



SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

MINUTES

February 4, 2021 ~ 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm
Remote Connection via Zoom Video Conferencing

Attendees: W. Parkhouse (Chair), E. Elle (Vice-Chair), K. Nordgren (secretary), L. Campbell, M. Crouch, D. Hik, P. Kingsbury, G. Liosis, M. MacDonald, K. Masri, E. Park, P. Pasquier, M. Pinter-Collett, N. van Houten, K. Verkerk

Regrets: N. Modi, K. Whittle

Guest: A. Eigenfeldt, Professor, School for the Contemporary Arts
D. Shafey, Director, Information, Records and Registration

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Chair stated that given the significant changes to the curriculum in the School for the Contemporary Arts, those items will be forwarded to Senate for approval, as outlined in the SCUS terms of reference. The Committee will concurrently consider all items forwarded by FCAT as one motion, to allow A. Eigenfeldt to speak to them and reply to any questions from the committee members.

Two agenda items were tabled by the Faculty of Applied Sciences (SCUS 21-05, SCUS 21-08) and two items added under Other Business; Pass/Credit/No Credit Grading System Policies and Minimum Prerequisite Grade Edits.

The agenda was approved as amended.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of January 7, 2021

Motion 1

It was moved by P. Pasquier and seconded by L. Campbell

“that SCUS approve the minutes of the January 7, 2021 meeting.”

CARRIED

The Chair added that he prepared a summary of the discussion at January 7th SCUS meeting for Senate; however, since SCUS approved and recommended the P/CR/NC policy instead, there was no need.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of January 21, 2021 (Special Meeting)

The minutes were approved as presented.

4. NEW BUSINESS

COURSE CHANGES (SCUS 21-04)

d. Faculty of Environment

1. School of Resource and Environmental Management

- (i) Course number, prerequisite and equivalent statement changes for PLAN 200
- (ii) Prerequisite change for PLAN 407
- (iii) Prerequisite change for REM 200, 202W, 356, 356W, 406, 407
- (iv) Prerequisite and equivalent statement changes for REM 495
- (v) Prerequisite and unit changes for REM 221
- (vi) Description and prerequisite changes for REM 320W
- (vii) Prerequisite, title and description change for SD 281 and 481
- (viii) Prerequisite and title change for SD 381
- (ix) Prerequisite, title, description and equivalent statement change for SD 401
- (x) Temporary withdrawal of REM 281, 356, 381, 481
- (xi) Temporary withdrawal of SD 301

e. Faculty of Science

1. Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology

- (i) Prerequisite change for BPK 402
- (ii) Description and prerequisite changes for BPK 448

2. Department of Earth Sciences

- (i) Description change for EASC 101, 104, 108 and 210
- (ii) Description and equivalent statement changes for EASC 103
- (ii) Prerequisite change for EASC 411

3. Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry

- (i) Prerequisite change for MBB 441

4. Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science

- (i) Course number, title, description and equivalent statement changes for ACMA 210
- (ii) Course number, title, units, description, prerequisite and equivalent statement changes for ACMA 320
- (iii) Description and prerequisite changes for ACMA 340, 440, 455
- (iv) Description change for ACMA 355
- (v) Prerequisite change for ACMA 360W, 465, 470, 475
- (vi) Course number, title, description, prerequisite and equivalent statement changes for ACMA 425

NEW COURSE PROPOSALS

a. Faculty of Applied Sciences (SCUS 21-05) (TABLED)

1. School of Computing Sciences

- (i) New Course Proposal CMPT 210-3, Probability and Computing (Spring 2022)

b. Faculty of Environment (SCUS 21-06)

1. Department of Geography

Motion 2

It was moved by P. Kingsbury and seconded by K. Masri

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

- GEOG 333-4, Climate Crisis: Understanding A World on Fire (Spring 2022)
- GEOG 340-4, Queer Geographies

CARRIED

P. Kingsbury provided an overview of the two new course proposals.

PROGRAM CHANGES

a. Faculty of Applied Sciences (SCUS 21-07) (TABLED)

1. School of Computing Science

c. Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology

1. **School of Communication (SCUS 21-09)**

Motion 4

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

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

- Residency requirement and transfer credit changes to the Communication Minor and the Communication Extended Minor
- Upper division changes to the Dialogue Minor program effective Fall 2021.”

CARRIED

2. **School for the Contemporary Arts (SCUS 21-10)**

Motion 5

It was moved by P. Pasquier and seconded by E. Park

“that SCUS approve and recommend to SCUP the name change from Music Major, Honours, and Extended Minor to Music and Sound Major, Honours, and Extended Minor, in the School of Contemporary Arts within the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology.”

CARRIED

A. Eigenfeldt provided an overview of this program name change, which acknowledges the transition to a curriculum that is more inclusive of popular music, world music, j4.72 0 Td(1-F)-10 (nid)4 (r)3 ()-2 (pou-6 (e5T

COURSE CHANGES

- (i) Course deletions for CA 210, 248, 348, 412, 443, 447
- (ii) Equivalent statement changes for CA 316 and 416
- (iii) Equivalent statement and description change for CA 243
- (iv) Title, description and equivalent statement change for CA 140, 345
- (v) Title change for CA 142
- (vi) Title, description, prerequisite and equivalent statement changes for CA 145, 146, 245, 246, 247, 340, 346, and 446
- (vii) Title and equivalent statement changes for CA 341
- (viii) Prerequisite, description and equivalent statement changes for CA 343
- (ix) Title, description and prerequisite changes for CA 344
- (x) Title, description, units, prerequisite and equivalent statement changes for CA 347, 445

NEW COURSE PROPOSALS

- (i) New Course Proposals:
 - CA 143-

K. Nordgren reiterated the rule to avoid using, “This course...” in course descriptions.

d. Faculty of Environment

1. Department of Geography (SCUS 21-12)

Motion 7

It was moved by P. Kingsbury and seconded by D. Hik

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

- Upper division requirement changes to the Physical Geography Major and the Physical Geography Honours
- Upper division requirement changes to the Human Geography Major and Human Geography Honours
- Upper division requirement changes to the Global Environmental Systems Major and the Global Environmental Systems Honours

CARRIED

2. School of Resource and Environmental Management (SCUS 21-13)

Motion 8

It was move by P. Kingsbury and seconded by M Crouch

“that SCUS approve and recommend to SCUP the name change for the Development and Sustainability Minor.”

CARRIED

Motion 9

It was moved by P. Kingsbury and seconded by M. Crouch

“that SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information the description, admission requirements, upper and lower division requirement changes to the Development and Sustainability Minor effective Fall 2021.”

CARRIED

e. Faculty of Science (SCUS 21-14)

1. Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science

Motion 10

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

“that SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information the admission requirement and upper and lower division requirement changes to the Actuarial Science Major, Bachelor of Science program effective Fall 2021.”

CARRIED

5. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Duolingo English Test (DET) (SCUS 21-15)

Motion 11

It was moved by K. Verkerk and seconded by E. Park

“that SCUS approve and recommend to Senate the extension of the Duolingo English Test pilot on an interim basis (Fall 2021 through to Fall 2023; spring, summer and fall term.”

CARRIED

K. Verkerk provided background information of the Duolingo English Test (DET), which was approved as a pilot option to satisfy the English Language Requirement for undergraduate admission last year. She added that with the continued closure of English-language test centres, an extension of this pilot is proposed for the benefit of those students in countries where no other English proficiency test is available. This will also allow further data collection of student academic performance to determine whether the DET could be an ongoing option for undergraduate admission at SFU.

b. SCUS – Annual Report (SCUS 21-16)

K. Nordgren provided an overview of the SCUS annual report, which will go to the March Senate meeting for information.

The Chair noted that it is not often reported that more courses are deleted than created in a given year and congratulated the Committee on their hard work over the past twelve months as reflected in the annual report.

c. P/CR/NC/ Academic Standing/Repeats – Final (SCUS 21-17)

1. Elective Grading System Implementation and Policy

Motion 11

It was moved K. Verkerk and seconded by M. Pinter-Collett

The Chair thanked D. Shafey and others who worked on the policy documents, which will be forwarded to the next Senate meeting for approval.

K. Verkerk and D. Shafey provided information on the significant changes and answered questions from the committee members.

This item was tabled due to time constraints as further discussion was needed to finalize the details and clarity of the proposed language and criteria.

(Note: voting on this item was conducted by electronic voting, following the meeting).

There was much discussion with concerns regarding the number of allowed repeats and implications that may occur. Some of the concerns/comments related to the criteria were:

- The potential for students to take advantage of unlimited repeats, if a specific limit was not included
- The lack of consistency across the university in terms of approving repeats in excess of the current limit
- Providing a mechanism for approving repeated courses above the current limit in order to check in on the student's progress
- If students were in academic difficulty prior to pandemic, should there be exceptions/limits
- Will this reduce the burden on advisors?
- Should there be a specific timeframe, e.g. between Spring 2020 and Fall 2021, to align with the pilot grading system?

All agreed to keep the policy as is, but to incorporate a limit of repeats specific to the period from Spring 2020 to Fall 2021 within the policy.

d. Minimum Prerequisite Grade – Edits to existing courses (For Discussion) (SCUS 21-18)

K. Nordgren spoke to this agenda item, stating that there are programs in the Calendar that have identified minimum pre-requisite grade requirements of C minus or higher; however, these requirements are not specified on individual courses within the Course Catalog/Calendar. This discrepancy causes issues for the Scheduling department, which is responsible for coding prerequisites, and for students and staff who are unclear on these requirements. He asked the SCUS committee members if they would approve edits to be made to their programs to address this issue, which has been done in prior years.

All agreed to have Student Services proceed with the program/course editorial updates.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm
Minutes prepared by R. Balletta