

# **SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES**

## **MINUTES**

**September 15, 2022 ~ 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm**  
**Strand Hall Room 3101**

Attendees: E. Elle (Vice-Chair), K. Nordgren (Secretary), M. Crouch, A. Eigenfeldt, N. Hawkins, P. Kingsbury, M. MacDonald, K. Masri, L. Masri, C. Murray (L. Campbell), T. Nault, E. Park, A. Parmar, J. Sutherland, N. van Houten

Absent: J. Nagy

### **1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Introductions were made for the benefit of the new members.

The Agenda was approved as presented.

### **2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of June 2, 2022**

The minutes were approved as presented.

### **3. CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Vice-Chair provided information on upcoming initiatives for 2022-2023.

- The Vice-Chair will be working with Kevin Oldknow, senior advisor to the Provost, on streamlining the academic progJ0 Tc 0 Tw cr-

A question was raised regarding the elective grade system (EGS), as there is a concern on the emerging trend among third year students ending up in academic difficulty and potentially leaving the university. Historically, the majority of students in academic difficulty have been in their first or second-year. The Vice-Chair responded that an analysis of the pilot EGS was promised to Senate when it was initially proposed, and so there will be a review by SCUS to determine whether to recommend making the EGS permanent. All agreed there is a retention problem and an early warning system could help provide support for these students.

#### **4. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **COURSE CHANGES (SCUS 22-49)**

For information: the following course changes, effective Summer 2023, were approved by delegate authority in July. The July SCUS meeting was cancelled due to lack of agenda items.

##### **a. Faculty of Applied Sciences**

###### **1. School of Sustainable Energy Engineering**

- (i) Equivalent statement changes for SEE 241

##### **b. Faculty of Environment**

###### **1. Department of Geography**

- (i) Prerequisite changes for GEOG 241 and 365

#### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **COURSE CHANGES (SCUS 22-50)**

The following course changes, effective, Summer 2023, were approved by delegated authority, except for those noted as ***TABLED***.

##### **a. Faculty of Applied Sciences**

###### **1. School of Sustainable Energy Engineering**

- (i) Prerequisite change for SEE 325 and 464

###### **2. School of Engineering Science**

- (i) Prerequisite change for ENSC 220

**b. Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology**

**1. School of Interactive Arts and Technology**

- (i) Equivalent statement changes for IAT 106

**c. Faculty of Science**

**1. Department of Biological Sciences (*TABLED*)**

- (i) Title change for BISC 204
- (ii) Prerequisite changes for BISC 327 328, 407, 428, 430, 445 and 457
- (iii) Description and prerequisite changes for BISC 100,101, 102, 202, 204, 303, 305, 306, 313, 316, 317, 333, 337, 357, 366, 410, 414, 422, 441 and 455
- (iv) Description, prerequisite and equivalent statement changes for BISC 113, 212, 300, 302W, 318, 360W, 412, 413, 420, 421, 425 and 440W
- (v) Prerequisite and equivalent statement changes for BISC 308,

## 2. School of Mechatronics Systems Engineering

### **Motion 2**

It was moved by E. Park and seconded by L. Masri

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

- MSE 360-3, Introduction to Biosystems Engineering
- MSE 460-3, Precision Agri-Tech Engineering, effective Summer 2023.”

TABLED

E. Park provided background of these new course proposals and discussion ensued.

A question was raised whether the new courses and MSE AgriTech concentration required Ministry approval.

J. Sutherland responded that the proposal does not need Ministry approval due to the minor nature of the changes to the program.

The Vice-Chair noted that forwarding a new course proposal, contingent on SCUS’ approval, to hire faculty to teach the course, is not the normal process and not an appropriate precedence to set. E. Park explained the rationale stating there is commitment from the school to offer these courses and that discussions have been ongoing for two years.

The Vice-Chair reiterated she is not comfortable approving a new course without a syllabus or approved faculty hire as it would raise other problems such as if a faculty member is not hired in a timely manner.

There was general support for the new courses; however, concerns were raised regarding the lack of current faculty to teach them.

The secretary noted the timeline for approval is still within the Summer 2023 calendar cycle, should this item return to the next SCUS meeting, without impacting the effective term.

### **b. Faculty of Science**

#### 1. Department of Biological Sciences (SCUS 22-52)

### **Motion 3**

It was moved by N. Hawkins and seconded by T. Nault

“that SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information the New Course Proposal: BISC 447-3, Stem Cells – Current Trends, effective Summer 2023.”

TABLED

There was brief discussion regarding this new course proposal and the issue of creating two identical, equivalent courses within the same faculty. Although there was general support for the collaboration that went into creating these courses, the committee members felt it would be problematic and confusing for student enrollment.

The Vice-Chair suggested to table this item and send back to the two departments in order to provide a stronger rationale for separate courses, with the recommendation to create a single course offering.

2. Department of Mathematics (SCUS 22-53)

**Motion 4**

It was moved by N. Hawkins and seconded by C. Murray

**PROGRAM CHANGES**

**a. Faculty of Applied Sciences (SCUS 22-55)**

### 3. School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering (TABLED)

This agenda item was also **TABLED** as it relates to SCUS 22-51 (2)

(i) Requirement changes to the:

- Mechatronic Systems Engineering Major
- Mechatronic Systems Engineering Double Degree Program
- Mechatronic Systems Engineering Honours

### 4. Faculty of Applied Sciences

(i) Removal of Calculus 12 as a required course for students applying from a BC High School for the:

- School of Engineering Science
- School of Mechatronic Systems Engineering
- School of Sustainable Energy Engineering

T. Nault reminded the committee members that High School admission changes are brought forward to SCUS by the Registrar.

### **b. Beedie School of Business (SCUS 22-56)**

#### **Motion 8**

It was moved by K. Masri and seconded by A. Parmar

“that SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information the following program changes, effective Summer 2023.”

CARRIED

(i) Admission requirement changes to the:

- Business Major
- Business and Communication Joint Major
- Business and Economics Joint Major
- Business and Geography Joint Major
- Business and Psychology Joint Major
- Business, Philosophy and the Law Joint Major
- Information Systems in Business Administration and Computing Science Joint Major
- Interactive Arts and Technology and Business Joint Major BA, BBA
- Interactive Arts and Technology and Business Joint Major BSc
- Molecular Biology and Biochemistry and Business Administration Joint Major
- Sustainable Business Joint Major

(ii) Upper and lower division requirement changes to Sustainable Business Bachelor of Business Administration Joint Major

K. Masri provided a brief overview of the several changes to the Beedie programs mainly to streamline the process for the admission pathway students allowing more international students to enter Beedie School of Business programs.

It was suggested, for clearer calendar language, to either use the range of units or use the minimum – not both.

**c. Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (SCUS 22-57)**

**1. School of Interactive Arts and Technology**

**Motion 9**

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

“that SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information the following program changes, effective Summer 2023.”

TABLED

(i) Transfer requirement changes to the:

- Interactive Arts and Technology Major BA
- Interactive Arts and Technology Major BSc
- Interactive Arts and Technology Honours BA
- Interactive Arts and Technology Honours BSc
- Interactive Arts and Technology and Business Joint Major BA or BBA
- Interactive Arts and Technology and Business Joint Major BSc
- Communication and Interactive Arts and Technology Joint Major BA
- Communication and Interactive Arts and Technology Joint Major BSc

J. Sutherland made several recommendations to clarify the Calendar language for students, including having the changes effective for Fall 2023.

The Vice-Chair suggested J. Sutherland follow up with A. Eigenfeldt to make the necessary revisions and bring this agenda item back to a future SCUS meeting.

**d. Faculty of Science (SCUS 22-58)**

**1. Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry**

**Motion 10**

It was moved by N. Hawkins and seconded by L. Masri



## **6. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **a. Post-Secondary Quality Assurance Consultations**

J. Sutherland circulated a memo to the SCUS committee prior to the meeting and provided an update of the Post-Secondary Quality Assurance review.

There is no action required from the committee members; only an invitation to comment on the proposed revisions to the criteria and policies that support quality assurance.

No other business

Minutes prepared by R. Balletta  
The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 pm