides an alternative exit for students in the Finance MSc and creates options for international students who are unsure if they can get a student visa to continue the Master's due to Covid-19.

A. Gemino informed the committee there might eventually be an opportunity to offer the certificate as an add-on for MBA students.

Moved by A.Gemino; seconded by P.Saeedi

Approved

5.1.2 Course Change (description, grading basis): BUS 963

Moved by A.Gemino; seconded by P.Saeedi **Approved**

5.2 Faculty of Applied Sciences

School of Computing Science

5.2.1 New Course: CMPT 769 Computational Photography

Moved by P.Saeedi; seconded by R.Panchasi **Approved**

5.3 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Department of Psychology

5.3.1 Program Change: Psychology MA and PhD

Moved by S. Zwagerman; seconded by A.Gemino **Approved**

5.4 Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology

School of Publishing

5.4.1 Course Change (title, description): PUB 606

A committee member asked whether library checks are performed for course changes. The committee was informed if the change to a course is significant enough to majorly impact library resources a new course is created.

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

5.5 Faculty of Health Science

5.5.1 Program Change (calendar revisions for IOGS): Health Sciences MSc and PhD

Moved by F.Lee; seconded by R.Adeli **Approved**

5.6 Faculty of Science

Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry

5.6.1 Program Change (calendar revisions for TRAIN): Molecular Biology and Biochemistry MSc and PhD

Moved by G. Agnes; seconded by D.Yang **Approved**

6. For Discussion

6.1 GGR 1.3.3: English Language Competence (document attached)

SGSC discussed formal recognition of additional tests for English language competency to align with other Canadian institutions and provide more options for international graduate students. It was clarified these are the minimum university scores, and occasionally a department may have additional requirements.

A committee member asked whether MELAB was still available as a testing option. It was determined if it would not be available when the GGR changes are effective it should be removed as an option.

Another committee member suggested clarifying the language to indicate students only need to complete one of the tests listed.

It was also noted there will be no further exceptions to allow Duolingo scores. Students who were recently admitted based on Duolingo will not be required to take a different test for SFU admission purposes. However, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada may not accept Duolingo for immigration. Incoming students are encouraged to contact International Services for Students who can provide assistance and advice.

6.2 GSS Survey on Student Online Experience during Covid-19

R.Adeli, presented the final results of the GSS survey on remote course delivery in Summer 2020. While some graduate students reported being dissatisfied or experienced challenges with remote course delivery, many of these issues can be addressed to improve graduate student experience. The recommendations from GSS include: standardization of software, clearer channels to resolve issues, funding for graduate students access to technology, more preparation time and resources for educators, and more involvement of departments and faculty leadership in course planning. R.Adeli asked SGSC to consider the ways they can be involved in supporting these recommendations.

As part of the discussion, it was mentioned faculties are finding it difficult to provide support between TAs, RAs, and CUPE members, since TA contracts are for only one term and it is unclear where the line is between teaching support, and technical support. The Chair noted these concerns would be brought up at Dean level for further discussion.

7. For Information

8. The date of the next SGSC meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2020 (*SGSC submission deadline is September 9th at noon*).