

**MINUTES**  
**Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies**  
**Graduate Curriculum Committee Meeting (online)**  
**November 10, 2017**

**Present:** Ljiljana Biukovic, Edmond Cretu, Christina Hendricks, Norm Hutchinson, Kin Lo, Kyle McCleery, Max Read, Clive Roberts, Andrew Riseman, Paola Portaro (Minutes)

**Absent:** Stelvio Bandiera, Vincent Duronio; Amanda Pisis (Student), Resha Sabti (Student)

1. **Adoption of Agenda:** Approved
2. **Minutes of October 13, 2017 Meeting:** Approved
3. **New Programs**

| <b>Faculty of Science</b><br><b>Submitted by Norm Hutchinson</b>   |
|--|
| <p><b>PhD in Ocean and Fisheries</b> - new program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The committee noted that the proposal focuses on “fisheries” and there does not appear to be much content centred on “oceans”. Are the proponents sure this is the preferred title for these programs?</li><li>• These programs have a long history, with most of the courses running for a few years under another umbrella. We suggest that you add this information to the executive summary as it demonstrates that these are not completely 'new' programs.</li><li>• Page 9. We suggest highlighting the potential positive working relationship/faculty collaboration between UBC, SFU’s and UVIC’s programs; the paragraph referring to other programs in the province could be written to emphasize synergies within a framework of overall increasing need for research and training in these areas.</li><li>• The consultation document mentions a survey done to students. We suggest that you mention this in the proposal as it could be of SCC and student senator’s interest. It may save some time compared to initiating another survey)</li></ul> <p><b>Action: Approved with recommendations</b></p> <p><b>MSc. in Ocean and Fisheries</b> – new program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The committee noted that the proposal focuses on “fisheries” and there does not appear to be much content centred on “oceans”. Are the proponents sure this is the preferred title for these programs?</li><li>• These programs have a long history, with most of the courses running for a few years under another umbrella. We suggest that you add this information to the executive summary as it demonstrates that these are not completely 'new' programs</li><li>• Page 9. We suggest highlighting the potential positive working relationship/faculty collaboration between UBC, SFU’s and UVIC’s programs; the paragraph referring to other programs in the province could be written to emphasize synergies within a framework of overall increasing need for research and training in these areas</li><li>• The consultation document mentions a survey done to students. We suggest that you mention this in the proposal as it could be of SCC and student senator’s interest. It</li></ul> |

may save some time compared to initiating another survey).

- Table 1: 12 credit thesis stream and 18 credit thesis stream. Is it possible to use other words to describe this difference? [Research-intensive versus course-intensive?]. Defining a credit value in the way this is proposed (1 versus 2 chapters of novel research) is unusual; in both cases the thesis is accepted into the UBC/cIRcle system. The committee suggested that the supervisory committee guide the student based on the amount of time that will be committed to the research project, as the output (number of chapters analyzing original data) may be unknown when the student has to commit to one or other stream
- The committee suggested removing the section regarding field experience from the calendar entry and instead making this part of the unit's requirements of students in the PhD program (eg part of the comprehensive/advancement to candidacy process). The committee considered whether the fieldwork requirement could have a credit value but decided against this, to allow as much flexibility as possible to the program (fieldwork will be integral to some students' research already, and others may need to be encouraged to go into the field to round out their experience). In summary we recommend removing this from the calendar entry
- The committee requires that the calendar entries be edited substantially (recommendations forwarded)

**Action: Approved with recommendations**

**PhD/MSc Oceans and Fisheries** - add new programs to Calendar

- "preferred": should say pre-approved
- Paragraph needs re-writing. The most clarity that can be provided to students, avoid future trouble. Please see suggestion in the proposal with tracked comments
- If they going to be so specific in the course requirements, they need to have a way to monitor this throughout the student's studies
- PhD program requirement: PhD students at UBC generally complete such courses as are required by their supervisory committee (ie this is specific to field of research)

**Action: Approved with recommendations**

**FISH 549 (12/18)** – new course creation

- There is some confusion as to what's the difference between the requirements for a 12-18 credit thesis. Could you please clarify what is the basis for this difference? Is it the amount of "novel research"? Is it "original research"? Please characterize the difference between the two streams. We suggest using 'scope' or the number of terms devoted to full-time research
- Why is it important to have the two streams? In both cases the thesis goes into cIRcle, where no distinction is made on the basis of credit value
- Decodify the 12-18 distinction, and have it "to the discretion of research committee"

**Action: Approved with recommendations**

**PhD in Medical Physics** - new program

- Are there any student consultations? It would be great to have something about this

**Action: Approved**

**MSc. in Medical Physics – new program**

- Are there any student consultations? It would be great to have something about this

**Action: Approved**

**PhD/MSc in Medical Physics - add new programs to Calendar**

**Action: Approved**

**PHYS 546 (2) – new course creation**

- We suggest you add a comment (on the right hand side of the 2 column calendar entry form) that this course has been running as a pilot for a number of years and that you would like to formalize it through a course number. Furthermore, please add a sentence or two that explains to SCC why pass/fail is most appropriate for this course.
- Pass/Fail - it's not the norm that a course like this is pass/fail

**Action: Approved**

**4. Category 1 Proposals**

**Faculty of Science  
Submitted by Norm Hutchinson**

**CHEM 561 (3) – update course title and calendar description**

**Action: Approved**

**RES 502 (3) – course update**

- We consider this a Cat 2

**Action: Approved**

**RES 602 (3) – new course creation**

- The title mentions environment. This subject is not seen in the course syllabus. Consider adding outcomes related to environment or modifying the title.
- Update the wording around the “thesis question”.
- We suggest to use “research project” instead of thesis, as 1<sup>st</sup> year PhD students might not necessarily know what they’re doing for the thesis
- Suggestion: “You will learn how to formulate a good PhD questions”
- “a” thesis proposals instead of “your” thesis proposal
- SCC may flag this as overlapping the thesis work, given that the course marks are mostly linked to formulation of the student's own research project plan. More general outcomes (and assessment of students' learning) would be preferable.

**Action: Approved with recommendations. Please send reviewed document back to [graduate.curriculum@ubc.ca](mailto:graduate.curriculum@ubc.ca)**

## 5. Category 2 Proposals

| <b>Faculty of Arts<br/>Submitted by Louise Nightingale</b>   |
|--|
| <p><b>ASIA 590 (3-12)</b> – update credit value<br/><b>Action: Approved</b></p>                            |
| <p><b>MUSC 531 (3-12) d</b> – update credit value and calendar description<br/><b>Action: Approved</b></p> |
| <p><b>MUSC 532 (3-12) d</b> – update credit value and calendar description<br/><b>Action: Approved</b></p> |
| <p><b>MUSC 533 (3-12) d</b> – update credit value and calendar description<br/><b>Action: Approved</b></p> |

| <b>Faculty of Science<br/>Submitted by Norm Hutchinson</b>  |
|---|
| <p>Add Ocean and Fisheries to the list of degree programs in the Calendar<br/><i>(connected to Ocean and Fisheries new PhD/MSc programs)</i><br/><b>Action: Approved</b></p>  |
| <p>Update calendar program requirements for RES PhD students<br/><i>(connected to Ocean and Fisheries new PhD/MSc programs)</i><br/><b>Action: Approved</b></p>   |
| <p>Delete paragraph about Medical Physics stream in the description of the Program Requirements for M.Sc. in Physics<br/><i>(connected to Medical Physics new PhD/MSc programs)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A little early to remove this entry. We suggest leaving this entry for a couple years until all students enrolled in the stream finish their studies</li><li>• Add a line that “the (old) <u>stream</u> is not accepting new students” and direct students to the new program (once approved by Senate)</li></ul> <p><b>Action: Approved with recommendations</b></p> |