

SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES
MINUTES

June 6, 2019 ~ 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm
W.A.C. Bennett Library Room 7200

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The retreat focused on three main topics:

- x Retention
- x Credit load
- x New student enrollments (18 – 24 year old, indigenous, and international students)

The Chair said the retreat was beneficial and the groups were fully engaged in discussion of the topics. The need for alignment between central administration and the faculties on the principles and goals for retention was a key point. We need to reframe retention in terms of retention to the University and retention to system (intra-faculty transfer), and not just retention within a faculty. Target setting for international students should factor in different categories.

The Chair noted several action items for further development in terms of credit load limits, including: policies, tuition, culture, mental health, and advising components. For example, taking a lower credit load costs more over time due to living expenses and other extraneous costs.

S. Spector commented that, according to IRP, over the past seven years SFU the average age of students has decreased from 24+ to 21 years old. Discussion ensued as to the reasons for this decrease, primarily the stable economy resulting in less incentive for those 24 years+ to improve their job skills and the cost of a four-year program. A suggestion made was made to investigate the permeability or crossover from Lifelong Learning programs to a credit program; since more students may be attracted to one-year programs.

S. Birnie commented on the lack of a concrete institutional definition of full-time study, and so “full-time” is often based on external parties (CRA, Student Loans) definitions. He feels there is a strong need for more structure within programs to assist advisors and students in setting credit load expectations. P. Kingsbury added there should be more support and resource for advisors perhaps inviting advisors to a SEMC meeting to strengthen the link between advisors and faculty. The Chair noted these items may be addressed in the external review currently in progress within Student Services.

N. van Houten commented that the retreat would have benefited from the input of other key stakeholders, including students. The Chair noted the concern; however, SEMC is an operational committee with no student members, although many of the issues discussed are student-related. A suggestion was made to gather information of best practices of other institutions

4. New Business

COURSE CHANGES (SCUS 19- 38)

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

a. Faculty of Applied Sciences

1. Mechatronic Systems Engineering (MSE)

- (i) Equivalent statement change for MSE 429

b. Beedie School of Business

- (i) Prerequisite change for BUS 428, 431, 435 and 479
- (ii) Prerequisite and course number change for BUS 470

c. Faculty of Environment

1. Department of Archaeology

NEW COURSE PROPOSALS

a. Faculty

PROGRAM CHANGES

a. Beedie School of Business (SCUS 19-41)

Motion 4

It was moved by S. Spector and seconded by D. Hik

“that SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information the requirement changes to the Strategic Analysis Concentration for the:

xBusiness Administration Major

xMechatronics Systems Engineering & Business Double degree Program Major

xBusiness Administration Honours

xBusiness and Economics Joint Major

xBusiness and Economics Joint Honours

xRequirement changes to the Business Analytics and Decision Making Certificate – Grade Requirements

xRequirement changes to the Corporate Environmental and Social Sustainability Certificate

xRequirement changes to the Innovation & Entrepreneurship Certificate effective Spring 2020.”

CARRIED

There was a question raised regarding who determines if a student has met program requirements and which courses count toward a program. S. Spector replied that students applying for certificates should be meeting with advisors to ensure they are taking the required courses. The members agreed the wording is not clear and needs revising, and further discussion ensued. The SCUS members approved the agenda item, with minor adjustments to the wording to make clearer its intent.

b. Faculty of Environment (SCUS 19-42)

1. Department of Archaeology

Motion 5

It was moved by P. Kingsbury and seconded by S. Spector

“that SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information the upper division requirement changes to the:

x Archaeology Major

x Archaeology Minor

x Extended Minor

x Joint Major, First Nations Studies

x Joint Major, Anthropology

x Honours and the

x Requirement changes to the Certificate in Cultural Resources Management Core Courses effective Spring 2020.”

