Minutes of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) Meeting held on October 4, 2022

Present:	**Faculty Chair:**
Jeff Derksen (Chair, Dean GPS and Associate Provost)	Lucy Lemare (EDUC)
George Agnes (Associate Dean, GPS, Students)	Kate Slaney (FASS)
Roxanne Panchasi (Associate Dean, GPS, Academics)	Arne Eigenfeldt (FCAT)
Krista Gerlich-Fitzgerald (Associate Director, GPS)	Valorie Crooks (FENV)
Nicole White (Designate for Dean of Library)	Lawrence McCandless (FHS)
Reese Muntean (GSS Executive Representative)	Andrew Gemino (BUS)
Hannah Buteau (Curriculum, GPS)	Parvaneh Saeedi (FAS)
Vivian Chu (Recording Secretary)	Vance Williams (SCI)

1. Approval of agenda

   Approved

2. Review of the SGSC minutes of September 6, 2022

   > K. Gerlich-Fitzgerald informed the committee that the phrase "Graduate Progress Report (GPR)" on SGSC3 should be amended to "Academic Progress Reports (APR)".

   Approved with Amendments

3. Business arising from the minutes

4. Chair's Report

The Chair informed the committee that at last nights Senate meeting, the office of the Vice-President, Research and International (VPRI) presented their new Strategic Research Plan (SRP). The committee was informed that the plan pays close attention to graduate studies, with a main focus on encouraging consultation leading to increased funding for graduate students. The Chair encouraged committee members to be involved in ongoing consultations.

The Chair also informed the committee that earlier today, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) had a Graduate Program Chair (GPC) and Assistant (GPA) townhall. Topic discussed included the new admission platform goGrad, and funding data for graduate research programs. Comprehensive funding data and enrollment numbers will be sent to each academic unit for review.

The Chair announced that this is K. Gerlich-Fitzgerald's last SGSC meeting, as she has secured a new professional opportunity. We wish her success in her future endeavors.

5. For Approval
   5.1 Beedie School of Business
         5.1.1 Course Change: BUS 697 Applied Project

Approved by A. Gemino; seconded by L. Lemare   **Approved**

      5.1.2 Program Change: Indigenous Business Leadership Graduate Certificate
              Program Change: Indigenous Business Leadership Graduate
              Diploma Program Change: Indigenous Business Leadership
              EMBA

A. Gemino informed the committee that Beedie has partnered with universities across Canada and a number of Indigenous communities across British Columbia to create an 'on the land' experience. Once a term, an Indigenous community will host business classes on their land to engage in discussions regarding Indigenous economics and reconciliation. This program is the first of its kind and hosts students from across Canada, in addition to those from Beedie. The goal of the program is to create a national program that uses 'on the land' experiences to bring students and Indigenous leaders together to discuss various topics surrounding reconciliation.

K. Gerlich-Fitzgerald clarified that the items under 5.1.2 required minor editorial changes. A. Gemino received the edits prior to the meeting and approved the amendments. Changes include removing redundant language in the calendar entries (SGSC13, SGSC15) and additional language added around limits on special topics courses (SGSC14, SGSC16).

Approved by A. Gemino; seconded by K. Slaney   **Approved with amendments**

    5.1 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
        Department of Linguistics
        New Course: LING 880 Advanced Linguistic Research for Professional
        Development
        Course Change: LING 893 Indigenous Linguistics MA Project
        Program Change: Linguistics MA
        Program Change: Linguistics PhD

Approved by K. Slaney; seconded by A. Eigenfeldt   **Approved with amendments**

    5.2 Faculty of Communication, Art & Technology
        Publishing Program
        New Course: PUB 890 Professional Practices Seminar I
        New Course: PUB 891 Professional Practices Seminar II
        Program Change: Publishing MA

A committee member asked for clarification on the rationale for having courses with 0 units. K. Gerlich-Fitzgerald explained that Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) graded courses do not count towards program requirements. Since the department has listed the courses within their program requirements, making them 0 units will ensure they do not affect the University minimum required program unit total. The Chair added that 0 credit courses are becoming increasingly more commonplace as programs put more value on courses designed for cohort building and professional development.

Approved by A. Eigenfeldt; seconded by R. Muntean **Approved**

5.3 Faculty of Science
      5.3.5 Department of Earth Science
            Course Change: EASC 620 Advanced Volcanology

K. Gerlich-Fitzgerald reminded the committee about changes to courses with mandatory supplemental fees, and reiterated that should they want to raise fees, they cannot do so by more than 2%. If a larger increase is required, a new course will need to be created to change the fee.

Approved by V. Williams; seconded by R. Panchasi **Approved with amendments**

      5.3.6 Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry
            New Course: MBB 803 MBB Department Seminar Series
            Course Change: MBB 801 Student Seminar in Molecular Biology and
            Biochemistry
            Course Change: MBB 806 PhD Graduate Research Candidacy
            Examination
            Program Change: Molecular Biology and Biochemistry MSc
            Program Change: Molecular Biology and Biochemistry PhD

Approved by V. Williams; seconded by A. Eigenfeldt **Approved with amendments**

5.4 Graduate General Regulation 1.5 Graduate Grading Systems and Policies

Implementing the proposed GGR change would encourage students to discuss their course selection and grading options with their supervisor at the beginning of term. K. Gerlich-Fitzgerald explained that the policy was in response to the many cases where students ask to change a course to a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grading basis after a course has been graded. Retroactive changes to enrollment status may have financial implications, therefore, changes being made within the first 2 weeks limit those impacts.

R. Muntean raised concerns with the language used in the policy, explaining that it would deter students from seeking changes if extenuating cases arose during the term. One committee member highlighted that withdrawing from the course or withdrawing under extenuating circumstance would still be available. The Chair proposed an amendment to the policy by removing the line "retroactive changes will not be considered", as the sentence

prior explains that changes must be made by end of week two.

Approved by K. Gerlich-Fitzgerald; seconded by V. Williams   **Approved with amendments**

The committee takes a five minute break.

6. <u>For Discussion</u>
   6.1 Guaranteed Minimum Funding

The Chair stated that the move towards minimums reflects the university's commitment towards providing a living wage for staff, faculty, and students. The committee discussed options for financing guaranteed minimum funding. Several committee members offered examples of how they distribute funds within their department. L. McCandless explained that in the Faculty of Health Sciences, half of their funding is from research grants, while the other half is used from faculty resources (TAships, RAships, GFs, etc.) In many cases, if faculty members have funds available, they will fully fund a student which allows faculty resources to be redistributed.

It was agreed that this topic would be revisited in further SGSC discussions.

   6.2 1.5.2 SU Courses Towards Program Requirements

The item was reintroduced to the committee about the desire to change the GGRs to allow Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) courses to be used within program requirements within certain limits. She reiterated that this change would be optional for programs to implement at their discretion. A committee member clarified that this discussion was framed around courses designated S/U and not on students who have elected to change the grading basis to S/U courses.

The largest concern for S/U courses was that it would lead to an artificial inflation of CGPA. The Chair explained that scholarships have been increasingly leaning away from evaluating students based solely on their GPAs. However, the issue of grade inflation should still be considered. Agnes added that it was critical to have oversight in the rubric on how S/U courses will be graded and include additional criteria for competency-based grades. It was agreed that this topic will be revisited in further SGSC discussions.

7. <u>For Information</u>
   7.1 Faculty of Applied Science
       7.1.5   <u>School of Computing Science</u>
           Program Change: Master of Science in Professional Cybersecurity
           Program Change: Master of Science in Professional Visual Computing

The Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training did not approve the use of the word 'professional' within the credential title and as a result, both programs have submitted calendar changes to rename the credential. Moving forward, the Degree Quality Assessment Board will be providing formal documentation and policies on standards for naming credentials.

      7.1.6 <u>School of Engineering Science</u>
            Course Reinstatement: ENSC 832 Mobile and Personal Communications
            Course Reinstatement: ENSC 890 Advanced Robotics: Mechanics and Control

8. The date of the next SGSC meeting is scheduled for November 1, 2022