

MINUTES
October 28, 2021
Zoom meeting
2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Chair: R. Yates

Recording Secretary: H. Waqar

Attendance:

Members Present			Members Absent	Faculty of Graduate Studies Officers Present
Achari, G. (SSE)	Hunt, J-D (ENCL)	Tombe, T. (ECON)	Baral, K. (GSA)	McLeod, C.
Amedegnato O. (LLAC/FISL/GSEA)	King-Shier, K. (NURS)	Vamosi, J. (BISI)	Beattie, T. (CSM)	Nathoo, S.
Anderson, D. (CSM)	Keller, J. (CMMS)	Wu, L-A (CPSC/DataSci)	Bertram, J. (BMEN)	Stiven, C.
Blue, G. (GEOG)	Krawetz, R. (MDBT)	Wylant, B. (SAPL)	Brown, J-A (PHAS)	Waqar, H.
Bonni, S. (MDSC)	Lashewicz, B. (MDCH)	Yates, R. (FGS)	Colicos, M (MDNS)	
Boyd, J. (CPSC)	Leblanc, J. (ART)	Zhang, M. (GSA)	De Koning, J. (MBBC)	
Braun, A. (MDCV)	Levey, A. (PHIL)		Hastings-Simon, S. (SEDV)	
Campbell, L. (LAW)	MacCallum, J. (CHEM)		Hedges, P. (MGMT DBA)	Faculty of Graduate Studies Officers Absent
Clarke, M. (ENCH)	MacDonald, J. (MBBC)		Hamel, C. (SAPL)	
Colpitts, G. (ARTS)	McCafferty, D-M. (FGS)		Heggerud, C. (MBA)	
Cunningham, C. (FGS)	McLaughlin, A-M (SOWK)		Jacobson, M. (CPSC)	
Dambrowitz, A. (Registrar)	McGrath, D. (PSYC)		McCauley, E. (UCAL)	
Dimitropoulos, G. (SOWK)	Neprily, K. (GSA)		Moody, C. (MGMT)	Guests
Dolata, P. (HIST)	O'Brien, M. (FGS)		Morton, C. (ENME)	
Doyle-Baker. T. (KNES)	Oehlberg, L. (CPSC)		Nguyen, M-D (MDNS)	
Drefs, M. (FGS)	Paquette, A. (GSA)		Snider, B. (MGMT-EMBA)	
Ducey, A. (SOC)	Pounder, A. (LING)		Spencer, B. (EDER)	
Fapojuwo, A. (ENEC)	Radford, L. (MUSI)		Terriff, T. (POLI)	
Field, J. (EDER)	Ryan, C. (SCIENCE)		Wilson, W. (ANTH/ARKY)	
Forlini, S. (ENGL)	Schroeder, M. (EDC)		Wright, Jim (MPATH)	
Greenberg, M. (Data Sci/Math)	Shandro, T. (GSA)		Wright, John (LCR)	
Halek, M. (MGMT)	Sherer, P. (MGMT)		Wu, J. (MATHS)	
Hexham, I. (GRST/RELS)	Simmons, M. (EDC)		Wasmuth, J. (GRAD COLLEGE)	
Hiebert, M. (CMSS)	Stefanakis, E. (ENGO)		Young, L. (PPOL)	
	Thundathil, J. (VMS)			
	Tomfohr-Madsen, L. (CPSY)			

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 October 28, 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 September 23, 2021.

CARRIED with friendly amendments to the attendance list

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:

- UCalgary is in budget planning stages for 2022-2023.
- The Chair mentioned that the Faculty of Graduate Studies is a strategic priority for UCalgary.
- The Chair described the breakdown of FGS operating budget and briefly talked about student tuition and the proposed tuition increases.
- There are GPD resources are now present on the FGSC D2L site. The Chair encouraged everyone to look at these resources.
- The vaccine requirement mandate was discussed. Most graduate students have been compliant with the Thrive App. COVID related travel restrictions and in person vs. online course delivery was also mentioned.
- Support for Thesis based graduate students who are vaccinated but under supervision of an unvaccinated individual was brought up by the GSA Rep.
- The Chair called for nomination from the Council members for the RSL Committee.

5.0 Report from the Associate Deans

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

Mary O' Brien (FGS Associate Dean)

- Concurrent enrolment and definitions of FT / PT status that has been brought to the Council in the past are currently under hold and review.
- The programs were asked to please connect with Mary in the case that changes to funding policies and/or supervisor regulations and policies were made.
- The Council was also asked to send recommendations to GPD resources to Mary.

Donna Marie McCafferty (FGS Associate Dean)

- Completed the Vanier competition – which has just been adjudicated.
- CGS doctoral competition is currently under review.
- CGSM workshop has just been held. Recording is available for those who were unable to attend.
- Donna – Marie brought everyone's attention to the TORs in the information only package attached to the meeting documents.

Michelle Drefs (FGS Associate Dean)

- Michelle reported on behalf of the FGS Student Team.
- 2nd GPD Orientation was held last month.
- Student Team held 2 Let's Talk Supervisor events this cycle. These workshops are intended to help students model successful student supervisor relationships. The programs were asked to

reach out to the Student Team, in case they are interested in hosting such a workshop for their team.

- New Supervisor Workshop for supervisory privileges is November 26th (please reach out to the FGS Student Team if interested).

6.0 Report from the Graduate College Head

- The Graduate College Head sent regrets.

7.0 Report from the Graduate Students' Association

- Tuition discussions with the Graduate students and UCalgary are currently taking place.
- The GSA has participated in the first Academic Integrity week which had lots of student participation.
- Tanille mentioned numerous events currently taking place through the GSA or those that GSA is a part of - such as The Transgender Day of Remembrance, UFlourish, Rainbow Coffee Chats, Mental Health speaker series and a new TA workshop series at the Taylor Institute.
- A partnership with MITACS with regards to Internships has been developed by the GSA.
- Quality Graduation Supervision have been undergoing.
- Financial literacy month with numerous workshops is coming up next month.
- Record number of GSA bursaries applications for October have been received.
- Health and Dental fees will no longer be automatically charged for students starting Spring 2022 and are over 65.
- GSA is working with direct billing services for the Wellness services centre.
- Sponsorship with a Sports Check VIP event with up to 75% discount has been made.
- Mental health support surveys are taking place.

8.0 Report from the General Faculties Council

- GFC Rep sent regrets.

9.0 Report from the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee Representative

- First meeting of GAPS had a short agenda. GAPS approved to move forward on DN program.

10.0 Report from the GFC Teaching and Learning Subcommittee Representative

- Special meeting was held to review the USRI recommendation report. This was incorporated into the current draft copy. Last review of the USRI was 2003.

11.0 Question Period

- Clarification for the Graduate Scholarships workshops and the name of the facilitator.
- Registration process for the new supervisor workshop was discussed.
- Resources for new supervisors and links are to be added to the GPD Resources on the D2L Site.

12.0 Approval of Revisions to Section M (Thesis Examinations) of the Graduate Calendar

- Addition of an advisory 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.
- These individuals will be encouraged to comment orally on the thesis and the oral performance at the outset of the in-camera discussion.
- It is anticipated that this new category will encourage 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 advisory member. They are free to name them as external examiners when they feel that category would be more appropriate.

- The clarification regarding the in-camera discussions following the defence will ensure that the student and the supervisor have clear guidance regarding the expectations for revisions.
- There was discussion surrounding if such a member could potentially a voting member.
- There was discussion around the MFA program, and it was suggested by the chair to have a further off-line discussion.
- There was discussion surrounding this role and that of the external examiner.
- Western vs. Indigenous way of conducting conversation was discussed.
- It was noted that this is an addition of a category, but the programs still have the agency to not use this.

MOTION

That the Faculty of Graduate Studies Executive Committee recommend to the Faculty of Graduate Studies Council the revisions to Section M (Thesis Examinations) of the Graduate Calendar.

CARRIED

13.0

Flexible Grade Option (CG Grade)

- The current definition of the Flexible Grade Option (CG Grade) in Section F.1.3 of the academic calendar applies only to undergraduate programs, and historically the CG grade has not been an option for graduate programs.
- The recommendations proposed here are based on feedback from focus groups, a survey of programs conducted in Summer 2021, the FGS Policy Committee and additional consultations with programs and the Registrar as well as other U15 across Canada.
- The current undergraduate definition states that a maximum of 9 units may have a CG grade over an entire degree program. At the graduate level, 3 units would be the maximum. The CG grade option will only be offered in certain graduate courses. To opt for the CG grade students must be in good academic standing and achieve a minimum final grade of B- or above.
- It was discussed that perhaps it should be mentioned in the proposal if the student is to choose this option prior to the start, the middle or the end of the course.

MOTION

That the Faculty of Graduate Studies Council recommend approval of the proposal to define the Flexible Grade Option (CG Grade) for graduate programs.

CARRIED with the recommended amendments, four oppositions and one abstention

Secretary's note: Amanda, Meadow, Martin and David opposed.

Registrar proposed some suggested amendments to make the language consistent with the Undergraduate programs. However, the changes do not alter the proposal. Other amendments were suggested by programs that may be included in the proposal at a later time.

14.0

Funding Operating Standard

- Current minimum PhD funding is \$18,000/year (\$22,000/year for international students) for 4 years. The proposal is to increase this minimum amount to \$24,000/year for four years for all thesis-based students.
- There is currently no funding requirement for Master's students. While many programs offer funding to their Master's students, this funding can as low as the value of a single GA assignment. The proposal is to provide minimum funding of \$18,000/year for all Master's students for 2 years.
- Since the most recent revisions, we have launched the IGTA (i.e., additional scholarship funding of \$3,000 for all international graduate students), which will effectively bring the guaranteed

minimum funding for international graduate students to \$27,000.

- It was suggested by the Chair for all GPDs to take this to their departments and email Mary O' Brien and / or Robin Yates to further discuss this issue.
- A breadth of prospective were discussed. The proponent and the Chair committed to further consultation in other forums outside of this FGSC meeting.

Other Business

Adjournment The FGS Council meeting ended at 4:39 pm