

**MINUTES**  
**February 29, 2024**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**2:30-4:30pm**

Chair: T. Beattie

Recording Secretary: I. Hernandez

<b>Members Present</b> Badry, Dorothy (SOWK) Bonni, Shirin (MDSC) Bratishenko, Elena (LLAC) Braun, Andrew (MDCV) Campbell, Lyndsay (LAW) Chastko, Paul (HIST) Cunningham, Clifton (FGS) Dalton, Colin (ENEL/ENEC) Dambrowitz, Amy (Registrar) Davidson, Phil (EMBA) de Barros, Alexandre (ENCI) de Koning, Jason (MBBC) Drefs, Michelle (FGS) Du, Ke (Duke) (MME) Forlini, Stefania (FGS) Gao, Yang (ENGO) GSA VP External Hall, David (VMS) Hill, Alexander (CMSS) Hughes, Lisa (ART) Jamniczky, Heather (CSM) Kiani, Ali (Precision Health) Knudsen, David (PHAS) Kwok, Siu Ming (SPP) Lashewicz, Bonnie (MDCH)	MacDonald, Justin (MBBC) Madigan, Sheri (CPSY) Martin, Yvonne (MGIS) McCallum, Justin (Science) Nowell, Lorelli (NURS) Ogilvie, Travis (MDPA) Osiyevskyy, Oleks (FGS) Pandes, Ari (MBA/EMBA) Priest, Jeff (SSE) Protzner, Andrea (PSYC) Radford, Laurie (SCPA) Savchenko, Alexei (CSM) Skordos, Dimitrios (LING) Schroeder, Meadow (EDC) Shanahan, Marie-Claire (EDER) Simmons, Marlon (EDC) Tretter, Eliot (GEOG) Ogunfowora, Tunde (Haskayne) Tuxhorn, Kim-Lee (POLI) Vanek, Morgan (ENGL) Welling, Joelle (ARTS) Woelfel, Philipp (CPSC) Wong, Joanna (MME) Wu, Jingjing (MATHS) Zach, Richard (PHIL) Zarembeg, Vanina (BISI)	<b>Faculty of Graduate Studies</b> <b>Officers Present</b> McLeod, Catherine Stiven, Cathie Hernandez, Ingrid  <b>Guests</b> Kelly Hoglund Tara Christie Kyle Bronwyn Farr Milena Marshall
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Land Acknowledgement – Tara Beattie

*Secretary's note: No quorum. The Chair of the meeting refers the business of the meeting to the Faculty of Graduate Studies Council Committee.*

**1.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Moved/Seconded

That the Faculty of Graduate Studies Council Committee approve the agenda for the Faculty of Graduate Studies Council Meeting of February 29, 2024.

**CARRIED**

1 abstention

**2.0 APPROVAL OF FGS COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Moved/Seconded

That the Faculty of Graduate Studies Council Committee approve the minutes for the Faculty of Graduate Studies Council Meeting of January 11, 2024.

**CARRIED**

### **3.0 Business Arising from the Minutes**

N/A

### **4.0 Report from the Chair**

- EDI Week March 4-8<sup>th</sup>
- 3-Minute Thesis Finals, April 10<sup>th</sup> 5:00-7:30pm
- Funding envelope

### **5.0 Reports from Associate Deans**

#### **5.1 Michelle Drefs**

- PPT (added to D2L)

#### **5.2 Dave Anderson**

- Over the last month we have been working on several areas to ready the Transdisciplinary programs for what we hope will be approved in the relatively near future.
- On the thesis-based programs in transdisciplinary research, we have now a working draft of a policy handbook that has been approved by our provisional oversight committee; the next stage will be to bring it forward to the FGS Policy committee, and then to GAPS, over March. We have also been engaging with both the Scholarship team at FGS and the Institutes for Transdisciplinary Scholarship to look at a sustainable ongoing model for Transdisciplinary scholarships moving forward and hope to have a concrete plan articulated within the next 2-3 months.
- On the course-based certificates and master's in transdisciplinary studies, we have confirmed our plan for a "soft launch" this upcoming September, wherein only the Certificate specialization in Social Research Methods will be running for the 24-25 year, with the remaining specialization areas, as well as the master's level of the program planned to be in the 25-26 year.

#### **5.3 Dan McGrath**

- We received a record number of GAC applications this year – just over 2000. The Awards team will be sending out requests for GAC adjudicators.

### **6.0 Report from the Interim Head of the Graduate College (Cunningham)**

- A number of events under development, outward-looking.
- New members for executive committee members, incoming.
- GCOC scheduling first meeting.
- Actively looking for space, working with other members of the community.
- Graduate College Coordinator – posting for this position to be posted soon.

### **7.0 Report from the Graduate Student's Association President (Steele)**

- With the help of FGS, launched a food housing survey.

- Encourage grad students to do the survey. Will share the data with council.
- Election season for the GSA.

**8.0 Report from the Registrar (Dambrowitz)**

- Provincial gov't, attestation letter required for some students.
- March 14<sup>th</sup> moving to the new calendar software.
- Students will be able to access three different kinds of letters. Confirmation of registration, Applied to graduate letter, and confirmation of credential letter. This will change the turnaround time. More information coming.

**9.0 Urgent Business from GFC, GAPS, TLC, RSC**

N/A

**10.0 Nominations – Awards Oversight Committee****MOTION:** Moved/Seconded

That the Faculty of Graduate Studies Council Committee approve the nominations of Dr. Alexandre de Barros, Dr. Lorelli Nowell, and Dr. Dimitrios Skordos to the Awards Oversight Committee effectively immediately.

**CARRIED****11.0 Termination of Graduate Certificate in Pipeline Engineering****MOTION:** Moved/Seconded

That the Faculty of Graduate Studies Council Committee recommend to the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) the termination of the Graduate Certificate in Pipeline Engineering effective July 1st, 2025, as set out in the documents provided.

**CARRIED**

1 abstention

**12.0 IRCC Update, application, and recruitment**

- **Current Challenges in the Graduate Enrolment Environment**
  - Down in applications by 33%, International down by 42%, Offers down by 8%, TB down 42%
  - Reasons we are seeing this: cost of living, IRCC cap; confusing messaging especially related to graduate students.
  - Study permit renewals will not be impacted.
  - Confirmation of the number of permits will be communicated to the community.
    - The attestation letter process will be launched. We are the first out of the gate, this is positive for UCalgary.
    - Inundated with issues, a resource webpage has been created, this webpage will be time-dated, it will be kept current.
  - Call to Action

- There is an urgent to focus on recruitment for 2024-25 and to nurture/admit those in the pipeline.
- We need to prioritize getting applications in and offers out as quickly as possible.
- Prioritize responding to inquiries from prospective students.
- Inquiries and Messaging
  - Currently developing key messaging. They will be shared with council.
  - Certs/Dips study permit cap does apply.
  - Recruitment Strategies
    - Program highlight week
    - Webinars
    - Working with ISS for a webinar
    - Undergraduate – fairs through April, March in-person events.
    - If programs would like to customized webinars, reach out to FGS.
  - Where we need programs to support. Tap into available recruitment strategies that could have short-term impact.
  - We can keep recruiting domestic students. Make up some of the difference.
  - Processing applications need to be prioritized and expedited.
- Working on a social media campaign to get the correct message out.
- If you have issues with this, reach out to FGS or Catherine.
- SLATE – We will be able to leverage this tool with your team.
- Next steps
  - We will keep you updated as we learn more.
  - Will be circulating key messages for distribution.
- The trend is the same in Western Canada (Alberta/BC), with a decrease in international and domestic.
- We want GPD's to know that Managers in programs have been informed.

### 13.0 Questions

### 14.0 Scholarship ToR – for information on D2L

### 15.0 FGS Process and Systems Optimization (PaSO) & Graduate Student Journey Transformation - for information on D2L

#### Other Business

Adjournment at 4:30pm