Meeting minutes of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) held on January 10, 2023

Present: **Faculty Chair:**

1. Approval of Agenda

2. Review of the SGSC minutes of December 6, 2022

>   Due to a late circulation of the notes from December, the committee Acknowledged them but chose to delay approval until next meeting.

3. Business arising from the minutes

4. Chair's Report

>   The Chair noted that the external reviews are coming through with more acknowledgement for funding and inflation. Chair went on to inform the committee that the GPS office is a little behind with the budget, re. BASS funding, but should be ready soon for approval.

5. For Approval

5.1 2022 Annual Report

>   The Chair introduced the annual report to the committee. He made note that although there seems to be a slight decline in doctoral degrees, GPS is generally maintaining steady enrollment numbers. N⁰"McCandless asked if there was any insight into the reason for the decline in PhDs. The Chair explained that a number of factors including economic, immigration and the shift to a post-COVID landscape. Chair makes motion to approve SGSC annual report.

Movkqp by J. Derksen; seconded V. Williams   **Approved**

5.2 Faculty of Applied Science
Department of Computing Science
5.2.1 Course Changes: CMPT 732, CMPT 733

N. "White cumgf why the new course description had less detail than the previous one, noting that the excluded information may be useful to students.
P. "Saeedi responded that this new description does the job adequately as it has more "" specific information S R L QR VXLQ that the previous description was much more generic.

7 Z R W committee members agreed that they felt the description Z D V too general L W K R QR HV KF R P P LWPHWHP HG G LQW that \ would expect to see more information on lab qtcvqt{ structure and learning objectives in courses of that nature. P. Saeedi explained that due to fast changing tech, too many specifics could cause administration problems, resulting in constant updates. The committee concluded that adding additional information, highlighting the fundamental concepts and course structure would be sufficient for approving the course changes.

Mo W L R Q by P. Saeedi; seconded K. Slaney   Approved with Amendments

5.2.2 Program Change (name): Master of Science in Professional Computer Science

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Mo W L R Q by P. Saeedi; seconded K. Slaney   Tabled

5.3 Faculty of Science
5.3.1 Department of Earth Science
Course Change: EASC 610

Mo W L R Q E \ V. Williams; seconded A. Gemino.   Approved

5.3.2 Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry
New Course: MBB 745

Mo W L R Q V. Williams; seconded A. Eigenfeldt.   Approved

6. For Discussion

6.1 Graduate General Regulations 1.5.2 Competency Grading Basis

One committee member mentioned that the last line was redundant and recommended that L W erFd ved. The committee agreed to bring this forward at a future meeting for approval.

6.2 Graduate Funding

The Chair introduced the topic of Graduate Funding emphasizing the shift towards thinking about funding as a means of support, rather than competition between graduate students.

The Chair posed the question around changing eligibility criteria for a Graduate Fellowship (GF). L LeMare pointed out that the change would not call Education as they have to raise the eligibility criteria within their faculty due to the competitiveness of the GFs Another committee member supported changing the eligibility criteria as long as academic units had the freedom to impose a higher cut offs at their discretion The Chair also offered to provide the committee with funding data from W GKUHD G X OP-V R N W ' R F W S W X OR U H L V F H.

6.3 Visiting Research Students

The Chair outlined that Visiting Research Students (VRS) are E H L allowed to take courses at SFU S revent V s VRS's from participating in the university community. The Chair asked the committee about their experiences with VRS student's and if they had heard of similar concerns.

H. Buteau explained that a VRS is restricted as they are not set up to pay tuition W R take courses as they are considered U H V H D U F K H U V Q R W SFU students. They are only do research with their sponsoring supervisor. She continued to explain that if an international student wanted to take courses at SFU their route should be as an exchange student or via another mobility option + % X W H D X also pointed out that a student visa may be a hurdle.

The Chair asked for a consensus from the committee about pursuing changes to VRS status and if they were interested in exploring what the hurdles allowing students to take courses Z H U H. H. Buteau agreed to return to the committee with the follow up information