

SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

AGENDA

January 8, 2015 ~ 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm
Strand Hall ~ Room 3171

Attendees: G. Myers (Chair), A. Chinnery, D. Chong, P. Gallilee, A. Gemino, M. Gotfrit,
J. Hinchliffe (secretary), M. Lechner, L. Legris, E. Park, J. Pulkingham,
S. Rhodes, G. Shafer

Absent: A. Clapp, C. Lowenberger

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Chair added an agenda item under Other Business, to discuss the definition of a copreparation of the Senate. He particularly recognized the efforts of Robert Cameron whom initiated the p

The agenda was approved as amended

2. Approval of the Minutes of December 4, 2014

The Chair requested the wording on Page 8 of 67 be revised by making the sentence more clear and concise by deleting extra wording.

The minutes were approved as amended.

3. Business Arising

a. New Course Change Forms

Jo reminded the members that the new course change forms are on-line and to begin using them. Any comments or suggestions are to be forwarded to Jo.

4. Old Business

a. Faculty of Science (SCUS 14-53)

1. Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology (REVISED SCUS 14-53c)

- (i) New Course Proposal: BPK 443-3, Advanced Exercise Prescription
- (ii) Delete BPK 344

2. Department of Chemistry (REVISED SCUS 14-53d)

- (i) New Course Proposal for CHEM 433-3, Bioinorganic Chemistry
- (ii) New Course Proposal for SCI 191-1, Introduction to Modern Scientific Research

3. Department of Statistics (REVISED SCUS 14-53e)

- (i) Credit change to STAT 341, 342

These items were further deferred until representation for the Faculty of Science is in attendance.

b. Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (REVISED SCUS 14-20a)

1. Department of French

Motion 1

It was moved by J. Pulkingham and seconded by L. Legris

“that SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information the Concentration for Prospective Teachers within the French Major program effective Fall 2015.”

CARRIED

Question was raised about the potential for low enrollment and it was agreed by both FASS and Education that a strong marketing campaign will be required. G. Myers noted that OFFA has received a \$10 million grant over the next five years to support French language teaching. A question was asked about the specificity of the title and it was agreed that although it was

“that SCUS approve and recommend to SCUP the name change for the Bachelor of Arts in Visual Culture and Performance Studies.”

CARRIED

Motion 6

It was moved by M. Gotfrit and seconded by A. Gemino

“that SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information the Upper and Lower Division requirement changes to the Bachelor of Arts in Visual Culture and Performance Studies effective Fall 2015.”

CARRIED

To be consistent with calendar language, it was suggested to use the term concentration not stream.

6. Other Business

a. Annual Report (For Information)

b. Student Academic Appeals Report (For Information)

The Student Academic Appeals Report was reviewed and briefly discussed with suggestions from the members. They would like to see other data such as:

- Local student vs those from out of province
- Type of extenuating circumstances in the denied category
- Number of cases of WE divided by the number of seats offered by the faculty
 - Refer to IRP for data

c. Definition of Co-requisite (For Discussion)

The Chair spoke to this agenda item regarding the definition of a co-requisite. He explained that at UBC, co-requisite means, for example, that in order to take Course B, Course A should have already been taken or can be taken at the same time as Course B. The definition for SFU is a course to be completed at the same time as another course and the Chair feels our definition has complications. For example, if a student has already taken Course A and received a high grade, the student cannot take Course B as per our definition of co-requisite.

The Chair would like to know how this term is being used throughout the university. He is suggesting that the wording should be revised if this definition is being used in different ways. Discussion ensued as to what wording works best to make the definition more clear and consistent for undergraduate and graduate students.

All agreed the definition clearly state whether the course can only be taken concurrently with another course or if it is both a prerequisite and co-requisite.

J. Hinchliffe will get some data to see how many co-requisites exist and how they are currently coded. G. Myers will write a proposal for three different definitions (pre-requisite, co-requisite, concurrent) and circulate for feedback.

d. Cumulative Grade Point Average (For Discussion)

M. Gotfrit spoke to this agenda. He finds more and more cases come across his desk regarding students who have had a bad term and are now, with the CGPA requirement as it is, having difficulty bringing up their grades to allow them to graduate. It almost seems unattainable, although the committee recognizes the importance of performance standards for admission, continuance and graduation. The changes to the WE process, which includes a 5-year time frame no longer allows students to appeal older terms. There was some work done on an academic forgiveness policy a few years ago. J. Hinchliffe will circulate her findings for further discussion.

e. Communication with Advisors

G. Myers raised the issue of how curriculum proposals and decisions are communicated to advising staff within faculties and departments. It was noted that most faculty meet with and include advisors in the curriculum development process particularly at the departmental/programmatic level.

The process related to policy changes which may affect the institution as a whole has improved over the past couple of years within SCUS. A proposal now comes to the committee for review and feedback and consultation back to the faculty/departments. Revisions are made and re-circulated again for feedback with the expectation that a final proposal will have been well scrutinized.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:11 pm

Minutes prepared by R. Balletta