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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Senate
FROM Wade Parkhouse, Chair
Senate Committee on
Undergraduate Studies
RE: Blended Courses (SCUS 20-06)

DATE February 7, 2020

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wade Parkhouse'.

Acting under delegated authority at its meeting of February 6, 2020 SCUS approved the following definition for Blended Courses effective Fall 2020:

Blended courses at SFU have at least one quarter and no more than three quarters of student learning integral to the course occurring in the online environment, replacing in-person instruction.



MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION: SCUS

FROM: Elizabeth Elle, Associate Vice President, Learning & Teaching, and
Steve Birnie, Associate Registrar

RE: Blended courses: definition and scheduling

DATE: 6 January 2020

As part of our flexible education initiative, SFU plans to move forward with offering “blended” courses. This course format, which includes both online and face-to-face components, allows for greater flexibility for student schedules because of a reduction in time in the classroom. It will also allow for more efficient use of classroom space, potentially increasing affordability for students. Research suggests blended courses are associated with higher student satisfaction compared to fully online or fully face-to-face, due to the combination of increased flexibility (from the online component) and retention of community building (from the face-to-face component). Although limited by the scheduling options available, a recent study out of York indicated that replacing 33-50% (and potentially more) of the in-person component with thoughtful, well-integrated online activities can also increase student achievement compared to fully online or fully face-to-face courses. SFU faculty members have expressed interest in teaching using this model. To operationalize blended offerings, we need to have a clear definition of the instructional mode, and include blended offerings in our scheduling procedure.

MOTION: that the following definition for Blended courses be adopted.

Blended courses at SFU have at least one quarter and no more than three quarters of student learning integral to the course occurring in the online environment, replacing in-person instruction.

During a 2-year pilot, only the following schedule patterns will be available for use for the in-person component of blended courses. These patterns are based on courses that have either three or four hours of lecture per week. Further patterns may be considered after the pilot period:

- Tutorials or laboratories only, no lectures (*No pattern restriction*)
- 1 hour lecture/week (*Scheduling Pattern B, blocks B1, B2 B3 [8:30], B13, B14 [1:30], B18, B19, B20 [3:30]*)
- 1 hour lecture and 1 hour tutorial/week (*Scheduling Pattern B, blocks B1, B2 B3 [8:30], B13, B14 [1:30], B18, B19, B20 [3:30]*)
- 2 hours lecture/week (*Scheduling pattern C all blocks*)
- 2 hours lecture and 1 hour tutorial/week (*Scheduling pattern C all blocks*)

- 3 hours lecture/week (*Scheduling pattern G.1/G.2 all blocks*)
- Class meets for 2 or 3 hour lecture every other week for 6 weeks (*Scheduling pattern C or scheduling pattern G.1/G.2. Requires pairing with another course to share alternating weeks*)