

Meeting minutes of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) held on February 2, 2021 remotely via Zoom.

**Present:**

Jeff Derksen (Chair)  
George Agnes (Associate Dean)  
Roxanne Panchasi (Associate Dean)  
Keshav Mukunda (designate for Library)  
Reese Muntean (GSS representative)  
Krista Gerlich-Fitzgerald (Associate Director)  
Michelle Grahame (Curriculum)  
Janelle Kropp (Secretary)

**Faculty Chair:**

Parvaneh Saeedi (FAS)  
Carolyn Egri (designate for BUS)  
Philippe Pasquier (FCAT)  
Lucy LeMare (EDUC)  
Dongya Yang (FENV)  
Frank Lee (designate for FHS)  
Michael Silverman (SCI)

**Graduate Students:**

Daniel Lam

**Regrets:**

Sean Zwagerman (FASS)  
Abdul Zahir (Graduate Student)

**Guests:**

Andrew Gemino (BUS)

1. Approval of agenda
2. Review of the SGSC minutes of December 1, 2020 and January 5, 2021 **Approved**
3. Business arising from the minutes
4. Chair's Report

The Chair introduced Reese Muntean as the new GSS representative.

SGSC was informed BASS funding is being finalized and the Chair provided an update on the annual Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) conference. Other post-secondary institutions are experiencing the same Covid-19 related challenges as SFU. Many institutions also noted an increase in graduate applications, which is consistent with the trajectory of recent years.

K. Gerlich-Fitzgerald updated the committee that degrees were awarded at Senate for students who completed in Fall 2020 and an announcement on convocation plans would be made in mid-March. Additionally, the 2021/22 fee schedule reviewed in Summer 2020 will be moving forward with the budget documentation to be announced soon.

5. For Approval

**5.1 Beedie School of Business**

- 5.1.1 Full Program Proposal: Graduate Certificate in Data and Analytics  
Calendar Entry: Graduate Certificate in Data and Analytics  
New Courses: BUS 732 Special Topics  
BUS 786 Data Science for Business

The graduate certificates are directly related to the Master in Management (MiM) program currently awaiting approval from the Ministry of Advanced Education. SGSC was informed

there is a possibility of changes or revisions being required when a program is under review. It was decided to table any items related to MiM until the full program has been approved.

**Tabled**

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

**Tabled**

5.1.3 Program Change: Master in Management

**Tabled**

5.1.4 Program Change: Graduate Diploma in Management

**Tabled**

5.1.5 New Course: BUS 579 Professional Development

**Tabled**

A.Gemino left the meeting, R.Panchasi joined the meeting.

## **5.2 Faculty of Communication, Art, and Technology**

### School of Communication

5.2.1 Course Change (units): CMNS 835

Moved by P. Pasquier; seconded by L. LeMare

**Approved**

### School for the Contemporary Arts

5.2.2 New Course: CA 828 New Approaches to Sound and the Arts

Moved by P. Pasquier; seconded by L. LeMare

**Approved**

## 6. For Discussion

### **6.1 Face to Face Courses and In Person Research**

SGSC provided feedback on the experiences within their faculties. A committee member noted some of the scheduled courses did not take place because faculty members found offering blended courses with both face to face components and online material was complicated, and resulted in additional work and resources. It was suggested that placing more resources into fewer courses could be used in the upcoming Summer and Fall 2021 terms as a strategy for managing course delivery. Another committee member shared that the last minutes changes to U-Pass BC eligibility was influential in a decision to suspend face to face offerings in the Spring 2021 term. Committee members also indicated if an exposure to Covid-19 does happen they are not always comfortable continuing to offer face to face when for privacy reasons they cannot notify students of the exposure.

The impact to graduate students and their degree progress was also discussed. Some students appear to be thriving or unaffected by the shift to remote environments whereas others are struggling. SGSC discussed the ongoing need and options to support graduate students.

Cohort building is more challenging for new cohorts of students who began during the pandemic and have never met face to face.

P. Saeedi, F. Lee, and K. Gerlich-Fitzgerald left the meeting.

7. For Information

8. Other Business

Discussions at CAGS have highlighted possible changes in the amount or type of work and expectations for graduate theses and projects. SGSC discussed what this has looked like for SFU graduate students. In most academic units, it has involved taking a creative or adaptive approach as opposed to changing a requirement.

SGSC discussed observations regarding the penalty for academic dishonesty and impacts to the relationship between a student and their supervisory committee. It was decided GPS would look into this further and report back to SGSC.

9. The date of the next SGSC meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2021 (*SGSC submission deadline is February 3rd at noon*).