

Meeting minutes of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) held on May 4, 2021 remotely on Zoom.

**Present:**

Jeff Derksen (Chair)  
George Agnes (Associate Dean)  
Roxanne Panchasi (Associate Dean)  
Keshav Mukunda (designate for Library)  
Reese Muntean (GSS)  
Krista Gerlich-Fitzgerald (Associate Director)  
Daria Babeshko (Curriculum)  
Nicole Strutt (Secretary)

**Faculty Chair:**

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

**Graduate Students:**

Daniel Lam

**Regrets:**

Lucy Le Mare (EDUC)  
Abdul Zahir (Graduate Student)

**Guest:**

Chantelle Spicer (GSS)

**AGENDA**

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Approval of agenda                          | <b>Approved</b> |
| 2. Review of the SGSC minutes of April 6, 2021 | <b>Approved</b> |
| 3. Business arising from the minutes           |                 |
| 4. Chair's Report                              |                 |

The chair communicated that if the Federal Government receives the applications by May 15, 2021, the student will receive their study permit by August 6 and thus will have time to travel to Canada for the fall term. This commitment may not be consistent for those students coming from India and Pakistan. Currently, SFU has 108 students from the two countries. It is likely that the academic unit most impacted will be the School of Computing Science.  
P. Saeedi agreed that 47% of their students are currently affected.

The chair provided statistics from SFU IRP that the summer 2021 headcount for enrollment is up 13% from the spring 2021 term. The Chair commented that although there was an increase of applications by 40%, there is no certain indication that fall 2021 will have growth, as SFU does not know if it will be safe for students from India and Pakistan to travel to Canada by then.

SGSC discussed applications and enrollment for fall 2021 in various academic units. Overall, the numbers were either consistent or slightly lower compared to the previous year. A. Gemino informed the committee that the number of international and domestic students enrolled is slightly higher this year. M. Silverman expressed concern regarding grant funding and that it will be a huge factor in determining the students they can admit to their faculty.

The chair recommended that graduate departments should prepare for more students to study in-person than remote. The Chair discussed SFU's two plans and an announcement will be made by May 28, 2021. If it isn't safe for students to be on-campus there are plans for remote or blended learning.  
A. Gemino commented that if international Business students are unable to obtain travel visas, 50% of them would be remote.

5. For Approval

**5.1 Beedie School of Business**

**5.1.1** Full Program Proposal: Graduate Certificate in Data Analytics  
Calendar Entry: Graduate Certificate in Data and Analytics  
New Courses: BUS 786 Data Science for Business

A. Gemino notified the committee that Business is interested in working with other academic units on interdisciplinary certificates.

Moved by A. Gemino; Seconded by F. Lee

**Approved**

**5.1.2** Full Program Proposal: Graduate Certificate in Digital Innovation  
Calendar Entry: Graduate Certificate in Digital Innovation

Moved by A. Gemino; Seconded by D. Yang

**Approved**

**5.1.3** Program Change: Management of Technology MBA

Moved by A. Gemino; Seconded by D. Lam

**Approved**

**5.2 Faculty of Environment**

Department of Geography

**5.2.1** Program Change: Geography MA  
Program Change: Geography MSc  
New Course: GEOG 658 Advanced Ecohydrology  
New Course: GEOG 665 Relational Geographies of Conquest and Liberation

S. Zwaggerman noted that there is a word missing from the description.

Moved by D. Yang; Seconded by D. Lam

**Approved**

6. For Discussion

A committee member expressed concern that students who return on campus are not required to show proof of their COVID -19 vaccination. It was explained that Canadian government can't force its citizens to get vaccinated and that some of the international students may not have access to the vaccine in their home countries. The chair advised that the decision not to inquire about vaccination is based on an inquiry made to the Freedom of Information policies of the Canadian government. A committee member inquired whether the university is able to receive feedback from the government regarding this issue. The chair explained that SFU holds regular dialogue with the Provincial Health Authority. The chair informed SGSC that the committee's concerns will be brought up to the planning committee.

7. For Information

**Approved under delegated authority**

**7.1 Faculty of Applied Sciences**

School of Computing Science

**7.1.1** Course Reinstatements: CMPT 713 and CMPT 863

**7.2 Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies**

**7.2.1** Course change (deletion): GRAD 900

8. The date of the next SGSC meeting is scheduled for June 1, 2021 (SGSC submission deadline is May 5<sup>th</sup> at noon).