

J. Sutherland added that she foresees additional meetings during the graduation period (end of each term) as the UCIL office is often asked to consider WQB exceptions for students with extenuating circumstances. She anticipates that over time faculty will become familiar with the process thus requiring a smaller number of meetings during these times of the year

The ViceChair reiterated that if recertification is not granted, faculty appeal to the Chair of SCUS, ensuring that they have made clear justifications to why the WQB courses should be retained.

The ViceChair noted that 15 representatives are needed for the subcommittees which is approximately two members per faculty

There was a question regarding the absence of a "sunset" clause in the document approved at Senate. The ViceChair explained there is a clause stating that if the course is not recertified it will be omitted from the calendar in three years

b. FAL and FAN

The ViceChair continued with her report, noting a question that was asked at a recent Senate meeting regarding FAL and FAN as to why they were not changed to 0 units and no tuition if the change was made for equity reasons.

The ViceChair stated that there is significant costs to academic offerings FAL and FAN, since these courses are offered in smaller class sizes

She added that there was also discussion regarding SCUS delegated authority with reference to the recent approval of these changes. The ViceChair confirmed that SCUS does have delegated authority to make those decisions. The ViceChair noted that going forward, when there is a significant change presented for Senate's information, SCUS will highlight the item in the memo noting that SCUS had have in-depth discussions and came to a decision that would be of interest for Senate.

A question was asked if the faculties need to submit paperwork to SCUS to update the Academic Calendar language with regard to FAN and FAL. The ViceChair responded that the Registrar's Office will update the calendar language as well as make edit to any references for Distance Education and fees associated to those courses. The ViceChair stated that as of next term, there will be no more "C" courses (Distance Education course sections) only on-line and blended courses.

Before moving on to regular business, the ViceChair recognized K. Nordgren as the recipient of the Staff Achievement Award for Leadership and read out the leadership statement. She thanked Kris for all the work he does for the SCUS group and the university. K. Nordgren expressed his gratitude for all involved in nominating him for the award and how much he enjoys working with the SCUS group.

4. BLENDED SCHEDULING PILOT: DISCUSSION OF NEXT STEPS, INCLUDING SYNCHRONOUS/ASYNCHRONOUS COURSE COMPONENTS

a. Blended Scheduling Pilot

The ViceChair began the discussion by providing an overview of the Blended Scheduling Pilot which was approved in February 2020 and implemented in Spring 2022. She also reported on the study done by the Learning Experiences Assessment and Planning team (LEAP) based on data from the Spring and Fall 2022 terms, noting the following:

- Generally students and faculty are in favour of blended courses and would like to take them again

8. NEW BUSINESScont'd

NEW PROGRAM

a. Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology

- Business Major
- Business Honours, effective Spring 2024.”

CARRIED

b. Faculty of Environment (SCUS 2349)

1. Department of Geography

Motion 4

It was moved by P. Kingsbury and seconded by N. Hawkins

“that SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information the following program changes, effective Spring 2024.”

CARRIED

- (i) Upper division requirement changes to the:
- Geographic Information Science Major
 - Geographic Information Science Honours

9. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Academic Integrity

Arlette Stewart was present as a resource person for this discussion and to answer any questions from the committee members regarding contract cheating and Artificial Intelligence (e.g. chat GPT).

A. Eigenfeldt shared with the SCUS group, two recent experiences with contract cheating

The first time, he was contacted anonymously by a contract writer who forwarded copies of papers he had written for approximately 20 students dating back several terms for an online course he was teaching.

He was contacted a second time, again by an anonymous writer, who stated that there were about 20 students in his current course, that were involved in contract cheating. The anonymous person provided him with a website from a Vancouver company. A. Eigenfeldt stated the language used in the website was quite bold and disturbing as the company claimed they could complete all of a student’s assignments and even write the exams.

A. Eigenfeldt noted that the Academic Integrity process was quite involved, but did follow through with the procedures. He was concerned that nothing further could be done regarding these companies.

L. Campbell shared her experience that occurred last year where several students were contacted by contract cheating companies. She consulted with SFU legal counsel and was told that there was nothing that could be done. She also mentioned the letter created by SZwagerman that was circulated for signatures and subsequently submitted to the Ministry to consider a legislative process to deal with these companies preying on students. There was no direct support from SFU and the Ministry did not respond to her knowledge.

L. Campbell noted that she did contact the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) who were very helpful and told her that there is language that the university could use as an institution to shut down these companies. They will be recommending that SFU start using that language going forward. She suggested that SCUS could potentially take this proposal on for next year.

M. MacDonald expressed why Education feels so strongly about having synchronous courses as there is more opportunity to talk to the students and be able to informally check on content and understandings.

A. Stewart shared her observations and some specific examples including:

- Anonymous allegations that copies of an instructor's exam that was to be offered in the next week

A. Stewart added that we should focus on communication; be more direct and transparent that contract cheating is going on and there is information out there regarding unethical tutoring. She noted this is important as some instructors may feel uncomfortable speaking about academic integrity and contract cheating as it may seem they're targeting certain individuals or groups of students.

b. Artificial Intelligence (AI)

P. Kingsbury began this brief discussion about the use of AI within his faculty, where an instructor's assignment required annotated bibliography and discovered a student used chatGPT which produced references that did not exist. He asked the committee members if they've had similar experiences in their faculty.

Discussion ensued with members sharing their practices around AI. Some faculties are moving toward having handwritten exams and the work done in class.

K. Nordgren reminded the group that A. Stewart is available to meet with faculty to present at faculty meetings or classes to interact and brainstorm for positive solutions.

The next SCUS meeting will see motions for a Blended Learning Pilot.

Meeting adjourned at 4:08 pm
Minutes prepared by R. Balletta