**MINUTES**

**Meeting of the Graduate Academic Policy Committee**

**Wednesday, 17th October 2022, 12.30-13.50**

Location: Zoom

**Present:** Michael Hunt (Chair), Teresa Dobson, Jolanta Aleksejuniene, Bruce MacDougall, Mark MacLachlan, Calvin Roskelley, Christiane Hoppmann, Shannon Hagerman, Mopelola Akinlaja, Jenny Phelps (guest), Cecilia Gruber (guest)

**Regrets:** Sean Smukler, Susan Porter

**Staff:** Max Read, Jennifer Fletcher, Arafat Safdar

1. **Introductions and regrets**

* New Associate Deans = Calvin Roskelley (Medicine), Christiane Hoppmann (Arts), Bruce MacDougall (Allard Law)

1. **Adoption of the agenda**

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| *All* |  | *That the agenda be approved.* |

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| Carried |

1. **Motion to Approve the Minutes**

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| *All* |  | *That the minutes be approved* |

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| Carried |

1. **Policy Business**

**Consolidation of English language proficiency information on UBC Calendar**

* Max provides an introduction to the proposed change about the consolidation of information across multiple Calendar pages into a single page

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| *All* |  | *That the motion be approved* |

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| Carried |

**Changing Pass/Fail criteria for the Master of Global Surgical Care program**

* Cecilia makes a presentation about the proposed change about a modification of the grading structure in all courses to Pass/Fail, with the minimum passing grade being 74% - the need for this change has been felt due to due to the uniqueness of learners in the Program – students are practicing surgeons and are not interested in grades for future study – a survey conducted among the current and former students shows that the majority favors this change.
* Calvin asks if the Graduate Program would lose students who might have some difficulty in meeting that bar – Lola asks for some statistical information on the students to see if it would exclude a significant number of students – Cecilia says it’s generally 80% and above and that not many students would be missing out – The Graduate Program would work with any student on the threshold to ensure that they meet minimum expected requirements.
* Thomas asks if there are any other examples of courses which changed to pass/fail – Cecilia says there could be some courses in the undergraduate programs – Teresa gives an example of a post-graduate teacher education program in her faculty which was changed to a Pass/Fail grading mechanism 12 years ago with a threshold of 76% and that for the students who lagged behind, they work with them individually - Jolanta also points out that most of the courses in the clinical specialty programs in Dentistry are working on a pass/fail basis and that someone not doing well gets an extra assignment until they pass.
* Lola asks if there has been any consideration around how would it affect the competitiveness among the students – Cecilia says that based on her interaction with current students and graduates, the program does not follow the traditional route of employment, i.e. employers looking at transcripts – it is the experience they are focusing on more in this field.

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| *All* |  | *That the motion be approved* |

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| Carried |

**Pausing of admissions to the Joint PhD**

* Jenny provides a brief context behind the proposed change – Individual Joint Doctoral Programs to be paused until further notice

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| *All* |  | *That the motion be approved* |

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| Carried |

1. **For Discussion**

**Graduate Certificates**

* Jenny makes a presentation to provide an overview of changes being discussed regarding graduate certificates – there are trends among learners and govts to provide shorter learning experiences – there is an appetite to devise a new policy around academic credit-based certificates at undergrad, post-baccalaureate, graduate levels.
* Murray points out that there seems to be a gap existing between the post-baccalaureate and the post-grad certificates – and asks if people might play around being from these different streams – He also asks if it would be possible to ladder from post-bac to Masters program - Jenny thinks such a transfer would be subject to the same policy that governs the transferability of credits
* Teresa highlights the potential concerns around the percentage of special cases who would be able to ladder into the degree programs – Jenny says there are a couple of ways to address that

1. for grad certificates, a blanket exception may be granted from G&PS to the program
2. the admission criteria could be set differently for the graduate certificate programs
3. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 13:52.