

**Summary Minutes of a Meeting of the
COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH
Held in the Council Chamber, University Hall
Friday, April 17, 2009, 2:00 pm**

Attendance

P Schiavone in the Chair
M Allen

L McGann

Department Representatives

N Kav, Agric, Food & Nutritional Sci	G Tyrrell, Medical Sciences
G Forth, Anthropology	E Le, Modern Lang & Cultural Studies
J Greer, Art & Design	H Bashaw, Music
B Lemire, Biochemistry	K Moore, Nursing
J White, Business MBA	B Dussault, Nursing
I Gellatly, Business PhD	A El-Kadi, Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences
J Takats, Chemistry	A Schmitter, Philosophy
R Greiner, Computing Science	B Martin, Physical Therapy
F Peters, Educational Policy Studies	C Benishin, Physiology
C Rinaldi, Educational Psychology	L Harder, Political Science
J McClay, Elementary Education	A Joyce, Psychiatry
T Zackodnik, English & Film Studies	N Galambos, Psychology
C Couture, Faculté Saint-Jean	A Senthilselvan, Public Health Sciences
A Webb, Health Promotion Studies	J Volden, Rehabilitation Sciences
B Skrypnek, Human Ecology	P Blenis, Renewable Resources
J Martin, Lab Medicine & Pathology	N Krogman, Rural Economy
S Rice, Linguistics	W Johnston, Sociology
T Hillen, Mathematics and Stat Sciences	C Boliek, Speech Pathology & Audiology
M Lipsett, Mechanical Engineering	
L Guilbert, Med Micro & Immunology	

Graduate Program Administrators

F Hey, Public Health Sciences

G Mathew, Anthropology

Graduate Student Representatives

D Manolescu, GSA VP Labour Relations	M Shahbakhti, Mechanical Engineering
A Rahman, GSA VP Academic (incoming)	S Ahmed, Pharmacy
J Marleau, Biological Sciences	E Omosa, Rural Economy
N Romaniuk, Chemistry (incoming)	A Rahman, GSA VP Academic (incoming)
K Cameron, Educational Psychology	

Ex officio

A Schmude, Office of the Registrar

Observer

D Johnson, Associate Dean Graduate Studies (Arts)

Guests

J Varughese, Chair, Bachelor of Technology in Technology Management, School of Resources and Environmental Management, NAIT
D Foth, Associate Dean, Faculty of Extension
O Yonge, Vice-Provost Academic Programs, Office of the Provost and Vice President (Academic)

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

a) Approval of the March 20, 2009 summary minutes

The minutes were approved.

b) Matters arising

None.

3. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Graduate Scholarship Committee

P Schiavone reported on the 2009 NSERC results. While the overall success rate was down slightly from the previous year, the U of A saw an increase in CGS awards and fewer PGS awards at both the doctoral and master's level. Schiavone said the results suggest UofA nominees were of higher caliber in 2009.

Recruitment Scholarship Committee

P Schiavone reported that 5 offers had been made for the one-time iCORE Graduate Recruitment Scholarship in ICT, and 10 offers had been made for the one-time Alberta Ingenuity Graduate Recruitment Scholarship in Nanotechnology. He reminded council that nominations were still being accepted for the Alberta Ingenuity nanotechnology award, as the competition deadline had been extended.

4. FORMAL BUSINESS

Decisions of Final Oral Examining Committee

Councillors had before them the following motion:

That the outcomes of an oral examination be changed from the current four categories to the proposed three categories: from 1) Pass; 2) Pass subject to revisions; 3) Adjourned; or 4) Fail to: 1) Pass; 2) Adjourned; or 3) Fail; and that the current six-month deadline for reconvening an adjourned examination would be the default, except in cases where the examining committee decides that a longer specified timeline is required to complete the work and thesis revisions.

MOTION It was moved by N Kav and seconded that the motion be approved.

The following points were raised during discussion:

- A GSA representative was concerned that examining committees would be more likely to adjourn examinations if they only had one option to Pass an examination, rather than Pass subject to revisions.
- The Policy Committee Chair said the proposal attempts to set clearer directions for examining committees, because members often have difficulty determining what is considered a major or substantial revision, and what is considered a minor revision. A councillor agreed, saying the change would provide committees with greater flexibility.

- A councillor suggested that improving the descriptors and directions associated with each category was the best way to clarify directions for examining committees, not reducing the number of categories from four to three. He said deleting the Pass subject to revisions category could put examining committees in an awkward position when there is a reasonable amount of work to be done, but not enough work to warrant an adjournment.
- A councillor spoke in support of the motion, saying three categories would provide greater clarity for examining committees that often struggle in defining a major revision and a minor revision.

VOTE The motion was PUT and DEFEATED, 19-22, 2 abstentions.

The Chair advised the motion would go back the FGSR Council Policy Review Committee.

5. **INFORMAL BUSINESS**

a) **Question Period**

There were no questions.

b) **Announcements and Reports by the Chair and Councillors**

1. **NAIT's Bachelor of Technology in Technology Management**

Joe Varughese, Chair of the Bachelor of Technology in Technology Management provided a presentation about NAIT's four-year Bachelor of Technology in Technology Management. Varughese outlined the program, a mix of courses in applied sciences and technology, liberal arts, technology management, culminating in a capstone research project in the final year. More than 20 of NAIT's two-year applied science, health science and engineering technology diplomas feed into the program using the 2 + 2 model, providing graduates with technical and leadership skills to take on management and supervisory roles in applied science and engineering. He suggested graduates of the BTech program would be good candidates for UofA business and engineering management graduate programs, and encouraged interested departments to contact him for more information and potential partnership opportunities.

2. **Freestanding Post Graduate Credit Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education and Notice of Motion on Certificates**

Councillors had before them background information on the proposed certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education and a proposal for FGSR to offer postgraduate certificates.

Discussion included:

- The Chair explained that University Teaching Services, the Faculty of Extension and FGSR have been working on a proposal for a for-credit, Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, to be administered by the FGSR and delivered through the Faculty of Extension. The program, to be offered to faculty, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students, is an example of the impetus for FGSR to establish formal policy for offering postgraduate certificates.
- O Yonge, Vice-Provost Academic Programs, Office of the Provost and Vice President (Academic), said postgraduate certificates are becoming increasingly popular and departments are expressing interest in delivering such certificates. Two such certificates already exist—Francophone Practice for Speech-Language Pathologists and Pain Management—and they would likely move under the formalized certificate structure.
- The Chair, Dr Yonge, and Dr Foth spoke specifically to the Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, noting the program

would complement, rather than encroach on existing non-credit course offerings. UTS teaching enhancement series and workshops will continue and voluntary teaching modules are being explored for graduate students who choose not to enroll in the formal certificate program. Up to 10 faculty, 10 graduate students, and a to-be-determined number of postdoctoral fellows would be enrolled in the certificate's inaugural year.

The motion will be presented at the May 15, 2009 Faculty Council meeting.

c) **Other Business**

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 pm.