

**Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research**

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

2:00 to 4:00 pm

University of Alberta Council Chamber, 2-100 University Hall

**Attendance at FGSR Council – Feb. 8, 2017**

**Department Council Rep**

Bio Sci, Tracy Ravio  
Business- MBA, Michael Maier  
Business – PhD, David Deephouse  
Chemical & Materials Engineering, Vinay Prasad  
Computing Science, Jia You  
East Asian Studies, Daniel Fried  
Educational Psychology, Veronica Smith  
Elementary Education, Doug Gleddie  
English and Film Studies, Julie Rak  
Faculté Saint-Jean, Samira El Atia  
Human Ecology, Deanna Williamson  
Laboratory Medicine & Pathology, Monika Keelan  
Library and Information Studies, Ali Shiri  
Mathematical & Statistical Sciences, Jochen Kuttler  
Medical Microbiology & Immunology, Kevin Kane  
Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, Carrie Smith-Prei  
Music, Christina Gier  
Native Studies, Sean Robertson  
Occupational Therapy, Cary Brown  
Oncology, Alan Underhill  
Pediatrics, Trish Kryzanowski  
Pharmacology, Amy Tse  
Philosophy, Ingo Birgandt  
Phys Ed and Rec, Normand Boule  
Psychiatry, S. Kar  
Psychology, Anthony Singhal  
Rehabilitation Medicine, Patricia Manns  
Sociology, Amy Kaler

**Associate Deans Graduate**

Arts, Tom Spalding

**Ex-Officio Representatives**

FGSR Dean & Vice-Provost, Dean Zwicker  
FGSR Vice-Dean, Debby Burshtyn  
FGSR Associate Dean, Bryan Hogeveen  
FGSR Associate Dean, Suzanne Kresta  
FGSR Associate Dean, Naomi Krogman  
FGSR Associate Dean, John Nychka  
Senior Administrative Officer, FGSR, Amy Dambrowitz  
Vice-Provost and University Registrar, Thomas Hidson  
Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian, Gerald Beasley  
Director, Centre for Teaching and Learning, Janice Miller-Young

**Graduate Program Administrators (GPAC)**

Anthropology, Heather Cook  
Faculty of Extension, Eileen Crookes

**GSA Representatives**

Sarah Ficko, GSA President  
Sasha van der Klein, GSA VP Labour  
Firouz Khodayari, GSA VP Academic  
Ahmad Al-Dabbagh, ECE  
Clara Fallone, Medical Physics  
Alleson Mason, Educational Policy  
Adam Oel, Biological Sciences  
Jennifer Ann McGetrick, Public Health  
Dasha Smirnow, Business  
Andrew Woodman, Pharmacology  
Mostafa Tawfeek, Civil Engineering

**FGSR**

Deanna Davis, Professional Development Instruction Designer  
Dena Giroux, Executive Assistant to Vice Dean & Assoc Deans  
Andrea Graham, Graduate Prof. Development Project Manager  
Michelle Graham, Awards Advisor  
Janice Hurlburt, Governance & Policy Coordinator  
Ianna Ings, EDRMS  
Renee Polziehn, Professional Development & Outreach Director  
Andrea Riewe, Executive and Operations Assistant  
Charity Slobod, Professional Development and Outreach Assistant

**Guests/Observers:**

Christopher Michell-Viret, Alumni Council  
Donia Mounsef, Drama PhD Coordinator  
Stefano Muneroni, Drama PhD Coordinator

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## **1.0 Call to Order 2:02 PM**

## **2.0 Approval of Agenda for February 8, 2017**

Moved/Seconded: Bryan Hogeveen/Samira ElAtia

Approved by show of hands

## **3.0 Approval of Minutes for January 11, 2017**

Moved/Seconded: Debby Burshtyn/Christina Gier

Approved by show of hands

## **4.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

None

## **5.0 Report from the Dean**

AITF Scholarships Update

It remains unclear when or how the AITF Scholarships competition might proceed this year.

US International Travel Ban

Thank you to all members of the FGSR community for supporting our response.

Concrete actions taken to date include:

- Numbers: We believe we have roughly 500 students who would be potentially affected.
- Application Fees: FGSR has waived both graduate application fees for applicants listing citizenship in any of the seven affected countries. This change is in production as of 1 February 2017, and will be backdated to when the Executive Order was issued.
- Application deadlines: Since programs set their own deadlines, FGSR has encouraged departments to be as flexible as possible to accommodate students from the affected countries, within reason. FGSR stands by to help with paper work-arounds where necessary.
- Travel funding: If students have received travel awards from FGSR that they are no longer eligible to use, our intention is to ensure that student travel is supported. We are also providing high-tech rooms from which they can participate by distance in conferences.
- Stranded Students: We would like to support students who are displaced from their US universities. These students still need to have the appropriate visas, and there is as yet no suggestion from Customs and Immigration Canada that there will be a fast track. We keep working on this angle, with University of Alberta International and other pertinent partners.

Doctoral Microgrants Call for Proposals: Deadline February 21, 2017

- We are looking for bold, innovative ideas.
- We encourage applicants to talk to your graduate students
- FGSR Contact: John Nychka

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## Mental Health Training: February 22 and 23, 2017

- Response was terrific and the session has a wait list. If you cannot attend, please let Michelle Strong know so that we can accommodate those on the waiting list
- FGSR Contact: Suzanne Kresta

## Doctoral Recruitment Funding

- Bryan Hogeveen chaired a task force on doctoral recruitment funding and the committee's recommendations have been approved
- The money is now available to the programs
- Please keep us up to date on commitments

## GSMS: like all systems, bumpy but coming along

- Remains a work in progress - thank you to all who have stepped up to help
- Training is underway for both department staff members and for FGSR internal staff
- Weekly production notice to users outlines the problems that have been identified and the solution status
- If staff and faculty are having trouble using GSMS, they should contact the IST help desk. This is the contact point for both "business" and "technical" issues.
- Applicants should contact [gradadm@ualberta.ca](mailto:gradadm@ualberta.ca)

## Graduate Program Manual Review

- FGSR is reviewing content to make sure that it is accurate, up-to-date and in agreement with the calendar, and we will keep you informed of progress

## PhDiversification: FGSR Survey on Employability Outcomes

With the support of a Government of Alberta grant, FGSR has been exploring the opportunities to improve the employability outcomes for PhD graduates. We will share highlights from student and supervisor surveys at the March Council meeting.

## Best Practices Corner

- We are looking for volunteers for the Best Practices Corner: share something that you do particularly well - please send your ideas to [<heather.zwicker@ualberta.ca>](mailto:heather.zwicker@ualberta.ca)

## Upcoming Events:

- 3Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition - Finals will be held April 13, 2017 in Convocation Hall. (FGSR Contact: Renee Polzhein)
- The Images of Research competition is underway - we have posted the finalists' images from last year in the reception area of Triffo Hall
- The Graduate Teaching Award celebration will be held on April 11 from 2:30-4:00 PM.
  - GSTA nominations are due February 20 (FGSR Contact: Deanna Davis)

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- IDP Requirement: The Individual Development Plan needs to be completed within 12 months (Master's) and 18 months (PhD) of the program start date - as the first deadline approaches, departments may be looking for support (FGSR Contact: Deanna Davis)

*Question: How long do students have to complete the professional development requirement - do they really have to complete within 12 months of their program start date? Reply/Clarification (D. Davis): Students have to complete their PD hours by the end of their degree, but must complete their Individual Development Plan within 12 months (Master's) and 18 months (PhD) of the program start date.*

*Question: How would you suggest that students work to have their ideas incorporated into the doctoral microgrants? Reply (H. Zwicker): I would recommend that you contact the Associate Dean (Graduate) within your faculty to see how you can be involved.*

*Comment: I would like to thank the University of Alberta and the Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research for their collective response to the US Travel Ban. I am proud to be a part of this community.*

**6.0 Open Access and the Education & Research Archive: Gerald Beasley (Vice-Provost & Chief Librarian)**

ERA (Education and Research Archive) is the name for University of Alberta's Digital Asset Management strategy, which is being developed and supported by the University of Alberta Libraries. ERA's open access content includes the intellectual output of the University and promotes global opportunities for research discovery as well as for archival preservation. ERA current holds approximately 40,000 items. You can find ERA here: <https://era.library.ualberta.ca/>

ERA also provides an easy and convenient solution for faculty who must deposit their research in an open access repository to meet funding agency requirements. Upload is either self-serve or librarian-supported. For help, contact the ERA HelpDesk: [erahelp@ualberta.ca](mailto:erahelp@ualberta.ca) / 780.492.4359.

What should be added to ERA?

- Peer reviewed research (for journal articles, you can include the final, post peer-reviewed draft)

Reasons to use ERA:

- You can expect to increase your research impact
- You can meet granting agency requirements for open-access publishing
- It is an alternative to paying fees for open access
- The world would be a better place if we could share our research - and if we can access the world's research

*Question: Can you include anything you publish? What about a poster? Reply (G. Beasley): We will include any peer-reviewed work in its stable, final form.*

*Question: Is there metadata that we can mine to capture information about students' research outputs? Reply (G. Beasley): Anyone with a CCID can search the database.*

*Question: What if my journal says no to putting my paper in the ERA? Reply (G. Beasley): Some publishers see the ERA and other similar projects as competition. You will need to make a value judgement, and decide whether or not to publish in a different journal.*

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## **7.0 GSA Monthly Report - Sarah Ficko**

The joint letter sent to graduate students from Heather and Sarah on January 31 on behalf of FGSR and the GSA stating support for those affected by the US travel ban was appreciated by the graduate student community.

The “Inquiring Mind Program” held on January 27 was well received. This education-based prevention program addresses mental health in post-secondary students. The GSA will investigate whether or not the program can be hosted again in future, possibly through the University Health Centre.

GSA Awards Night will be held on March 24, 2017 - save the date.

The 2017 GSA Elections are underway. Nominations opened on January 31 and elections will run from February 28 to March 2. Please send any students with questions to the GSA.

## **8.0 Introduction to Workshop**

PhDs do not lead students to the careers they once did. All graduate schools in Canada have an ethical obligation to consider this reality, and ask hard questions about the graduate degrees they have put together for students, most of which were devised in a historical moment when the academic job market was robust enough to serve as pre-professorial training.

As you'll have noticed, we are asking these questions at UAlberta. Examples include:

- Expanded PD offerings with the help of the Government of Alberta grant
- Last summer's doctoral curriculum workshop
- The Doctoral Microgrants program
- The university conversation about multi-disciplinary Signature Areas and interdisciplinary graduate programs that support them
- Next meeting's discussion about the data around GS outcomes (specific to UofA)

Today's discussion is about the doctoral dissertation, and how it fits into this context.

The Canadian Association of Graduate Studies struck a working group composed of graduate deans, academics and students from Canadian universities. They put together this discussion document. The discussion document has an excellent bibliography and some definitions (of discovery, integration, application, etc) that will raise questions from some of us.

This is not a decision-making meeting. It is an opportunity to talk with each other about how we are addressing the big questions about doctoral curriculum in 2017, from our own disciplinary perspectives.

After laying out a bit of history, the authors drive the primary issues toward 3 interrelated questions:

1. Content: what should a dissertation say or do?
2. Form: how should the dissertation say or do what it does?
3. Assessment: what criteria, and exercised by whom, would constitute responsible assessment of a new kind of dissertation?

That's what we're going to spend about an hour discussing. Then, when we regroup as a whole, we'll talk about barriers, opportunities and challenges.

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## **9.0 Workshop**

*(See Additional Document)*

## **10.0 Feedback and Questions from Workshop**

*(See Additional Document)*

## **11.0 Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM