



SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

MINUTES

February 6, 2020 ~ 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm
W.A.C. Bennett Library Room 7200

Attendees: W. Parkhouse (Chair), E. Elle (Vice-chair), K. Nordgren (Secretary), S. Birnie, J. Chou, M. Crouch, D. Hik, P. Kingsbury, M. MacDonald, C. Murray, E. Park, A. Parmar, P. Pasquier (via BlueJeans), S. Spector (K. Masri), N. van Houten, K. Whittle

Regrets: K. Masri

Guest: D. Knowler, Associate Professor, Faculty of Environment

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved as presented.

2. Approval of the Minutes of January 9, 2020

The minutes were approved as presented.

3. Open Discussion

a. Exam Scheduling

S. Birnie circulated a document regarding exam scheduling and hardship. The intent of this discussion was to make an informed decision to finalize the exam scheduling process, in particular to make it clearer for students, improve course accessibility, and reduce exam hardship.

S. Birnie provided an overview of current practice and a comparison to other institutions. SFU is unique in that students know their exam dates at the time of enrollment, which can limit course selection options. S. Birnie further provided an explanation of the Infosilem exam scheduling module, noting that this software allows for better distribution of exams using specific constraints/parameters. All agreed to move

advance notice of the students with a new process and the rationale. A question was posed regarding the date of implementation. The plan is to schedule exams as per usual practice through the 2020 academic year, using this scheduling data for

evaluation with a possible Fall 2021 implementation. The new exam scheduling software will alleviate current issues by:

1. Improving course access by reducing scheduling conflicts related to final examinations;
2. Ensuring reduced potential for exam hardship on students by setting parameters to ensure more time between examinations.

Consensus was to go forward with the exam scheduling module of Infosilem.

Midterm examination hardship was noted as a topic of discussion that will need to come forward to a future SCUS meeting.

4. Old Business

d. Program GPA (SCUS 20-07)

Motion 2

It was moved by S. Birnie and seconded by S. Spector

“that SCUS approve and recommend to Senate the changes to the Program GPA definition in the Academic Calendar to ensure the consistency of its calculation across all departments.

CARRIED

5. New Business

COURSE CHANGES (SCUS 20-08)

The following course changes, effective Fall 2020, were approved by delegated authority.

a. Faculty of Applied Sciences

1. School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering (MSE)

- (i) Prerequisite change for MSE 380 and 421

b. Beedie School of Business

- (i) Prerequisite change for BUS 489
- (ii) Units change for BUS 490, 491 and 495
- (iii) Description and prerequisite change for BUS 336

c. Faculty of Environment

1. School of Resource and Environmental Management

- (i) Course number and equivalent statement change for ENV 320W
- (ii) Course number and equivalent statement change for ENV 452
- (iii) Title, description and prerequisite changes for REM 311
- (iv) Title and description changes for REM 356 and 356W
- (v) Prerequisite change for REM 412 and 423

2.

NEW COURSE PROPOSALS

a. Faculty of Environment (SCUS 20-09)

1. School of Resource and Environmental Management

Motion 3

It was moved by P. Kingsbury and seconded by A. Parmar

“that SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information the following New Course Proposals:

- x REM 207-3, Indigenous Peoples and Resource Management
- x REM 211-3, Introduction to Applied Ecology
- x REM 225-3, Quantitative Toolkit for Social-Ecological Systems
- x REM 325-3, Uncertainty, Risk and Decision Analysis
- x REM 334-3, Earth’s Past Climates
- x REM 357-3, Planning for Sustainable Food Systems
- x REM 388-3, Wildlife Conservation
- x REM 431-4, Climate Change and Environmental Management effective Fall 2020.”

CARRIED

P. Kingsbury provided an overview of the new courses proposals and addressed concerns that arose from the course overlap check. D. Knowler was in attendance as a resource person to answer questions. P. Kingsbury and D. Knowler were commended on the new course on sustainability and food systems.

2. School of Environmental Science

Motion 4

It was moved by P. Kingsbury and seconded by C. Murray

“that SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information the New Course Proposal: EVSC 334-3, Earth’s Past Climates effective Fall 2020.”

CARRIED

PROGRAM CHANGES

a. Faculty of Applied Sciences (SCUS 20-10)

Motion 5

It was moved by E. Park and seconded by S. Spector

“that SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information the changes to the course overload policy for the Mechatronic Systems Engineering effective Fall 2020.”

CARRIED

b. Beedie School of Business (SCUS 20-11)

Motion 6

It was moved by S. Spector and seconded by A. Parmar

“that SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information the:

x

Discussion ensued and concerns raised:

- x The name of the program; new program already in place 'Semester In';
- x Credit doesn't match with direct contact hours/too intensive for 6 week program;
- x Concerns with withdrawal process for these students and process for tuition refund.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm
Minutes prepared by R. Balletta