MINUTES Meeting of the Grad Policy Committee

Wednesday, 5th May 2021, 12:30-13:50 Location: Zoom

Present: Laura Sly (Chair), Susan Porter, Jolanta Aleksejuniene, Teresa Dobson, Brett Eaton, Michael Hunt, Karin Mickelson, John Ries, Mark MacLachlan, Yousry El-Kassaby

Staff: Max Read, Arafat Safdar

1. Introductions and regrets

Thomas Chang - regrets Alejandra Botia – introduction & regrets

2. Adoption of the agenda

All } That the agenda be approved.

Carried

3. Motion to Approve the Minutes

All } That the minutes be approved (with a minor change to the comments made by Karin Mickelson)

Carried

4. Business arising from the last minutes

• Laura informs the Committee that the wording on the website has been changed and shared with Dr. Peter Simpson (Dean – College of Graduate Studies, UBC-O). The faculty members from the Interdisciplinary Studies at UBC-O can now serve as External Examiners at UBC-V.

5. Business

There were no specific business items to vote on.

6. **Discussion Items**

• Guiding Principles document for 'Return to Work'

7. Discussion

- Susan noted that the document is rigid in terms of its wording and that much more leeway would be expected in the case of graduate courses (the document is principally drafted for the undergraduate teaching on campus). She agreed with John that the individual programs would have some leeway relative to their department.
- Mark suggested that an exception be made for the faculty members who are offering courses that might be taken by students at other campuses or other universities, who would want to hold online classes rather than in-person sessions. John commented that nothing in the document would prevent that.
- Jolanta asked if exams will be held in person or if there would be some flexibility around that policy. John points out that the online exams can also be invigilated in-person.
- Michael shared an observation that a lot of students are more concerned about *commuting* to campus (transit, Skytrain) rather than being on campus.
- Teresa asked about the potential measures in place (apart from vaccination), if there would be no social distancing measures (as mentioned in the document)? Susan clarified that although the students would not observe social distancing in classrooms, they would have to wear masks.

General Discussion

• SSHRC Funding:

Susan talked about her meeting with the SSHRC president Ted Hewitt

- On the question of the eligibility of international students for SSHRC, Ted said that there had been no commitment so far but that they had been considering it.
- Brett supported the allowance of SSHRC grant money for other purposes such as graduate student training etc. Susan mentioned that G&PS had been advocating that for a long time.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 13:37.