

**Summary Minutes of a Meeting of the
COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH
Held in the Council Chamber, University Hall
Friday, January 19, 2007, 2:00 pm**

Attendance

MRT Dale in the Chair	M Shirvani
M Allen	J Varsava
	H Hogg, Secretary

Department Representatives

E Bork, Ag, Food & Nutri Sciences	A Underhill, Medical Genetics
B Lemire, Biochemistry	L Guilbert, Medical Micro & Immun
H McDermid, Biological Sciences	G Tyrrell, Med Sciences Committee
D Cooper, Business (PhD)	H Klumpenhouwer, Music
B Hayes, Chem & Mat Eng	B Dussault, Nursing
J Takats, Chemistry	Y Bhambhani, Occupational Therapy
N Amaral, Computing Science	R Godbout, Oncology
L Kline, Dentistry	Y Sauve, Ophthalmology
P Erdmer, Earth & Atmos Sciences	S Dunn, Pharmacology
A Commons, East Asian Studies	M Suresh, Pharmacy & Pharm Sciences
R Short, Educational Psychology	A Schmitter, Philosophy
J McClay, Elementary Education	S Petersen, Physical Education & Recreation
M Adria, Extension	R Marchand, Physics
M Cavanagh, Faculte Saint-Jean	A Joyce, Psychiatry
H Madill, Health Promotion Studies	D Saunders, Public Health Science
N Keating, Human Ecology	F Landy, Religious Studies
M MacGregor, Internetworking	N Krogman, Rural Economy
W Renke, Law	W Johnston, Sociology
S Rice, Linguistics	P Schneider, Speech Path & Audiology
P Minev, Math & Stat Sciences	

Graduate Student Representatives

C Delling, GSA President	I Onyerkam, Law
R Hao, GSA VP Academic	L Harris, Neuroscience
K Cameron, Educational Psych	B Jensen, Earth & Atmos Sciences
T Brisbois, Ag, Food & Nutri Sciences	C Shaoul, Psychology

Ex Officio

A Schmude, Office of the Registrar	<u>Observer</u> N Sharpe, Student OmbudService
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Guests

N Thie, G Hess, S Hrudehy

**GUEST: DR OLIVE YONGE, VICE-PROVOST (ACADEMIC PROGRAMS):
Graduate Student Experiences Task Force Report**

Dr O Yonge addressed council regarding Graduate Student Experiences at the University of Alberta: Report of the Subcommittee of the Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) and opened the floor to questions from council members.

A council member suggested a streamlined awards process because graduate students currently must complete too many application forms and obtain reference letters multiple times to obtain funding.

A council member raised concerns with reference to 'funding parity' in the report. M Shirvani advised that 'funding parity' in the report suggests bringing all students up to a minimum level of funding, not equalizing funding for all students regardless of academic merit.

Since FGSR had provided the report as a handout at Council, there was not adequate time for councilors to review it. The Chair advised that the report could be added to the next FGSR Council meeting as a discussion item. Any feedback can also be sent to Dr Yonge by email.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

a. Approval of the minutes of November 10, 2006

The minutes were approved.

b. Matters arising

None.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Proposal for Research 900 (RSCH 900)

Council had before it a proposal for RSCH 900, that included two motions. At its September 2006 meeting, FGSR Council was presented with a motion to establish RSCH 900, a course registration for graduate students from other universities coming to the University of Alberta to conduct research outside of the auspices of formal exchange agreements. The proposal generated several questions and concerns and was tabled at that time.

MOTION: It was moved by J Varsava and seconded by M Allen that RSCH 900 be approved in principle.

Council members raised several concerns/questions with the proposal, including:

- Flexibility for students who are visiting outside of the regular academic term, for example someone visiting from November to February.
- The costs of registering in RSCH 900 may be prohibitive for students.
- If registration is voluntary, why would a student and/or department register in RSCH 900?
- Why is an application fee assessed when students are invited by a UofA faculty member?

J Varsava reminded council that the University has identified this as a liability issue because there is currently no way of tracking visiting graduate students who are conducting research for a UofA faculty member outside the auspices of a formal exchange agreement.

VOTE: The motion to approve RSCH 900 in principle, with the understanding that it was voluntary, was PUT and CARRIED, 38-12, 1 abstention.

In response to concerns and questions related to how FGSR determined the fee assessment for RSCH 900, J Varsava noted that FGSR was striking a balance between a full-time registration (9 units) and part-time registration (3 units). The Chair noted

students in RSCH 900 are getting the benefit of UofA lab space, materials and the input/time of UofA faculty members.

MOTION: It was moved by J Varsava and seconded by K Cameron that the instructional fee for RSCH 900 be set at 5 units of fee index (\$443.40).

N Amaral suggested two amendments: 1) that a \$100 application fee not be assessed, and 2) that the instructional fee be reduced to one unit of fee index (\$88.68).

The first suggestion was accepted as a friendly amendment.

MOTION TO AMEND: It was moved by N Amaral and seconded that the motion be amended to reduce the instructional fee to one unit of fee index (\$88.68).

VOTE: The motion to amend was PUT and CARRIED, 29-12, 6 abstentions.

VOTE: After further discussion, the amended motion that the instructional fee for RSCH 900 be set at one unit of fee index (\$88.68) and that the application fee not be assessed was PUT and CARRIED, 31-10, 5 abstentions.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 PhD in Religious Studies

MOTION: It was moved by M Allen and seconded by F Landy that the proposal for a PhD in Religious Studies be approved.

F Landy, Graduate Coordinator for Religious Studies, addressed questions raised by the GSA regarding the program's course selection and time to completion and agreed to several suggested modifications.

VOTE: The motion was PUT and CARRIED, 33-5, 2 abstentions.

4.2 Master of Science in Medical Sciences—Temporomandibular/Orofacial Pain

MOTION: It was moved by M Allen and seconded by L Kline that the proposal for a Master of Science in Medical Sciences—Temporomandibular/Orofacial Pain be approved.

VOTE: The motion was PUT and CARRIED, 32-2, 1 abstention.

4.3 Master of Public Health (MPH) in Health Promotion

MOTION: It was moved by M Allen and seconded by H Madill that the proposal to change the existing course-based Master of Science in Health Promotion Studies to a Master of Public Health (MPH) in Health Promotion be approved.

VOTE: The motion was PUT and CARRIED, 33-0, 3 abstentions.

5. INFORMAL BUSINESS

a. Question Period

None

b. Announcements and Reports by the Chair and Councillors

1. NTEL: Intense English Language Experience for International Graduate Teaching Assistants

J Takats advised council that three departments had put forward a funding proposal to the Teaching and Learning Fund to enable international students to come to the University of Alberta one month before beginning their graduate programs (i.e. in August) to enrol in an intensive ESL program. The proposal has received funding and the departments are currently working on an implementation process.

2. Graduate Enrolment Statistics

The Chair advised council that 2006 was the first year in many years that graduate student enrolment had remained fairly constant, i.e. 6,051 graduate students in 2006 compared to 6,076 graduate in 2005.

c. Other Business

J Varsava reported that the FGSR had awarded 14 FGSR Research Abroad Grants since the new program was initiated. He reminded councillors of the next competition deadline of February 1, 2007.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.