

Meeting minutes of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) held on July 7, 2020 remotely via Zoom.

Present:

Jeff Derksen (Chair)
George Agnes (Associate Dean)
Nicole White (Library)
Rahil Adeli (GSS representative)
Krista Gerlich-Fitzgerald (Associate Director)
Michelle Grahame (Curriculum)
Janelle Kropp (Secretary)

Faculty Chair:

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

Graduate Students:

Kris Nordgren
Daniel Lam

Guests:

Uwe Glässer (MSE)
Ed Park (MSE)
Kelli Whittle (Director, UCIL)

1. Approval of agenda

Approved

The preliminary results from a GSS survey on remote delivery of graduate courses in Summer 2020 was added as a discussion item.

2. Review of the SGSC minutes of June 8, 2020

Approved

3. Business arising from the minutes

4. Chair's Report

The Chair introduced graduate student member, Kris Nordgren, to SGSC and informed the committee of Abdul Zahir's election as an alternate member.

The committee was reminded of the upcoming GPS Townhall meeting focusing on admissions funding questions and incoming international students.

5. For Approval

5.1 Faculty of Applied Sciences

School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering

5.1.1 Full Program Proposal: Master of Engineering in Smart Manufacturing and Systems

Calendar Entry: Master of Engineering in Smart Manufacturing and Systems

New Courses: MSE 910 Industrial Internet of Things

MSE 923 Smart Factory I

MSE 924 Smart Factory II

MSE 980 Industry 4.0

MSE 981 Industrial Big Data Analytics

E. Park and U. Glässer attended this portion of the meeting to introduce the proposal and answer questions. K. Whittle from the University Curriculum and Institutional Liaison office also attended this portion of the meeting.

SGSC inquired about the program's target audience and domestic interest. E. Park explained the program provides students from domestic undergraduate programs professional graduate training contributing to the future of manufacturing in BC and Canada. Currently, there are no similar graduate programs domestically.

The committee discussed the Siemens certificate as an alternative exit. E. Park and U. Glässer clarified the certificate is not a graduate certificate, but brings added value with all students in the program becoming eligible to obtain certification by writing an exam. It was suggested developing an applied science graduate certificate could provide additional options for students.

N. White noted the library was in discussion with E. Park to address limited resources available to support the new program. SGSC raised concerns about the faculty resources and teaching loads. E. Park assured the committee of the plan to recruit new faculty, but to share teaching loads until hiring is completed.

It was suggested adding an Accelerated Master's option would attract SFU undergraduates.

Moved by P. Saeedi; seconded by A. Gemino

Approved

5.1.2 Course Change (units, description, prerequisite): MSE 995 Advanced Modelling and Prototyping

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

Approved

5.2 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Department of French

5.2.1 Program Change: Accelerated Master's for French MA

SGSC considered the benefits of the Accelerated Master's for programs and students in their respective faculties. The process for programs to formally add the Accelerated Master's has been simplified to a program-calendar change. Programs can contact GPS for assistance if they have not added this option and have interested students.

Moved by S. Zwagerman; seconded by F. Lee

Approved

D. Lam joined the meeting.

Department of Sociology and Anthropology

5.2.2 Program Change: Accelerated Master's for Anthropology MA
Accelerated Master's for Sociology MA

Moved by S.Zwagerman; seconded by D.Yang

Approved

5.3 Posthumous degree awarding

The protocol and decision chart was reviewed by the committee. SGSC discussed the specific case and determined the student had completed more than 75% of required Master's course work during the time they were at SFU. The committee agreed to recommend awarding of a MEd degree.

Moved by L.Le Mare; seconded by G.Agnes

Approved

6. For Discussion

6.1 New draft of 2021/22 fee schedule for graduate programs

Associate Deans were reminded to review the draft schedule provided and contact GPS with any changes or discrepancies.

6.2 COVID-19 and Graduate Student Progress

R.Adeli shared with the committee preliminary feedback from the GSS Survey on remote course delivery in Summer 2020. Graduate students have reported issues with access to necessary equipment, wifi, lack of privacy, delays of lectures, unclear assignments, and changes of course requirements. The committee expressed interest in seeing the final results of the survey and agreed to revisit the discussion around ways to support grad students.

SGSC discussed the impact of COVID-19 on deferrals and incoming international students. A committee member suggested allowing late admission to international students previously admitted to a U.S. post-secondary institution who are now unable to attend because of the announcement from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on the Student Exchange and Visitor Program.

A committee member asked if there was going to be a continuation of the COVID-19 Compassionate Leave for the Fall 2020 term. The committee was informed leaves will be considered on a case by case basis.

The committee revisited the discussion around the challenges faced by graduate students, timelines for degree completion and how progress has been impacted by COVID-19. Associate Deans are encouraged to discuss within their faculties and programs how to be flexible and creative to help students make progress with their research and completion of their thesis or program requirements.

7. For Information

8. The date of the next SGSC meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2020 (*SGSC submission deadline is August 12 at noon*).