

study permit caps specifically refer to “master’s and doctoral degrees”. Jenny also agrees with Sumeet’s observation.

- Jenny mentioned that Chris Eaton (UBC Senate) thought work needed to be done at a broader level to define a ‘graduate student’, an ‘undergraduate student’, and to have clear definitions of each type of student in the Calendar.

It was decided to remove “for doctoral and master’s students”.

All } *That the motion be approved.*

Carried

Transfer Credit for Access Studies:

Teresa asked about the possibility of bundling non-credit micro-credentials for possible transfer to credit programs. Would this lead readers to confuse “non-credential” with “non-credit”? She suggested removing “non-credential” – not modifying “Access Studies” at all.

It was decided to remove the words in parentheses – “(or non-degree)”

All } *That the motion be approved.*

Carried

5. Discussion

- Michael addressed a common question from the committee members about the date of the policies once they are sent to the Senate (after having been approved by the Graduate Academic Policy Committee) saying that we are having difficulties with the Senate in identifying when changes are made. We are working with the Senate to get the process streamlined. For e.g., one of the policies (grading practices) raised some concerns but it got approved ultimately. Jenny said a word was changed in the policy and it did not change the meaning of the policy. A group of senators are trying to advocate for removing percentage grades and just go with the letter grades altogether

Master’s Degrees - Laddered and Transferred Credits

Certificate Programs and Transfer Credits

- Continuing the discussion from the last meeting, Jenny asked the group if the number of credits that could be laddered from a graduate certificate should be increased and also if the additional transfer credits (beyond the laddered credits) should be allowed.
- The current policy allows for 12 combined credits (from UBC graduate certificate program and externally transferred credits) to be laddered into its affiliated master’s program.
- Jenny identified the following issues arising out of the current policy:

- a) Graduate certificates can comprise up to 15 credits, and a program may want them all to count towards an associated Master's program
- b) It does not allow for additional transfer of credits from an external partnering program

She told the group that it would require a policy change to address both of these issues.

Jenny then presented some possible alternatives to the current policy:

- a) New maximum for ladder credits only – no further transfer credits allowed
- b) Full ladder and full transfer maximums – 40% or 12 credits allowed to be transferred from outside
- c) Full ladder and lower transfer credits – some number of additional credits (3,6,9) to be allowed
- d) Combined ladder and other transferred credits maximum, with limit to 'other' (example: maximum combined ladder and other credits of <15, 18, 21 or 24> with a limit of 12 credits that are not from the specifically affiliated Graduate Certificate program). This arrangement provides additional flexibility for combinations of some (rather than all) 'ladder' credits plus other transferred credits.

- Shannon expressed her support for the proposition that the full credits of a certificate program could be ladder into a Master's program. As for the transfer credits, she shared her concern around a large number of transfer credits leaving the students with only having 3 credits to take while enrolled in the Master's program. She asked if such a situation would compromise the integrity of a Master's program.
- Sumeet argued for the programs to have the final word on this. He noted that there were already fairly strong guidelines in place, so why make it harder for the programs by adding yet more directions?
- Teresa observed that the proposal under discussion involved too many variables and that it was not clear to her as to why both ladder and transferring were being considered at the same time. Jenny said it was because the ladder scenario was envisioned under the transfer policy; the two could be separated but it would still have to be articulated clearly.
- Teresa recalled from her time directing the program that the students were asked before taking their 5th course to declare to the program if they wanted to ladder, which is why their program did not allow for the use of credits for both the certificates and the Master's program.
- Jie asked how did one know if a student had not been using the credits for multiple graduate programs? Jenny said one could refer to the transcripts to see if the credits had already been used for a different program.
- Jie said that the Law School offered an online program and that they got requests for the transfer of credits from their online program to Canadian Law Society's credentials programs. Foreign students can take some Canadian law courses and then they can apply for accreditation. Some LLM students ask to transfer some of the credits to the law graduate courses as well - this is a scenario where a student can get both the

accreditation and the law degree. Jenny said that it is a different scenario and that since the accreditation is not being sought for UBC-affiliated programs (meaning UBC courses are not being used for two different programs within UBC) it does not impact the current policy.

- Jenny asked if anyone in the group held the view that all 15 credits from a grad certificate should not be counted towards a Master's program. Teresa also agreed but said that the option A would not work for her program. In Teresa's program, both the certificate and Master's programs students follow the same stream, which makes it closer to option C.
- Responding to Jenny's question about how many more credits should be allowed beyond the 15 credits, Davide mentioned that all the certificates in Applied Sciences only had 12 credits. He said that any credits, which had already been used for other degrees should not be used for transfer.
- Jennifer pointed out that there is at least one program where one has to do a certificate before being admitted to the Master's. Jenny acknowledged this point and said there were some certificate programs, which did not qualify for laddering.
- Michael said that in his view, the entire discussion had boiled down to essentially this question: what is the minimum number of credits we would want a student to take when they are registered in a Master's degree program? Jenny agreed with this summarization.

6. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 13:55.