

SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

MINUTES

January 11, 2018 ~ 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm
STRAND HALL ROOM 3171

Attendees: D. Leznoff (Chair), A. Clapp, P. Gallilee, P. Gamble, M. Lechner, L. Legris,
C. Lowenberger, C. Murray, D. Ng, K. Oldknow, S. Poyntz, S. Rhodes,
H. Roberts (secretary), S. Spector

Regrets: N. Gajdamaschko

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Chair welcomed the committee back and wished everyone a Happy New Year. Time permitting, the Chair added an agenda item under Other Business as a group discussion in the form of a question: "What do you offer your top students?"

The agenda was approved as amended.

2. Approval of the Minutes of December 7 2017

Motion 20, correct the typo from designated to delegated and add the outcome to the minutes as an addendum.

The minutes were approved as amended.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

a. Changes to BC High School Admission Requirements (SCUS 607)

1. Motion 20 was circulated for approval by email.

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

It was moved by C. Murray and seconded by S. Spector

"that SCUS approve under delegated authority the Grade 11 and 12 List A and B courses."

CARRIED

The Chair added that the changes to the BC High School admission requirements were well accepted at Senate with minimal questions posed from the members of Senate.

4. Old Business

(iv) Prerequisite, title and description change for BPK 426

2. Department of Physics

- (i) Prerequisite changes for PHYS 101 and 102
- (ii) Title, description and prerequisite change for PHYS 332
- (iii) Title and description change for PHYS 390
- (iv) Title and prerequisite change for PHYS 431
- (v) Description change for PHYS 432

3. Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science

- (i) Prerequisite change for STAT 302 and 305

PROGRAM CHANGES

a. Faculty of Health Sciences (SCUS 4-02)

Motion 3

It was moved by M. Lechner and seconded by L. Legris

“that SCUS approve under delegated authority and send to Senate for information and comment changes to the Health Sciences Major Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science Life Sciences Concentration and Population and Quantitative Health Sciences Concentration effective Fall 2018.”

CARRIED

M. Lechner gave a brief overview of this agenda item. He also posed a question to the group in their opinion “Would a Nursing Program qualify for this item?” The general consensus was that a Nursing Program would not qualify given a student could enter the program from high school and would be considered ‘double dipping’ to use the Nursing Program credits toward another bachelor’s degree.

b. Faculty of Science (SCUS 8-03)

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It was moved by c. Lowenberger and seconded by S. Spector

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

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categories with a separate memo for each course changes, new courses, program changes and new programs.

This will avoid delay and errors in preparing the SCUS meeting materials going forward to Senate.

The Chair and the secretary will draft a template for structuring the memo to be forwarded to the committee. The plan is to start preparing documents in this manner for the February SCUS meeting

Agenda items for discussion for a future SCUS meeting were suggested:

- new course proposal procedure and forms
- number of new courses created vs deleted courses
- SCUS annual report possible revisions

2. What Do You Offer Your Top Students?

The Chair spoke to this agenda item providing the group an overview of the intent of the group discussion. He explained that he finds there is a lot of time spent assisting those students who are struggling academically and far less time spent recruiting, challenging and retaining our high achieving students. He posed these questions to the group

- If you're a top student, why should you come to SFU (other than scholarships)
- How does your Faculty challenge and engage your highest achieving students?

He began by giving an example using a Science student in Chemistry. A top student in Chemistry would not come to SFU because they don't want to be in a class with 700 other students for their first year.

He asked the SCUS members to talk for a few minutes about what they do for the top students in their faculty.

Beedie School of Business S. Spector

- In FCAT for our top students; Dean's letter, phone call to recruit from the Dean or Associate Dean
- priority admission, introduced to professors in our schools where they have interest research opportunities
- run an undergraduate conference
- robust profile of student work and for incoming top students, feature some of their completed works
- undergraduate travel fund to encourage students to go to festivals and conferences

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W. Parkhouse spoke to this agenda item according to a MacLean's article issued January 8, 2018, comparing Canadian universities with the highest and lowest graduation rates. 64% of Simon Fraser University students receive a degree within 7 years. We should be aiming for 80%. Discussion of the issue followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm
Minutes were prepared by R. Balletta