

**Summary of a Meeting of the
COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH
Held in the Council Chamber, University Hall
Wednesday, December 15, 2010, 2:00 pm**

Attendance

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

Department Representatives

A Palmer, Anthropology	T Nearey, Linguistics
D McLean, Art & Design	T Hillen, Math & Statistical Sciences
D Stuart, Biochemistry	M Barry, Med Microbiology & Immun
D Cooper, Business PhD	C Smith-Prei, Modern Lang & Cultural St
M Glerum, Cell Biology	J Despres, Music
K Cadien, Chemical & Mat Engg	A Shaw, Oncology
M Klobukowski, Chemistry	S Persad, Pediatrics
R Greiner, Computing Science	A El-Kadi, Pharmacy & Pharm Sciences
T Chacko, Earth & Atmosph Sc	S Morsink, Physics
D Chovanec, Educ Policy Studies	N Galambos, Psychology
J McClay, Elementary Education	J Volden, Rehabilitation Sciences
M Adria, Communic & Tech (Ext)	A Hamann, Renewable Resources
B Skrypnek, Human Ecology	I Johnston, Secondary Education
L Reif, Law	P Schneider, Speech Pathology & Aud
H Julien, Library & Information Studies	

Graduate Student Representatives

R Coulthard, President, GSA	B Jensen, Earth & Atmospheric Sci
A Rawluk, V-P Academic, GSA	A Laarman, Agric, Foods & Nutr Sci
T Bureyko, Agric, Foods & Nut Sci	J Babicheva, Modern Lang & Cultural St

Ex officio

F Peters, Chair, FGSR Academic Appeals Committee
G Pavlich, Office of V-P (Research)

Guests/Observers

D Marshall, Deputy-Provost
B Thomas, Postdoctoral Fellows' Association
H Zwicker, Associate Dean, Arts
F Hey, Public Health
A Weiler, Chemistry
A Jordan, Physical Education & Recreation

1 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

a Approval of the September 22, 2010 summary minutes

The minutes were approved.

b Matters arising

None.

3 FORMAL BUSINESS

3.1 Thesis Requirements.

Council had before it proposed revisions to Section 8 of the Graduate Program Manual: Thesis Requirements and now presented to Council as a Notice of Motion for the January 19, 2011 meeting. Council also had received for information a document prepared by the FGSR, *Note on E-Thesis, Public Access and Prior Publication*.

Some Council members provided comments/suggestions: 1) in the second paragraph, maintain wording "as far as possible," since a master's thesis in some departments does not have to be an original contribution; 2) a specific reference to Campus Saint-Jean as an exception to the statement that thesis is normally written in English; 3) at top of page 4, regarding policy on access to thesis results, add "and submitted to FGSR" or similar wording to provide clarity; 4) on page 2, reference to registration in "Thesis" could be explained further for clarity.

The chair noted that further comments were welcome.

3.2 Graduate Market Modifiers: Implementation

Deputy Provost Dru Marshall provided a PowerPoint presentation on the implementation effective 2011-12 of market modifiers. In the presentation, she noted that thesis-based students who discontinue their program (excluding those on an approved leave) and are then re-admitted will have the new fee assessment model applied to their resumed program. She noted that the norm is full-time registration for thesis-based programs and part-time registrations will need to be approved by FGSR.

In response to several Councilors who noted there may be implementation issues related to students who transfer from

course-based to thesis-based master's program, D Marshall proposed a follow up meeting with those who had raised the concerns to resolve the issues and review any unintended consequences. Councilors had several further comments including: 1) any increase to tuition results in higher costs to units which disburse tuition awards; 2) need for awareness of any downloading of administrative procedures to units; 3) as a recruitment strategy, other institutions waive or pay students' tuition; 4) disparity of graduate student funding across disciplines.

D Marshall reported that 30% of the revenue from the market modifiers will be distributed to Faculties and that while other institutions may pay tuition, overall the UofA offers better funding packages. There were further comments on the need for better awareness of UofA funding numbers and how to use these for recruitment purposes.

Related to recruitment and funding, the Chair then provided a PowerPoint presentation to Council on proposed changes to the FGSR doctoral recruitment scholarships. He reported that recent FGSR reviews had questioned the flexibility and effectiveness of the current recruitment scholarships processes. As a result, the proposal was now to provide departments with direct funding allocations which departments could then use to make offers of funding to student quickly. He provided several further comments including: the proposal is to create several hundred scholarships at \$5000 each; each department could then award these scholarships in multiples of \$5000; there would be no restriction on how these scholarships are packaged with other kinds of funding; subsequent allocations to departments would be made on an assessment of success in recruiting in the previous years; success criteria would expand after the first allocation year and would be quality-based; the recruitment scholarship committee would need to develop further criteria; initial allocations would be proportional to departments' doctoral registrations but there will be a minimum allocation; these proposed changes have central administration support; these repackaged recruitment scholarships need a new name; master's recruitment scholarship will not be affected. The chair indicated he would follow up with communication to each department regarding these changes.

ADJOURNMENT

Since the meeting had gone past the standard two hours, the remaining agenda items were deferred.