

Chair: R. Yates
 Recording Secretary: K. Suvan
 Attendance:

Members Present

Achari, G.
 Azaiez, J.
 Baral, K.
 Beattie, T.
 Bertram, J.
 Boyd, J.
 Braun, A.
 Braun, J.
 Campbell, L.
 Cao, C.
 Clarke, M.
 Cobb, J.
 Colpitts, G.
 Culos-Reed, N.
 Cunningham, C.
 Curtin, S.
 Dann, M.
 Fapojuwo, A.
 Field, J.
 Gibbs Van Brunshot, E.
 Groen, J.
 Halek, M.
 Hewson, J.
 King-Shier, K.
 Konnert, C.
 Kreitzer, L.
 Lenters, K.
 Levey, A.
 Mains, P.

Martini, C.
 McCafferty, D.
 McCoy, L.
 McDermid, G.
 O'Brien, M.
 Oddone Paolucci, E.
 Perić, S.
 Paquette, A.
 Protzner, A.
 Ritter, E.
 Ryan, C.
 Savchenko, A.
 Saweczko, A.
 Shandro, T.
 Sherer, P.
 Sideris, M.
 Stallard, J.
 Spangler, J.
 Spencer, B.
 Srivastava, A.
 Thangadurai, V.
 Thomas, M.
 Thundathil, J.
 Tombe, T.
 Vamosi, J.
 Vanderspoel, J.
 Wilcox, G.
 Wylant, B.
 Zhang, M.

Members Absent

Bakardjieva, M.
 Colicos, M.
 Dunn, J.
 Falkenberg, L.
 Iaria, G.
 Johnson, J.
 Leblanc, J.
 McCauley, E.
 Morton, C.
 Radford, L.

Simon, C.
 Snider, B.
 Strous, M.
 Tyler, M.
 Wasmuth, J.
 Woiceshyn, J.
 Wright, Jim
 Wright, John
 Young, L.
 Zimmerly, S.

**Faculty of Graduate Studies
Officers Present**

Nathoo, S.
 Robinson, G.
 Stiven, C.

**Faculty of Graduate Studies
Officers Absent**
Guests

Aycock, J.
 Baron, V.
 Hoglund, K.
 Stawnychko, L.
 Adams, B.
 Dixit, J.

1.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chair delivered the Treaty Acknowledgement and called the meeting to order. J. Thundathil requested that one item on Engineering specializations be added to the Agenda.

MOTION: Moved /Seconded

That FGS Council approve the agenda for the Faculty of Graduate Studies Council Meeting of April 2, 2020.

CARRIED

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES - FGS Council Committee Meeting February 27, 2020 Minutes
MOTION: Moved/Seconded

That FGS Council approve the minutes for the Faculty of Graduate Studies Council Meeting of February 27, 2020 with one minor date change.

CARRIED

3.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters raised at this time.

4.0

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

- Communications
 - Various communication platforms are being used to distribute information: GRADpost, GRADvisor, GRADlead, direct emails, town halls, round tables and the FGS COVID-19 website. FGS held a town hall with Cumming School of Medicine. If other Council members are interested in town halls, contact FGS.
- Student funding
 - Currently awaiting further details on CERB, CESB and Tri-Council (\$291 million). CESB and CERB should not be counted toward minimum funding guarantees.
 - The federal government has announced some student benefits; we are still awaiting further details and potential affects on scholarships.
 - Students must determine which option is most appropriate to their circumstances, i.e. leave of absence, CERB, CESB, etc.
- International Graduate Tuition Award (IGTA) - Pilot
 - This is designed for eligible thesis-based international students starting spring/summer/fall 2020; all other TB international students are to be paid as per current practice within programs. IGTA \$3,000 applied as credit. Details to be distributed in GRADvisor.
- New International travel restrictions
 - New international students can register and start programs from home countries when appropriate. The process to apply scholarships as credit is in progress.
- Oral exams
 - Oral candidacy and thesis defences to continue uninterrupted remotely. Temporary regulations are in place and GATs will be available upon request starting May 11.
- FGS update
 - ES1010 is closed but all units are operational via email and phone. Some extensions will be provided through the Scholarship office.
- Budget
 - There may be restrictions to expenditures during the first quarter; FGS is currently awaiting clarification.
- Graduate Student Survey
 - The survey focussed on students' perception of academic progress. Results show that concerns with progress are increasing as we move past spring term. There is positive feedback on the level and effectiveness of graduate supervision.
- Farewells and thank you to staff leaving positions
 - Thank you to the GPDs leaving their roles in 2020.
 - Thank you to four valued FGS staff members: two Associate Deans: Suzanne Curtin and Kim Lenters. Suzanne has accepted an appointment as the Dean of Graduate Studies at Brock University. Kim Lenters is moving on to focus on her research. Gill Robinson, Senior Director, is retiring, and Susan Larsen, the support for Council, is exploring new opportunities.
- Today is the last Council meeting of 2019/2020.

Discussion:

- Re-entry has not been determined, but a proposal drafted for CMT will be presented shortly. The priority is to get researchers access to shared research spaces. This will likely not be feasible until the University reaches stage 2. Return will be an institutional decision and not by faculty.

5.0

REPORTS FROM FGS ASSOCIATE DEANS

5.1 Suzanne Curtin and Kim Lenters, Associate Deans (Students)

- Academic Standing
 - Notifications to programs are being sent May 14 for students falling into poor standing. Programs are to respond by May 21. Meetings will be held with students to make recommendations to stay in program or withdraw.
- Student Enquiries

- There is an increase in student inquiries regarding paying fees, leave of absence requests, etc.
- Graduate Success Week
 - A number of online events were held in conjunction with the Student Success Centre. They were well received with 250 students participating on the first day alone. Feedback has been positive over the opportunity for students to interact and gather.

5.2 Donna-Marie McCafferty, Associate Dean (Scholarships)

D. McCafferty provided an update on scholarship competitions.

- UCalgary received nine Vanier awards, which is consistent with the previous five years. There were five CIHR, two NSERC, and two SSHRC awards.
- Tricouncil doctoral results: there were 28 doctoral NSERC awards, which is up from last year. We received 25 SSHRC, down from last year but second most successful year in the past five years. The results have not yet been announced for CIHR doctoral awards.
- The rank list for the Graduate Awards Competition has been generated; awards will be going out soon once the Killam budget is approved. The Killam Sub-Committee meeting is on May 12. Some awards will be going out in May, the rest will follow over the summer.

5.3 Jalel Azaiez, Associate Dean (Policy)

J. Azaiez provided an update on policy developments.

- Exam Contingency Form
 - There has been a revision to the contingency form for exams. This was communicated on GRADvisor as well as FGS's COVID-19 information page. The Dean's office also issued an email to staff involved with student exams to ensure everyone received the most recent information.
 - The old form should not be used any longer as the new form has links to Zoom support.
 - Exams should not be recorded unless specifically and explicitly agreed upon.
 - Students are required to provide additional contact information which may be used by the Neutral Chair in an emergency situation.
- Departments can add a statement in their letters of admission indicating that start dates are flexible due to COVID-19 circumstances.

R. Yates mentioned that J. Azaiez's term as Associate Dean (Policy) is finishing June 30, however J. Azaiez has accepted a one-year role as Senior Associate Dean in FGS.

6.0 REPORT FROM THE GRADUATE COLLEGE HEAD

J. Wasmuth was not in attendance.

7.0 REPORT FROM THE GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

R. Yates introduced the 2020-2021 GSA President, Tanille Shandro.

T. Shandro provided an update to the Committee

- New VPs were introduced to the Committee: Vice President, Academic: Alex Paquette; Vice President, External: Christine Cao; Vice President, Student Life: Mary Zhang; Vice President, Finance and Services: Kabita Baral.
- The GSA is working hard to develop goals and is reviewing the GSA's annual student survey.
- The GSA is waiting on details from the federal government regarding student support and exploring working with the Canadian Alliance Student Association to find supports for international students.

8.0 REPORT FROM THE GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

T. Beattie reported graduate student related highlights from the recent General Faculties Council meeting.

- Ergonomics was discussed and the importance of moving around and taking breaks.

- The Global Engagement Plan was presented and will be going to the next General Faculties Council.
- There will be an update on the mental health strategy progress report as it will be renewed in 2021.

9.0 REPORT FROM THE GRADUATE ACADEMIC PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE

P. Mains noted that numerous calendar changes were discussed and approved at GAPS. This included:

- Specialization in Healthcare Innovation and Design, Graduate Certificate in Nursing.
- Course-based one-year Master of Arts.

10.0 QUESTION PERIOD

No questions were asked at this time.

11.0 NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Annual FGSC Committee Reports

- **FGSC Appeals Committee – J. Aycock**
J. Aycock provided an update as per the report included in package. He thanked outgoing Committee members.
- **FGSC Policy Committee – J. Azaiez**
J. Azaiez provided an update as per the report included in the package. He thanked outgoing Committee members.
- **FGSC Awards Oversight Committee – D. McCafferty**
D. McCafferty provided an update as per the report included in the package. She thanked outgoing Committee members and R. Devinney for agreeing to stay on for another term.
- **FGSC Executive Committee – R. Yates**
R. Yates provided an update as per the report included in the package. He thanked outgoing Committee members.

11.2 CSM/WSE Program Changes – J. Groen/V. Baron/T. Beattie (3:30)

a) Credential Name Change

J. Groen requested approval to change the name Diploma of the Faculty of Education in Educational Research to Graduate Diploma in Educational Research.

- The existing name of the diploma refers to the faculty name prior to 2013. The proposed change aligns the diploma name with current practices.
- Current students can choose to retain the initial name or the new name. Previously awarded diplomas will not have the names changed.
- R. Yates requested that calendar references to the previous name be checked prior to going before the GFC.

MOTION: Moved /Seconded

That FGS Council approve the name change from Diploma of the Faculty of Education in Educational Research to Graduate Diploma in Educational Research.

CARRIED

b) Community Rehabilitation and Disabilities Studies Termination

T. Beattie presented the rationale for termination of the above specialization from the Faculty of Education.

- It has not been operational in six years. it was moved from Rehab to Cumming, but it was not made operational.

MOTION: Moved /Seconded

That FGS Council approve the termination of the specialization Community Rehabilitation and Disabilities Studies.

11.3 MDCS Suspension of Master's Program – T. Beattie

T. Beattie presented the rationale for suspending the Master of Disability and Community Studies (MDCS) program.

- Request to suspend admissions to this program until June 30, 2023.
- Applications and enrollment have been extremely low and teaching capacity was not available for all modules.
- Personalized plans for current students will be developed to ensure their education moves forward successfully.

MOTION: Moved /Seconded

That FGS Council approve the suspension of the Master of Disability and Community Studies.

CARRIED

11.4 CSM - Precision Health Professionals Program

B. Adams presented a proposal for three new Precision Health programs: Graduate Certificate in Precision Health in 2021, Graduate Diploma in Precision Health in 2022 and Master of Precision Health in 2023.

- The program is based on creating individualized patient plans by leveraging tools from data in computer and data science for use in critical decision-making on patient care.
- Four sub-specializations: Precision Medicine, Quality and Safety Leadership, Health Professional Education Leadership, and Innovation and Entrepreneurship. There are options within each arm of the model for further specialization.
- Potential for program to be used by health science students, faculty, nursing, pharmacy.
- Flexibility with timeframes to enable working health care professionals to have access.
- Future plans involve the potential for growing the program into multiple certificates, perhaps expanding into other sub-specializations and there is potential for stackable certificates.

Discussion:

- The application cohort will include people who did not get accepted to medical school but wish to pursue careers in health care. The certificate will strengthen skills and knowledge if students wish to reapply to medical school.
- Applicable to PhDs, returning faculty and practicing physicians interested in further credentialing.
- Not specifically linked to other professional designations, but complementary.
- Fee is \$3,000/course (\$713 for a standard graduate course). The cost difference is due to the factors that the program will be tailored so that applicants can be working full-time while studying, the cost is competitive with other professional programs, and there is a demand for certificate programs.
- Flexible course delivery based on 80/20 ratio of synchronized and asynchronous timeframes.
- Clarification was requested regarding whether the program is open to all students or only science students. T. Beattie to follow up and discuss governance details with her team.

MOTION: Moved /Seconded

That FGS Council approve the creation of the Graduate Certificate in Precision Health, the Graduate Diploma in Precision Health, and the Master of Precision Health.

CARRIED

11.5 Mental Health Survey Results – S. Curtin

Secretary's note: J. Dixit joined the meeting at 4:13.

S. Curtin and J. Dixit provided an overview of the Mental Health Survey results which was sent to all UCalgary graduate students.

- 28.16% responded, a total of 1782 students; 61% female and 39% male.
- Primarily Masters and PhD students; not many certificate students. Majority of respondents were from main campus and full-time. There were about 500 international students and 50 indigenous students.

- 1124 out of 1782 students rated their mental health as fair to negative.
- Questions: is the student comfortable approaching their supervisor? Average rating was a 4.8 of 7. Is the student's graduate program supportive? Average rating was 4.8 out of 7.
- Biggest contributing factors to mental health: school, finances, personal issues, relationships, worries over the future.
- Social support was the most important factor in improving mental health. Other factors are physical health, better access to services, work/life balance, self-care.
- 40% had accessed mental health services. Satisfaction with level of care was 4 out of 5.
- Universities can help access to mental health services by more awareness, access (times), anonymity, cost/coverage, and staff.
- Less than half of students rated mental health as good or very good; one-third of students accessed mental health services and half of those who didn't thought they should have.
- Time was biggest barrier to accessing services.

Next steps:

- An overview is being prepared for graduate students. This will be updated on the website with findings, resources, gaps and feedback.
- Currently analyzing qualitative data from focus groups and developing a presentation for campus partners.
- A report is being written with recommendations for FGS.
- Developing a dashboard for stakeholders to access.
- The Student Team will be presenting at CACUSS in 2021, the Canadian Association of College and University Student Services.

12.0 SCHOLARSHIPS

The following scholarships were presented for information purposes: Biostatistics, IGTA Spring, IGTA Summer, IGTA Fall, IGTA Winter.

13.0 OTHER BUSINESS

J. Thundatil informed Council about new specializations underway:

- Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine
- Epidemiology
- Wildlife Health and Ecology

Any programs interested in these specializations, please let him know.

14.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 pm. The next meeting will be on Oct. 1.