

Meeting minutes of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) held on September 7, 2021 in the Thesis Defense Room, SFU Library

Present:

Jeff Derksen (Chair, Dean GPS)
George Agnes (Associate Dean, GPS)
Roxanne Panchasi (Associate Dean, GPS)
Nicole White (Designate for Library)
Reese Muntean (GSS Executive Representative)
Krista Gerlich-Fitzgerald (Associate Director, GPS)
Daria Babeshko (Curriculum, GPS)
Ruth Anyankpele (Recording Secretary)

Faculty Chair:

Sean Zwagerman (FASS)
Andrew Gemino (BUS)
Philippe Pasquier (FCAT)
Dongya Yang (FENV)
Frank Lee (Designate for FHS)

Guests:

Hannah Buteau (Curriculum, GPS)

Regrets:

Parvaneh Saeedi (FAS)
Lucy LeMare (EDUC)
Michael Silverman (SCI)

1. Approval of agenda
2. Review of the SGSC minutes of July 6, 2021
3. Business arising from the minutes

At the July SGSC meeting, the committee approved changes to PSYCH 882 and PSYCH 890. In consultation with the senate office, editorial changes were made to the description for clarity. Repeat for credit was also increased to 10 to be in line with what was already set up in SIMS.

4. Chair's Report

The Chair announced the decision to move forward with creation of the coordinator position to direct, mediate and solve graduate students' concerns and have the description in place for the next budget meeting. They will work closely with GPS and other stakeholders to support students facing difficulties in their programs.

The university is working to support Afghani scholars. This initiative is in collaboration with Scholars at Risk (SAR), a global association designed to support scholars facing threats due to their research, identity or other social-political formation putting them at risk, and other offices at SFU. GPS has put together a package to support these students by offering them positions within the graduate programs or research assistant positions. The committee is encouraged to put forward the names of applicants in their program coming out of

Afghanistan, as we have support in place for them. SFU presently has two students coming in through this program.

5. For Approval

5.1 Faculty of Applied Sciences

5.1.1 School of Computing Science

Course Changes (title, description): CMPT 727, CMPT 732, CMPT 733

A committee member raised concern regarding the misalignment of effective dates on the department memo (fall 2021) and course change forms (summer 2022). It was clarified that these curriculum items should be effective summer 2022.

Moved by G. Agnes; seconded by D. Yang

Approved

5.2 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

5.2.1 Department of Psychology

Program Change: Psychology PhD

A committee member requested clarification on the rationale for change as the courses listed in the submitted entry did not offer options for substitution of PSYC 600. K. Gerlich-Fitzgerald explained that more courses are listed in the full program calendar and not included in the abridged calendar.

Moved by S. Zwagerman; seconded by P. Pasquier

Approved

5.3 Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology

5.3.1 School of Contemporary Arts

Program Change: MA in Contemporary Arts

Program Change: PhD in Contemporary Arts

Program Change: MFA

New Course: CA 830

Course Change (description): CA 821, CA 824, CA 826, CA 827

Course Change (prerequisite): CA 822, CA 829

Moved by P. Pasquier; seconded by F. Lee

Approved

5.3.2 Digital Media Program

Program Change: Masters of Digital Media

Moved by P. Pasquier; seconded by F. Lee

Approved

5.3.3 School of Interactive Arts and Technology

Program Change: IAT MA

Program Change: IAT MSc

New Course: IAT 895 Master of Arts Graduation Project

New Course: IAT 896 Master of Science Graduation Project

Course Change: IAT 848, IAT 897

A committee member recommended that both the projects and the project reports be uploaded to the repository. P. Pasquier agreed to raise this suggestion at the program level.

Moved by P. Pasquier; seconded by S. Zwagerman

Approved

5.3.4 Publishing Program

New Course: PUB 900 Publishing Internship/Project Report

Course Change: PUB 899

Course Deletion: PUB 898

Moved by P. Pasquier; seconded by R. Panchasi

Approved

5.4 Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

5.4.1 Course Change: WDA 800, WDA 801, WDA 802, WDA 803, WDA 804, WDA 805,
WDA 806

Andrew Gemino joined the meeting

Moved by G. Agnes; seconded by F. Lee

Approved

5.5 Individualized Interdisciplinary Studies

5.5.1 New Course: INS 887 Practicum

New Course: INS 888 Internship

Moved by R. Panchasi; seconded by A. Gemino

Approved

6. For Discussion

SGSC discussed concerns around the commencement of in-person learning this fall. Committee members raised questions around the likelihood of students refusing to wear masks in classrooms and procedures to follow in this regard. A committee member suggested that instructors be promptly notified of students with masks exemptions. It was recommended that caution must be executed if campus security has to be involved with those not wearing masks.

A committee member brought up the case of a graduate student refusing to travel to Canada to commence in-person learning. SFU international also has a level of involvement in this case as migrating to Canada is one of the conditions of obtaining a post-graduate work permit. Questions were raised about funding from SFU being sent abroad. Many committee members expressed that students are making both informal and formal requests to learn remotely.

J. Derksen will be raising these questions at the upcoming Dean's Council meeting.

7. Other Business

8. For Information

Approved under delegated authority

8.1 Reinstatement of PHYS 846 “Non-linear Physics”

9. The date of the next SGSC meeting is scheduled for **October 4, 2021.**