

**Summary of a Meeting of the
COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH
Held in the Council Chamber, University Hall
Wednesday, February 16, 2011, 2:00 pm**

Attendance

M Shirvani, Dean in the Chair R Poliquin, Vice-Dean
J Harrington, Assoc Dean P Melançon, Assoc Dean

Department Representatives

D Stuart, Biochemistry	A Powar-Grewal, Lib & Info Studies
J White, Business MBA	T Hillen, Math & Statistical Sciences
D Cooper, Business PhD	S Karapetrovic, Mechanical Engg
M Glerum, Cell Biology	D Burshtyn, Med Microbiology & Immun
B Hayes, Chemical & Mat Engg	M Carriere, Modern Lang & Cultural Std
T Lowary, Chemistry	S Smallwood, Music
R Greiner, Computing Science	D Collins, Neuroscience
C Flores Mir, Dentistry	A El-Kadi, Pharmacy & Pharmaceut Sci
M Adolphson, East Asian Studies	L Kline, Physiology
D Chovanec, Educ Policy Studies	N Galambos, Psychology
G Buck, Educational Psychology	J Volden, Rehabilitation Science
R McKay, Educational Studies	A Hamann, Renewable Resources
T Zackodnik, English & Film Studies	J Rule, Rural Economy
M Adria, Communications & Tech	M Horn, Secondary Education
B Skrypnik, Human Ecology	K Hughes, Sociology
J Martin, Lab Med & Pathology	P Schneider, Speech Pathology & Aud
L Reif, Law	

Graduate Program Administrator Representatives

J Forslund, Agricultural, Food & Nutr Science
D Giles, Cell Biology

Graduate Student Representatives

N Yousefi, V-P Student Svcs, GSA T Bureyko, Agricultural, Food & Nutr Sci
A Rawluk, V-P Academic, GSA B Jensen, Earth & Atmospheric Sci
J Babicheva, Modern Lang & Cultural Studies

Ex officio

A Schmude, Office of the Registrar

Guests/Observers

C Amrhein, Provost
T Krukoff, Associate Dean, Medicine & Dentistry
O Rossier, Linguistics
T Scott, Vice-Dean, Business
G Kendal, Registrar
H Zwicker, Associate Dean, Arts
F Hey, Public Health

1 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

2 SUMMARY OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

a Approval of the December 15, 2010 summary minutes

T Hillen's name was added to the list of attendees. The minutes were approved as amended.

b Matters arising

None.

3 FORMAL BUSINESS

3.1 Overlapping Dual Master's Degrees: MBA Programs

Council had before it proposals for an Overlapping Program with 1) the School of Business MBA program and the Nagoya University of Commerce and Business and 2) the School of Business MBA program and WHU – Otto Beisheim School of Management.

It was moved by J Harrington and seconded by D Cooper that the following proposals be approved:

1) the proposal for an overlapping program between the Alberta School of Business and the Nagoya University of Commerce and Business; 2) the proposal for an overlapping program between the Alberta School of Business and WHU – Otto Beisheim School of Management.

J White, Associate Dean, and T Scott, Vice-Dean, School of Business, presented the proposals. In her brief introduction, J White noted that both partner universities were quality, accredited institutions.

The motion to approve the first proposal was PUT and CARRIED, 35 – 0, 3 abstentions.

The motion to approve the second proposal was PUT and CARRIED, 36 – 0, 3 abstentions.

3.2 Combined MD/MBA

Council had before it a proposal for a combined MD/MBA. J White and T Scott, School of Business, presented the proposal.

It was moved by P Melançon and seconded by D Cooper that the proposal to offer a combined MD/MBA be approved. J White provided a brief introduction to the proposal noting that offering these existing programs in a combined format was a commonly practiced arrangement (eg, Harvard, Stanford, McGill) and would be one of five combined degrees offered in the Alberta School of Business.

The motion was PUT and CARRIED, 36 – 0, 2 abstentions.

4 INFORMAL BUSINESS

a. Announcements and Reports by the Chair and Councillors 1. Teaching Development initiatives for graduate students

Council had before it a document summarizing the findings of the Graduate Teaching Professional Development Committee to date and requesting feedback from departments and graduate students on future directions for graduate teaching program initiatives. R Polziehn presented the document and again requested feedback and welcomed those interested in participating in the development of any initiatives.

2. English Language Proficiency task force update

P Melançon gave a brief report to Council on the activities of the group. The scope of the work involved reviewing English language proficiency issues pre-admission and once the students are here on campus. He indicated he had asked M Hui, Executive Director of the English Language Program, Faculty of Extension to present information on Extension's offerings at an upcoming FGSR Council meeting. He asked for feedback on issues and challenges for departments and students on this issue (or even solutions that have been implemented by departments). The Chair noted that departments can make a case to FGSR to admit without an English language proficiency examination and that FGSR can admit with conditions. He also noted the challenges faced by FGSR if the student failed to meet the deadline for meeting conditions. There was a further discussion on challenges and pressures faced by students in attempting to meet conditions. It was noted that rigorous screening was a better strategy than dealing with the issues post-admission.

b. Report of the Graduate Students' Association

Council had before it the February 2011 Report of the GSA. It was noted that the general elections for the GSA will take place March 3 – 10. The GSA Awards Night will be held on March 10 and a record number of nominations for the awards had been received.

c. Question Period

D Cooper questioned one of the eligibility criteria (at least two terms of teaching) for the Graduate Student Teaching Awards, noting that in the Business PhD program most students teach only one term. The Chair replied that this was a longstanding policy but may be time to revisit and agreed to review the criteria to reflect current conditions.

Provost C Amrhein then joined FGSR Council. After a few brief introductory comments, he then welcomed questions and comments. Councillors requested clarification on the following: FLE funding coming to Faculties to which the Provost reviewed the various budgets/government funding that had been provided over the last several years; in response to a comment on the challenges of funding graduate programs in a period of non-growth, he noted that budget decisions are left to the Deans and that while there was capacity to convert undergraduate to graduate funding, there was no capacity to admit unfunded students; the challenges (eg, financial, funding the graduate student fee differential) of increasing international graduate enrolment were noted by Councillors and the Provost commented that the proportion of international enrolment is best decided in departments but that the University needed to further attract international students under various sponsored programs and bridging initiatives. The Provost reported that the Academic Plan had been through the consultation phase and would now go through the university system. He advised Councillors that if they had any further comments on the Academic Plan there was still an immediate opportunity to do so.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:53 pm.