

**MINUTES
May 6th, 2021
Zoom meeting
2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

Chair: R. Yates
 Recording Secretary: H. Waqar
 Attendance:

Members Present

Alim, U. (CPSC)
 Achari, G. (SSE)
 Anderson, D. (CSM)
 Azaiez, J. (FGS)
 Baral, K. (GSA)
 Beattie, T. (CSM)
 Bertram, J. (BMEN)
 Bonni, S. (MDSC)
 Boyd, J. (CPSC)
 Braun, A. (MDCV)
 Braun, J. (MDBT)
 Campbell, L. (LAW)
 Clarke, M. (ENCH)
 Cobb, J. (MBBC)
 Colpitts, G. (ARTS)
 Colicos, M. (MDNS)
 Culos-Reed, N. (KNES)
 Cunningham, C. (FGS)
 Dann, M. (ENCI)
 Dambrowitz, A.
 (Registrar)
 De Koning, J. (MBBC)
 Dimitropoulos, G. (SOWK)
 Ducey, A. (SOCI)
 Dunn, J. (MDNS)
 Fapojuwo, A. (ENEC)
 Field, J. (EDER)
 Halek, M. (MGMT)
 Hedges, P. (DBA)
 Hiebert, M. (CMSS)

Hughes, L. (GRST/RELS)
 Iaria, G. (PSYC)
 Jacobson, M. (CPSC)
 King-Shier, K. (NURS)
 Keller, J. (CMMS)
 Levey, A. (PHIL)
 Marshall, D. (HIST)
 Martini, C. (DRAMA)
 Mayr, S. (ENGL)
 McCafferty, D-M. (FGS)
 McLaughlin, A-M (SOWK)
 Morton, C. (ENME)
 Justin MacCallum (CHEM)
 Moorman, B. (GEOG)
 O'Brien, M. (FGS)
 Oddone P-E. (MDCH)
 Oehlberg, L. (CPSC)
 Paquette, A. (GSA)
 Perić, S. (ANTH/ARKY)
 Protzner, A. (PSYC)
 Radford, L. (MUSI)
 Ritter, E. (LING)
 Ryan, C. (SCIENCE)

Shandro, T. (GSA)
 Sherer, P. (MGMT)
 Simmons, M. (EDC)
 Snider, B. (MGMT-EMBA)
 Spencer, B. (EDER)
 Strous, M. (GEOS)
 Thundathil, J. (VMS)
 Tombe, T. (ECON)
 Wasmuth, J. (GRAD COLLEGE)
 Wright, Jim (MPATH)
 Wright, John (LCR)
 Wu, J. (MATHS)
 Wylant, B. (EVDS)
 Vamosi, J. (BISI)
 Yates, R. (FGS)
 Zimmerly, S. (BISI)
 Zhang, M. (GSA)

Members Absent

Hamel, C. (SAPL)
 Heggerud, C. (MBA)
 Konner, C. (CPSY)
 McCauley, E. (UCAL)
 Moody, C. (MGMT)
 Plume, R. (PHAS)
 Stallard, J. (MATHS)
 Thomas, M. (POLI)
 Torres, L. (LLAC)
 Tyler, M. (SAPL)
 Young, L. (PPOL)

**Faculty of Graduate
Studies Officers Present**

McLeod, C.
 Stiven, C.
 Waqar, H.

**Faculty of Graduate
Studies Officers Absent**
Guests
1.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chair called the meeting to order with a Territorial Acknowledgement and asked for approval of the agenda.

MOTION: Moved /Seconded

That FGS Council approve the agenda for the Faculty of Graduate Studies Council Meeting of May 6, 2021.

CARRIED

2.0 Approval of FGS Council Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Moved/Seconded

That FGS Council approve the minutes for the Faculty of Graduate Studies Council Meeting of April 1, 2021 *with a minor friendly correction and one abstention.*

CARRIED

3.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters raised at this time.

4.0 Report from the Chair

The Chair provided a presentation, highlighting current topics of interest. The following points were noted:

- The Chair welcomed the new Registrar Amy Dambrowitz and the new GSA rep Kristen Neprily to the FGS Council meeting. Justin McCallum, the new GPD from CHEM was also welcomed.
- Regarding COVID 19, the Chair mentioned that the research scholarly activities were not closed on campus and that the students and academics have access to their research (within parameters provided by the Province and accordance to the workplace safety plan). However, for those who can work from home, it is still encouraged to do so.
- Communication from IRCC – they have a significant back log of applications up to a year. Committed to provide decision on study permits prior to Aug 6, 2021 for a fall start (for all study permits that they received by May 15, 2021). Students should be encouraged to apply before May 15th. We are working with IRCC to see the best way forward regarding this.
- International Graduate Student Arrivals – Over 270 graduate students have completed their 14-day quarantine since September 2020. We currently have 23 students in quarantine. We are anticipating another 100 students before Aug. We have the 3-day mandatory hotel stay program in place. This is a collaboration between FGS and the GSA. FGS matches quality money dollar for dollar to cover the cost of the hotel as well as a few other perks.
- Fall 2021 – we are currently in the process of devising a plan for the students (depending on the government regulations).
- Our enrollment conversion numbers remain strong.
- Credit received or credit granted notations on transcripts – there will be no such options for students in the Spring/Summer 2021 term (as has been the case in the past two terms due to COVID19).
- Changes in Workflow of Payment of Scholarships –

(the Chair passed this item over to Sr. Strategic Director, Catherine McLeod)

This came about as a result of audit that was conducted. Compliance and payroll were consulted on this to ensure that the best approach was determined for payments. Huge impact on larger programs where 500+ payments are being processed.

5.0 Report from the Associate Deans

Main points of each of the AD reports are as follows:

Mary O' Brien (FGS Associate Dean)

- Mary mentioned that student exams can take place in the library. All of our exams will be online for the foreseeable future. We will be visiting the policy regarding this as provincial guidelines change.
- Regarding student accessibility issues, if you require a supervisor in the room for a particular reason, please reach out to Mary to chat further about potential exceptions.

- Students supervisors will be asked to acknowledge funding for visiting researchers. GSA cost of living calculator will be added to the applications page for visiting student researchers. Supervisors are also asked to indicate if they will be able to fund these students or not.
- Students must complete all their course work before they are considered for candidacy.
- Program Innovation hub has been hosting workshops for those programs which are developing new credentials. A D2L site has been launched for this as well.
- Reports from programs regarding 1-time FGS funding will be due on July 1st. Mary will send out a message to programs regarding the reports.

Donna Marie McCafferty (FGS Associate Dean)

- Donna-Marie talked about the various Tri Council results for the CGSD had been received.
- Vanier will be announced May 14th.
- Large GAC competition has now been adjudicated.
- Graduate Leadership circle has a new co-chair.

Clifton Cunningham (FGS Associate Dean)

- 21 student advising appointments were held in April by the Student Team.
- As aim to provide more resources to supervisors, the neutral chair guidelines have been updated.
- Upcoming deadline of May 17th regarding reports pertaining to students with low grades in Course based master and Cert/Dips.
- Jaya Dixit will be leaving the Student Team on April 21st, 2021.

Jalel Azaiez (FGS Associate Dean)

- Jalel briefed the council about the Suspension of the Cotutelle program and the Joint PhD program. Both of the items have been approved by the APPC and the changes are now reflected in the calendar.
- The item regarding Concurrent registration is now making its way through the approval and consultation process.

6.0

Report from the Graduate College Head

- It has been an active year for the College despite COVID19. The scholars have been engaging with the community and wider public e.g. Assisting the international students through the buddy program. To date the scholars have interacted with 117 new international students. Looking forward to continuing this in the Spring/Summer semesters and perhaps the Fall term as well.
- All public events, including the documentary session are being well attended.
- The number of scholars has increased from 50 to 75.
- Recently held elections for positions.

7.0

Report from the Graduate Students' Association

- Tanille welcomed everyone to the new semester.
- New Executive board at the GSA.
- The GSA Awards ceremony was held, recognizing 44 award winners in students, faculty, and staff.
- UPASS pilot program has started this spring/summer session.
- Alberta 2030 release has taken place.
- All Graduate Students are now eligible for vaccinations.
- Thesis Talk Thursday is an opportunity for Graduate Students to highlight what they're working on. 34 students have been highlighted over the course of the past semester.
- Partnership with Mitacs to run workshops has been successful.

- GSA has looked at ways to diversify revenue streams.
- This week is Grad Success Week – there are three days of sessions regarding this and are valuable for everyone.

8.0 Report from the General Faculties Council

- The last GFC meeting was on April 8th, 2021. Teri Balser's first meeting as Provost and VP Academic.
- President McCauley consulted with GSA regarding the Growth Through Focus Strategy.
- There was an update on the innovation research eco system.

9.0 Report from the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee Representative

- The GAPS Subcommittee has been working to ensure that the wording and other items in UCalgary Graduate Calendar are correct and up-to-date especially but not limited to statements of intellectual honesty, statements regarding conduct, tuition etc. have been reviewed and ensured that they are consistent.
- Application for the Leaders in Vet Med program was tabled pending further revisions.
- Two new advanced practice Nursing certificates were approved.
- Suspension of the PhD in Strategic Studies.

10.0 Report from the GFC Teaching and Learning Subcommittee Representative

- The GFC T&L Representative sent regrets.

11.0 Question Period

12.0 Annual Report from FGSC Executive

The FGSC Executive Committee remains an essential source of advice for the Dean. In addition to reviewing program changes and proposal for new programs, it has provided advice on a wide range of emerging issues. The Chair thanked Jalel Azaiez (as it was his last term) as well as all other committee members.

13.0 Annual Report from FGS Policy Committee

In the policy committee, major and minor changes are reviewed. Mary O' Brien thanked everyone for their contributions to the committee. A special thanks was provided to Jacob and Jalel.

14.0 Annual Report from FGS Appeals Committee

It has been a quiet year for the FGS Appeals Committee (especially as the University appeals process has changed). Only one appeal came to the committee and it didn't go to a hearing.

15.0 Annual Report from FGS Oversight Committee

The committee had two meetings this year. COVID19 impacted various awards. Issac Killam Memorial award was introduced. New Special awards were also introduced. Everyone on the committee was thanked.

16.0 Question / Answer Period

17.0 FGS Rep on GFC

Nominees were asked for in the Chair's report at the Last Council meeting. Tara Beattie, the current GFC representative has agreed for her nomination to stand as there are no other nominations.

MOTION: Moved /Seconded

That FGS Council approve Tara Beattie as the FGS Representative on General Faculties Council.

CARRIED

18.0

Non-voting members on thesis examination committees

- Programs often wish to have the expertise of a knowledge expert (e.g., Indigenous Elder or Knowledge Keeper, industry partner, practitioner) as part of the thesis examination process. Currently these individuals often serve as external examiners.
- This means that they are required to assess students' written work and oral performance in addition to asking questions at the examination.
- Such individuals often report feeling ill prepared and/or uncomfortable to perform assessment duties.
- The addition of a "non-voting member" category will enable programs to call on knowledge experts who will take part in examinations without being required to officially assess students' theses and oral performance (i.e., via the Examiner's Assessment of Thesis form or in the in-camera discussion).
- These individuals will, however, be encouraged to comment orally on the thesis and the oral performance at the outset of the in-camera discussion, after which time they will be invited to leave the discussion. In many instances, we anticipate that this new category will encourage a more satisfying and pertinent contributions for knowledge experts, especially for Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers.
- Programs are not required to assign knowledge experts to the category of "non-voting member". They are free to name them as external examiners when they feel that category would be more appropriate (i.e., when they would like them to assess the thesis and the oral examination).

Secretary's Note: This item will come back to the FGSC in the future.

19.0

EDI Discussion

- There has been an increasing spotlight on EDI in the academy. The conversation is evolving at the University. However, some of our steps towards in providing an equitable environment is fraught with different opinions.
- Tara Beattie talked to the Council to obtain some general feedback and discussion.
- CSM has put together a working group to look at what an equitable admission process would be with regards to Graduate Science Education.

Discussion took place regarding various aspects of EDI in the context of UCalgary.

**Other
Business**

Process and Systems Optimization (PaSO) Update

An update on Process and Systems Optimization was provided to the FGS Council.

Drops and Withdraws – Item will be uploaded onto D2L

Adjournment

The FGS Council adjourned the meeting at 4:48 pm