

Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

2:00 to 4:00 pm

University of Alberta Council Chamber, 2-100 University Hall

Attendance at FGSR Council – February 24, 2016**Department Council Rep**

AFNS, Rene Jacobs
Biochemistry, David Stuart
Biological Sciences, Tracy Raivio
Business MBA, Michael Maier
Business PhD, David Deephouse
Chemistry, Mark McDermott
Civil and Environmental Engineering, Dave Chan
Communications & Technology (MACT),
Communication Sciences and Disorders, Teresa Paslawski
Educational Policy Studies, Heather Kanuka
Educational Psychology, George Buck
Elementary Education, Doug Gleddie
English and Film Studies, Julie Rak
History and Classics, Adam Kemezis
Human Ecology, Arlene Oak
Linguistics, David Beck
Mechanical Engineering, John Doucette
Med Sci – Lab Med and Path, Jelena Holovati
Med Sci-Medical Genetics, Sarah Hughes
Med Sci-Pediatrics, Sujata Persad
Med Sci – Dentistry, Pat Flood
Nursing, Pauline Paul
Physical Education & Recreation, Donna Goodwin
Occupational Therapy, Lili Liu
Physical Therapy, Mark Hall
Physics, Richard Marchand
Psychiatry, Ester Fujiwara
Secondary Education, Catherine Adams
Sociology, Sara Dorow
Surgery, Thomas Churchill
Women and Gender Studies, Michelle Meagher

Associate Deans Graduate

Arts, Tom Spalding
Medicine and Dentistry, Hanne Ostegaard
Rehab Med, Bernadette Martin
Science, Chris Sturdy

Graduate Program Administrators (GPAC)

Daneel Blair, Computing Science
Heather Cook, Anthropology

GSA Representatives

Sarah Ficko, GSA VP Labour
Harsh Thaker, GSA VP Academic
Surash Chandra Bairwa, Medicine
Alicia Cappello, HuCo/MLIS
Michal Juhas, Psychiatry
Hannah Madsen (MLIS/MBA)
Estacio Pereira, Civil and Env Engg
Shichao Yue, Mechanical Engg
Ahmad Al-Dabhegh, Electrical and Computer Engineering

Ex officio

Tom Hidson, Office of the Registrar
Christopher Michell-Viret, Alumni Council

FGSR

Debby Burshtyn, Assoc Dean
Bryan Hogeveen, Assoc Dean
Suzanne Kresta, Assoc Dean
Veronica Smith, Assoc Dean
Mary Sturgeon, Assistant Dean (Administration)
Heather Zwicker, Vice-Provost and Dean
Medha Samarasinghe, Executive and Operations Assistant

Guests/Observers:

Janice Hurlburt, FGSR
Joyce Anderson, FGSR
Nancy Evans, Sociology Grad Advisor
Caroline Kinyua, Political Science Grad Advisor
Paul Melançon, Med Sci, SHANTOU

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1. **Meeting was called to order** at 2:03 pm (Heather Zwicker)

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Item 10 - Post-baccalaureate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education from Educational Policy Studies – deferred to next meeting.

Agenda was Approved by show of hands.

3. **Approval of Previous Minutes**

Request to add details of Loomio online conversations to last month's minutes before they are posted.

Agenda was Approved with changes.

4. **Matters Arising From the Minutes**

None.

5. **Report from the Dean** (Heather Zwicker)

Inspiring Possibilities event on March 8, 2016 for Indigenous undergrads to learn about graduate school. Breakout groups will be heart of meeting; allowing students to talk to administrators, grad students and other grad educators. FGSR is interested to see what comes of it. Blog post will be in The Quad next week, authored by Dean Zwicker. Council members are invited to attend, and were asked to keep your grad students informed.

Veronica Smith offering a 10 week to journal publication workshop for grad students. Beginning two weeks into March at about 4pm. An announcement in the FGSR Professional Development e-bulletin on Friday February 26, 2016 will have more details.

A question was asked at the last meeting: Are students in dual degrees counted more than once in enrolment reporting? The answer is no; dual degrees considered a single program and there's no double dipping.

March 11 2016 – Killam Award for Excellence in Mentoring is due. We wish to work that committee very hard; historically this has been undersubscribed. Has gone predominantly to people in lab-based disciplines, and there have been 14 awards to men and 4 to women.

March FGSR Council meeting has been cancelled. Any objections? We are hosting an informal meeting of Council members on March 18 2016 during Noon hour, to review and workshop the draft of the Institutional Strategic Plan. Have seen an early draft and the content is exciting.

April 13 2016 - FGSR Council meeting (new date for April) – That evening is our 3-Minute Thesis (3MT) finals. Cordially inviting you all to attend, but a formal invite will be sent out shortly.

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May 6 2016 – Hosting Dr Mahadeo Sukhai who is an Ontario-based doctor who works with graduate students with disabilities. Presenting findings and leading discussion. Takeaway is to get insight into how we can best support students with disabilities.

May 11 2016 – Last FGSR Council meeting for academic year.

May 31 2016 – Congress Mobilizing Graduate students for diverse degrees. Put together by Dean of Grad Studies at UCalgary. For GC, Faculty supervisors, etc. You'll see more details coming through various advertising.

June 21 2016 – Curricular retreat with Sarah Stein Greenburg from Stanford dSchool, with follow-up event on June 22 for wider community.

Question regarding the Inspiring Possibilities event: does FGSR have special fellowships and awards for recruitment of Indigenous students?

B Hogeveen - Yes, new Indigenous award whose deadline is past. However, the Master's recruitment scholarship, second round deadline is March 1 2016. Indigenous Grad Award is restricted to students already in the program.

6. **Notice of Motion: Laddering Diplomas and Certificates into Course-based Master's** (Debby Burshtyn)

Dr Burshtyn introduced the Notice of Motion for the Laddering item discussed at January 2016 meeting, to be brought to next FGSR Council meeting for vote.

Notice of Motion: *Be it resolved that the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council approve the proposed Calendar and GPM wording for laddering of Post Baccalaureate Certificates into Course-based Master's programs.*

Premise is to provide alternate and more flexible pathways for learners. Programs could be constructed that there are bundles of courses that could build toward course based degrees. We have minimum requirement of 24 credits with capping exercise.

Terminology – AGPA, Admission GPA (last 60 credits or equivalent to two years of study)

Embedded Certificate – credentials obtained within a program, typically no admission requirement,

Free Standing

We've been working with a draft document from the Province (per GoA website)

PBC – Intent is pursuit of coursework without committing to a Master's degree

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Typically 9 credits, entrance requirements is undergrad degree, must meet FGSR minimum but not necessarily master's minimum.

BEAC approved free stand certificates as university credential. Can't use base budget, must be cost-recovery. But revenue comes to Departments/Faculties through revenue sharing model.

Tuition fee regulation – being exempt from that means you can be outside approved general tuition increases.

Will make the presentation available to all FGSR Council members.

Have to deal with the academic issue of laddering.

Course based Master's have a six year timeframe, PBCs have a four year timeframe. Left the word "normally" to provide some flexibility.

Note too, the Early Exit; one of the other ways these can be used is to allow people who have committed to a master's program to opt out.

Notice of Motion: Looking for advice and criticism of the wording.

Council member question: Sum of three certificates is not an equivalent of a master's degree?

D Burshtyn - We held back the capping exercise.

Council member commented on certificate having to be stand alone and cost recovery.

H Zwicker – Have attempted to grapple some big academic issues for a while. Involved conversations on revenue generation, and what would that look like? Also developing professional Master's streams for people just looking to build up their credentials and earn more money. Offering programs at Master's level but recognizing the financial issues of students not having enough money, and also pricing degrees the way airlines price seats. This is why we want to include the dollar side of this, but we want FGSR to arrive on the academic side of the issue.

Council member question: Do we now have good regulations for what it means that no base budgets can be used for these? We've been told it's going to be used very strictly, and others have said the opposite.

D Burshtyn – A level of scrutiny is going to change.

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Question from council member: Explain the difference between revenue generation and cost recovery? We're using them because they're two separate things? Is that deliberate? Being clear about what's behind the high level policies?

H Zwicker – not sure about intentionality. But your description is correct. You can price a program under cost recovery or you can project out to what a program might cost in a few years. There are currently no regulations for revenue generating programs; this government has signaled that this is off the table.

Council member comment – Revenue generation has been a problem for institutions across the country. As a policy, that pressure is not going away. Prudent to think about what programs we could offer in the future.

D Burshtyn - Admission GPA – 2.7 minimum but some programs have higher standards. On calculation of transferring over, UCalgary is looking at it selectively. We're looking at it as a packet.

It will be up to individual programs to decide whether they're going to credit those certificates.

Write to Heather Zwicker or Debby Burshtyn if you have any additional thoughts. We'll put to a vote next time.

7. Time limit for Course-based Master's (Debby Burshtyn)

Dr Burshtyn discussed proposed changes to wording in Graduate Program Manual and Calendar.

Motion: Be it resolved that the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council approve the proposed changes to the Calendar Section 203.11 and GPM 7.9 to provide clarity on the time to completion for students transferring into course-based master's programs. Effective immediately upon final approval.

The way we word Time to Completion for Master's programs allows a student in Thesis-based – which has a 4 year time to completion – who is transferring to Course-based – with a 6 year time to completion – to benefit from additional years to complete their program. To address this, we added some wording to make sure time to completion is clear. Students can always apply for extensions. We want to make sure the 4 and 6 year rules are applied accordingly.

Moved/seconded: D Burshtyn / D Deephouse

Vote (Yes/No/Abstain): 49/0/2

Approved.

8. Universidade de São Paulo and UAlberta Dual Degree (Raimar Lobenberg)

Dr Lobenberg presented the proposal for this dual degree program for FGSR Council consideration and approval.

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Motion: *Be it resolved that FGSR Council approve the Dual Degree Program agreement between UAlberta and Universidade de São Paulo.*

Moved/seconded:

Vote (Yes/No/Abstain): 44/2/3

9. **Modern Languages and Cultural Studies – Media and Cultural Studies and rename of Comparative Literature** (Carrie Smith-Prei)

Dr Smith-Prei presented the context for this program name change, to FGSR Council for information.

Chose 3 specializations to retain Applied Languages, adding Media and Cultural Studies, and changing to Translation Studies and Transnational and Comparative Literature.

Question from council member: Are there dominant ones over the others?

C Smith-Prei - Translation has been heavily subscribed, but it ebbs and flow. Expect Transnational and Comparative Literature to be more heavily subscribed. There's flexibility among the cohorts.

Current students will be grandparented out. We went through 3 year consultation with grad students.

Question from council member – Media and Cultural Studies is exclusively in a language other than English?

C Smith-Prei - Gives students an opportunity to study another culture. Leaves room open for comparative courses that could include English.

Comment from council member: This is a huge improvement in structure. Enjoyed reading the proposal.

10. **Post-baccalaureate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education** (Heather Kanuka)

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

11. **Graduate Admissions Roll-out Plan** (Victoria Cabot)

Organizational Change Management consultant, Victoria Cabot for the Graduate Students Management System, presented the plan and process for rolling out the new Grad Admissions IT solution to departments.

Discussion relating to the quality of this new tool versus current application tool, and whether the tool allowed an application to be saved into one PDF.

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12. **Report from the GSA**

GSA elections are underway and close at 10AM on February 25. GSA representative (H Thaker) asked Council to encourage their students to vote.

13. **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:33 pm