

Summary of a Meeting of the
COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH
Held in the Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science
Room 1-140
Wednesday, March 25, 2015, 2:00 pm

AttendanceEx Officio

A Ness, Office of the Registrar

FGSR

J Harrington, Assoc Dean, FGSR
P Melançon, Assoc Dean, FGSR

Department Representatives

R Jacobs, AFNS
H Vallianatos, Anthropology
D Stuart, Biochemistry
T Ravio, Biological Sciences
A Wilman, Biomedical Engineering
D Deephouse, Business PhD
T Simmen, Cell Biology
V Prasad, Chem and Mat'l Engg
M McDermott, Chemistry
D Chan, Civil & Env Engg
K Pollock, Comm Sci & Disorders
J You, Computing Science
T Chacko, Earth & Atmos Sci
G Buck, Ed Psych
L Laidlaw, Elementary Ed
J Rak, English & Film Studies
R Langevin, Faculté Saint-Jean
A McDougall, History & Classics
A Shiri, LIS
D Beck, Linguistics

Associate Deans Graduate

T Spalding, Arts
H Ostergaard, Medicine & Dentistry

N Kav, Associate Dean, FGSR

J Kuttler, Math & Stats Sci
R Ingham, Med Micro & Imm
M Keelan, Med Sci-Lab Med & Path
S Hughes, Med Sci-Medical Gen
S Persad, Med Sci-Pediatrics
V Ruetalo, Mod Lang & Cult'l St
D Gramit, Music
P Paul, Nursing
A Shaw, Oncology
A Underhill, Oncology
A Holt, Pharmacology
S Simpson, Pharmacy & Pharm Sci
R Marchand, Physics
G Funk, Physiology
C Germain, Political Science
C Sturdy, Psychology
T Hopper, Rehab Med (PhD/MSc)
F Lifshitz, Religious Studies
D Conrad, Secondary Ed
S Dorow, Sociology

D Larsen, Education

Graduate Program Administrator Representatives

D Blair, Computing Science
G Dowler, Mechanical Engineering

H Cook, Anthropology

Graduate Student Representatives

N Andrews, GSA President
M Bal, GSA VP Labour
C More GSA VP Academic
A Al-Dabbagh, ECE
P Appadu, AFNS
N Barriga, Computing Sci

S Gumfekar, Chem & Mat'l Engg
R Gustas, Anthropology
J Pederson, Medicine
E Siemann Santos Pereira, Civil
A Radil, Ed Psych
M Juhas, Psychiatry - alternate

Guests/Observers

M Hill, Medicine

B Hodgetts, CSD

Regrets

A Al-Dabbagh
B Billingsley, Law
M Challborn, GSA
J Gardiner, GSA
C Jian, GSA

A Kemezis, History & Classics
B Kerr, Med Sci-Anaes & Pain Med
S Khan, GSA
M Murphy, Med Sci-Anaes & Pain Med
S Tamana, GSA

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 by M Shirvani (Chair).

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by D Deephouse, Seconded by N Kav.

2. Approval of the Minutes of February 25, 2015

Moved by H Ostergaard, Seconded by T Spalding.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

M Shirvani will share multi-year statistics at the next meeting. As well, he will have the Graduate Enrollment report and an additional report with statistics and graphs on Graduate education.

4. New Master's Program in Audiology

Motion: Be it resolved that the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council approve the new degree program – Master of Science in Audiology.

Moved by P Paul, Seconded by H Ostergaard.

K Pollock presented the pre-circulated material as distributed. A previous version of page 28 was distributed in error.

Discussion Ensued.

The motion was PUT and CARRIED.
Yes – 47, No – 2, Absention – 0

5. Professional Development Proposed Policy

M Shirvani presented the pre-circulated material as distributed. Debate on this "Notice of Motion" will occur at the April 29 meeting.

Discussion ensued.

6. Graduate Studies Management Solution (GSMS)Program - Admissions

A Smith, Project Manager presented. The current Admission process is decentralized with each department reviewing their own applications and in some cases, using their own processing systems. It's complicated, cumbersome and requires a considerable amount of manual labour. As well, it fails to provide a competitive edge in promoting graduate student success and as a result, the University is losing top tier applicants to other institutions. It cannot accommodate the projected growth of the graduate student population.

The new system will accelerate admission adjudication time and get high-quality applications by providing a unified work and data flow, a comprehensive records system that provides clear views of pertinent details to all customers, and is paperless. Applicants will be able to monitor their application progression, view uploaded documentation status, supply additional information, communicate with their Graduate Advisor and receive and respond to an offer of admission.

The planned implementation date is October 1, 2015.

The GSMS team is looking for departments to participate by providing feedback and doing user acceptance testing. The feedback will be used to improve the system.

Feedback, questions or concerns can be sent to gsms@ualberta.ca.

Discussion ensued.

7. Report of the Graduate Students' Association(GSA)

C More offered to answer questions about the report that had been pre-circulated with the Council package for this meeting.

8. Report from the FGSR Associate Deans

FGSR Associate Dean Harrington referred to the report as circulated in advance, reminding councillors that several provisions concerning graduate studies within the 2015-16 Calendar have been renumbered, and so departmental websites and handbooks that refer to the Calendar may need updates. She also reminded councillors to consider adopting specific departmental rules providing guidance to students, supervisors and examiners as to the requirements for an acceptable thesis in their discipline (with section 8.4.1 of the FGSR Graduate Program Manual making clear that specific departmental rules are encouraged).

Discussion ensued.

7. Report of the Dean

M Shirvani presented.

Master's Recruitment Scholarships

Although there is no budget for Master's Recruitment Scholarships this year, there are more of them and decisions are made in house every week if possible. There are 10 weeks of offers with 4-5 per week, but the process has sped up. Some departments send 7-8 nominations, but not all of these are competitive. The criteria have remained the same, i.e. GPA, reference letters, etc. Applications are from all of the disciplines, and winners are also from across the disciplines. U of A students do not get priority. The scholarships are overallocated to compensate for students who choose not to come to the U of A.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:48 p.m.