

Present:

Jeff Derksen (Chair, Dean GPS and Associate Provost)
Roxanne Panchasi (Associate Dean, GPS, Academic)
George Agnes (Associate Dean, GPS)
Krista Gerlich-Fitzgerald (Associate Director, GPS)
Meagan Crouch (Designate for Dean of Library)
Reese Muntean (GSS Executive Representative)
John C. Foerster (Graduate Student)
Hannah Buteau (Curriculum, GPS)
Ruth Anyankpele (Recording Secretary)

Faculty Chair:

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

Regrets:

Lucy LeMare (EDUC)
Nicole White (Designate for Dean of Library)

1. Approval of agenda
2. Review of the SGSC minutes of November 2, 2021
3. Business arising from the minutes
4. Chair's Report

The Chair thanked the committee for their input on the revised R60 policies, which has now passed the Senate level.

Andrew Gemino joined the meeting

There has been a 6% increase of overall funding provided by the University for graduate students. This is the third consecutive year of increase in funding for graduate students.

Enrollment projections for Spring 2022 show no significant change to the number of expected graduate students, but an 11% increase in research-based programs and a corresponding dip in the professional programs. This term had an increase of admission deferrals due to the pandemic.

Parvaneh Saeedi joined the meeting

5. For Approval

5.1 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

5.1.1 School of International Studies

Course Change (unit, grade): IS 886

Program Change: Master of Arts in International Studies

New Course: IS 823 Sub-Saharan Africa: Key Issues and Understandings

New Course: IS 839 Social Movements in the Global South

Committee members discussed the implications of changing the grading system of a thesis prospectus from S/U to a letter grade, particularly its impact on students. Faculty thought this necessary to set students up for success in their thesis and reduce the overall workload for both parties at the revisions stage.

Moved by S. Zwagerman; seconded by F. Lee

Approved

5.1.2 Graduate Liberal Studies Program

New Course: LS 816 The Art of Writing

New Course: LS 820 Travel Study

Moved by S. Zwagerman; seconded by K. Gerlich-Fitzgerald

Approved

5.1.3 Urban Studies Program

New Course: URB 613 Storyscapes: Decolonizing the City Through Arts and Culture

New Course: URB 627 Women in Cities: A Critical Intersectional Perspective

A committee member pointed out that the URB 613 form did not specify if graduate students would have additional assignments or requirements. GPS will contact the academic unit to confirm graduate students' expectations in the course and update the form accordingly.

Moved by S. Zwagerman; seconded by F. Lee

Approved Subject to Revisions

5.2 IP/CO Grade Removal

A committee member requested clarification on the implementation time line for S/U. K. Gerlich-Fitzgerald explained that the plan is to make this effective in Fall 2022, at which point a reminder will be sent to GPA's and GPC's. This amendment will also be introduced at the GPC/GPA townhall meeting in January 2022.

Moved by G. Agnes; seconded by F. Lee

Approved

5.3 Recommendation for Posthumous Degree – Brandon Bartsch

Moved by J. Derksen; seconded by D. Yang

Approved

6. For Discussion

6.1 Parchment Standardization

The committee introduced a discussion item to include the Graduate's academic unit name in the parchment. A committee member explained that undergrad went through this change a few years ago, while Graduate Studies observed the response of students and academic units, which was positive.

GPS will reach out to the Registrar's office to discuss the proposed change and update the committee on next steps.

6.2 Capstone Unit Standardization

The committee was informed that GPS received positive feedback from various academic on the proposed Capstone Unit Standardization. The library currently struggles to differentiate between programs completed with defended/undefended capstones.

It was emphasized that the capstone unit standardization is merely a cosmetic change will have no impact on program requirements or completion time.

7. For Information
8. The date of the next SGSC meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2022.