SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

MINUTES – OPEN SESSION

July 9, 2020 ~ 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Remote Connection via Zoom Video Conferenceonpm as> (as> (as> (as> (a

The Chair welcomed the new SCUS student representative and introductions were ma.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

An item regarding exam proctoring was added under 'Other Business'.

The agenda was approved as amended.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of June 4, 2020

The minutes were approved as presented.

3. OLD BUSINESS

The Chair responded to a question raised at the June 4th SCUS meeting regarding the informal moratorium on WQB courses.

He explained that a formal review was overdue to determine whether the WQB requirements were beneficial to students or not. The review was held until after the external review of student-facing services and programming was completed.

c. Faculty of Environment

1. Department of Archaeology

(i) Title change for ARCH 226
(ii) Unit change for ARCH 273, 348, 349, 377, 385, 388 and 390
(iii) Prerequisite change for ARCH 285, 431, 433, 434, 435, 479, 480 and 485
(iv) Course number and equivalent statement change for ARCH 372
(v) Description change for ARCH 373
(vi) Units and description change for ARCH 442
(vii) Title, units and description change for ARCH 452

d. Semester in Dialogue

(i) Equivalent statement change for DIAL 390W, 391W and 392W

NEW COURSE PROPOSALS

a. Faculty of Applied Sciences (SCUS 2054)

1. Sustainable Energy Engineering Program

Motion 2
It was moved by E. Park and seconded by D. Hik

"that SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information the New Course Proposal: SEE 463 – Sustainable Energy Engineering, effective Summer 2021."

CARRIED

b. Faculty of Environment (SCUS 2055)

1. Department of Archaeology

Motion 3
It was moved by P. Kingsbury and seconded by P. Pasquier

"that SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information the New Course proposal: ARCH 271o4t/42]TJ 3.8pprove under delus)12 -e-

5. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Withdraw Dates (SCUS 20-58)

Motion 6
It was moved by S. Birnie and seconded by N. van Houten

> "that SCUS approve a change to the last day of the Course Drop Period from the 35th calendar day after classes begin (end of week 5) to the 56th calendar day after classes begin (end of week 8) as a pilot for the 2020/2021 academic year."

CARRIED

S. Birnie provided an update following SCUS's approval of the extension to the withdrawal deadline for the Summer term. He noted that many students utilized the extended withdrawal date for the Summer 2020 term and that the number of students was double the number we typically see at this time of year. S. Birnie proposed to extend the deadlines once again for Fall 2020 as remote instruction continues.

There was much discussion with focus on how these changes align us with our peer institutions as well as ho it provides us the flexibility to support students especially those in their first year.

All agreed to amend the motion to extend the withdraw deadline for the 2020/2021 academic year as a pilot

b. Academic Probation (SCUS 20-59)

Motion 7
It was moved by S. Birnie and seconded by D. Hik

> "that SCUS approve and recommend to Senate a change to minimum number of units a student must attempt before academic probation can be evaluated from nine units to eighteen for Fall 2020 and Spr 2021."

DEFERRED

S. Birnie provided an overview of this item, explaining that students' academic standing is reviewed after they complete nine units, which presents a challenge for new students as they transition to the post-secondary environment – especially with the recent changes to remote learning during the pandemic. He noted that we anticipate a higher than normal rate of students in academic difficulty after this Fall. Changing the process for evaluating students along other initiatives that have been put in place should significantly alleviate some of the stressors and support student success at SFU.

Discussion ensued with focus on having mandatory intervention measures in place where we can effectively support students as most students may be hesitant to seek support. It was suggested that identifying students at risk academically and connecting them with mentors such as senior/fourth year students, the Student Learning Commons (SLC), or an advisor prior to the WD deadline would be beneficial.

The student members agreed that early intervention for students in academic difficulty would significantly change the number of students on academic probation or being withdrawn, especially for those starting their first term at SFU in a remote instruction environment. They added that ending up on academic probation after the first term would be very discouraging, and for some students may be the deciding factor as to whether the will continue with their SFU education or not.

There was consensus that the number of units is not the problem when assessing students, as some students satisfy this requirement in their first term. Members expressed further concern with the lack of support for first-year students, especially in the critical first six weeks of their program.

All agreed to defer this agenda item to the next SCUS meeting for further discussion and to revise the motion to include language regarding mandatory early intervention.

c. Exam Proctoring

E. Elle provided an update of exam proctoring pilot for the Summer 2020 term. She explained that the working group is looking at other products, as they will not be considering Proctorio due to privacy concerns. An announcement will be made, after consultation with the Academic Integrity Office, with Zoom being considered as a potential solution.

E. Elle added that she is aware that instructors need options, as remote instruction continues into the fall 2020 term. She reminded members that she is available to attend faculty meetings to answer any questions or concerns.

OPEN SESSION Meeting adjourned 4:00 pm

Minutes prepared by R. Balletta