

MINUTES
Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Graduate Curriculum Committee Meeting
May 21, 2021

Present: Jolanta Aleksejuniene, Charlyn Black, Edmond Cretu, Norm Hutchinson, Jessica Iverson, Kin Lo, Anne Phelan, Catherine Rawn, Max Read, Andrew Riseman, Jenn Fletcher (minutes)

Regrets: Alejandra Botia, Karin Mickelson

1. **Adoption of Agenda:** Adopted
2. **Minutes of April 19, 2021 Meeting:** Approved
3. **Business Arising:** None
4. **Resubmitted Proposals**

Faculty of Applied Science Submitted by Carol Jaeger / Sarah Akhtar
<p>ELEC 573 (3) – Create new course Action: Approved</p> <p>MECH 559 (1-2) d – Create new course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The question of whether professional development activities warrant academic credit was discussed. Some felt these types of activities are co-curricular in nature, offer credit for activities students are already doing outside of their core coursework, and that UBC's transcripts are not designed to capture these types of activities. Others suggested that adding credit for these types of activities without increasing the overall credit requirement for the program seems to decrease the academic content of the degree. Still others argued that courses covering professional or enabling competencies are already integrated into a number of programs.• Recommendation to G+PS and/or Senate Office that best practices for professional development-type courses be developed centrally and included in a future version of the Senate Curriculum Guidelines.• Several members continued to have difficulties with the approach taken in this course and did not think the previously raised issues had been appropriately addressed. Changes made to the learning objectives were superficial and decreased the quality of the course.• What is different about this course compared to professional development courses reviewed previously is that the instructor is not in control of the content for the bulk of the learning activities. In order to critically engage with students about their learning and achievement of the course learning outcomes, the course instructor would need to have clear knowledge of the content of each activity, its themes, values, and ideas. It is not clear that will be true here or what supports will be made available to the instructor to allow for that.• The lack of a spine for the course where the content is under the control of the instructor makes it difficult to understand how you could add academic rigour or how the various activities will come together in a meaningful way.• Argument was made that what distinguishes this as an academic course is the assessments and the reflection and integration required in the assignments. Others

questioned how the instructor can appropriately engage with students when they were not actually involved in the activities being discussed.

- How does this course intersect with the students' academic activities? How does it address the learning objectives for the program?
- Is there a general rule of thumb the instructor will use to determine how many hours of activity of effort each "point" will be worth?
- How will the program deal with appeals over the quality of teaching for the course when they are not directly involved or in control of any of the learning activities?
- Draft memo will be circulated to the full committee for feedback.

Action: Held

5. New Proposals – Category 1

Faculty of Applied Science
Submitted by Carol Jaeger / Sarah Akhtar

MINE 581 (3) – Create new course

- Title uses "Tailing Storage Facilities" in the singular, but then they're referred to as "Tailings Storage Facilities" throughout the proposal. Is singular in the title correct?
- Clarify whether the course be offered online post-covid restrictions.
- Program must be aware of the requirements and process for undergraduate students to register in graduate-level courses. These requirements should also be made clear to students upfront.
- Learning objectives must be rewritten to state knowledge or skills students will obtain through the course.
- Criteria for grading the assignments are required.
- Group assignment grades are to be shared equally by all members. How will the instructor handle group dynamics? Will there be any peer evaluation to determine how each group member contributed to the work?
- Revised proposal to be reviewed by Norm on behalf of the committee.

Action: Held

MINE 585 (3) – Create new course

- Rationale for this course is the same as the previous course. Must be revised to address how this course builds on the previous one?
- Title uses "Tailing Storage Facilities" in the singular, but then they're referred to as "Tailings Storage Facilities" throughout the proposal. Is singular in the title correct?
- Clarify whether the course be offered online post-covid restrictions.
- Learning objectives must be rewritten to state knowledge or skills students will obtain through the course. How do these build on the prerequisite course?
- Criteria for grading the assignments are required.
- Revised proposal to be reviewed by Norm on behalf of the committee.

Action: Held

SPE 504 (3) – Create new course

- "An immersive student experience" should be removed from the Calendar course description. May want to consider emphasizing entrepreneurship as well.
- If this course is to be made mandatory then a category 2 proposal should be submitted to update the program requirements.
- Course introduction in sample syllabus provides a good rationale for its creation. Consider moving this information into the Rationale on Change to Course or Program

form.

- Criteria for grading the assignments are required.
- Revised proposal to be reviewed by Norm on behalf of the committee.

Action: Held

SPE 505 (3) – Create new course

- Clarify whether there is an order between these two courses.
- If this course is to be made mandatory then a category 2 proposal should be submitted to update the program requirements.
- Criteria for grading the assignments are required.
- Revised proposal to be reviewed by Norm on behalf of the committee.

Action: Held

Faculty of Arts

Submitted by Catherine Rawn / Heidi May

FREN 591 (1.5) – Create new course

Action: Approved

SPAN 591 (1.5) – Create new course

Action: Approved

FREN 592 (1.5) – Create new course

Action: Approved

SPAN 592 (1.5) – Create new course

Action: Approved

Faculty of Education

Submitted by Teresa Dobson / Tatiane Lima

EDCP 546 (3) – Create new course

- Consult with Faculty of Arts required
- An explicit set of learning outcomes or objectives must be added. Course objectives are currently there and can be adapted.
- PhD grading scale is included and may not be appropriate for all students. This must be corrected. Proponents should consider replacing this with a link to the Calendar grading scales.
- Revised proposal to be reviewed by Norm on behalf of the committee.

Action: Held

School of Community and Regional Planning

Submitted by Mark Stevens

Master of Community and Regional Planning – Update program overview

Action: Held

Master of Community and Regional Planning – Change program requirements

- Program requirements on the [page in the G+PS section of the Academic Calendar](#)

must be updated as well.

- A consult looking at the Indigenous aspects of the proposal is required.
- Proposed course renumbering is confusing, will create a lot of administrative work, and won't allow for easy accommodation of future changes to the program's courses. The renumbering is not supported and the committee recommends the proponents rethink how best to approach this. Perhaps the use of tens (510s, 520s, 530s, etc.) could be used to group courses and thereby accomplish the proponents' goals without the challenges that would arise as a result of the current renumbering.
- It was noted that the proposed changes include a large increase in the number of required credits and concerns were raised that this seems to be a general trend in proposals seen in recent years. However, proponents did state that many students in this program are already taking this number of credits voluntarily.
- Confirmation in the proposal that the program will support continuing students to complete the current requirements would be appreciated.

Action: Held

General comments on new courses (*reviewed independent of numbering issue*)

- Committee generally felt these proposals were well done.
- Calendar course descriptions must be pared down.

PLAN 500 (3) – Create new course

- As above, Calendar description must be pared down.
- "Academic Calendar Description" in the sample syllabus does not match the one in the Change to Course or Program form.
- Consider rewording "demonstration of insight" as a grading criterion. People from different cultural backgrounds view insightfulness differently. Alternatives proposed include: Recommendations that reflect the complexity involved or that reflect multiple perspectives or that demonstrate a greater understanding of the whole. Or perhaps informed, novel, and/or thoughtful and responsive recommendations.

Action: Held

PLAN 501 (3) – Create new course

- This course in particular should have an Indigenous consult.
- A table linking learning objectives and assessments (as seen in most of the other syllabi) would have been helpful here.

Action: Held

PLAN 502 (3) – Create new course

Action: Held Over

PLAN 504 (3) – Create new course

Action: Held Over

PLAN 505 (3) – Create new course

Action: Held Over

PLAN 507 (3) – Create new course

Action: Held Over

PLAN 511 (6) – Create new course

Action: Held Over

PLAN 515 (12) – Create new course

Action: Held Over

PLAN 516 (3) – Create new course

Action: Held Over

PLAN 518 (6) – Create new course

Action: Held Over

PLAN 533 (3) – Change course number

Action: Held Over

PLAN 503 (3) – Change course number

Action: Held Over

PLAN 553 (3) – Change course number

Action: Held Over

PLAN 561 (3) – Change course title and description

Action: Held Over

PLAN 590 (3) – Change course number, title, description

Action: Held Over

PLAN 595 (3) – Change course number, title, add description

Action: Held Over

6. New Proposals – Category 2

- It was agreed that the category 2 proposals would be reviewed by email.