

Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Wednesday, November 24, 2021 2:00 to 4:00 pm Virtual Meeting

<u>Attendance at FGSR Council – November 24, 2021</u>

DEPARTMENT/UNIT FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES

Present:

Present:	
Agricultural, Food & Nutritional Science	Ben Willing
Anthropology	Marko Zivkovic
Art & Design	Joan Greer
Biochemistry	David Stuart
Business (non-departmentalized) - MBA	Michael Maier
Business (non-departmentalized) - PhD	Trish Reay
Cell Biology	Richard Wozniak
Chemicals & Materials Engineering	Hao Zhang
Chemistry	Michael Serpe
Civil & Environmental Engineering	Wei Victor Liu
Communication Sciences & Disorders	Monique Charest
Communications and Technology (MACT)	Thomas Barker
Computing Science	Greg Kondrak
Computing Science - Multimedia Program	Greg Kondrak
Dentistry (Medical Sciences)	Carlos Flores Mir
Digital Humanities	Daniel Laforest
Drama	Stefano Muneroni
Earth & Atmospheric Sciences	Arturo Sanchez
East Asian Studies	David Quinter
Economics	Heather Eckert
Educational Policy Studies	Darryl Hunter
Educational Psychology	Veronica Smith
Educational Studies	Douglas Gleddie
English and Film Studies	Mark Simpson
Faculte Saint-Jean (non-departmentalized)	Samira El Atia
Heatlth Sciences Education	Douglas Gleddie
History, Classics, and Religion	Heather Coleman
Human Ecology	Rachel McQueen
Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation (non-dept)	Normand Boule
Laboratory Medicine & Pathology	Monika Keelan
Law (non-departmentalized)	Linda Reif
Library & Information Studies	Dinesh Rathi
Mathematical & Statistical Science	Christoph Frei
Mechanical Engineering	Alexandra Komrakova
Medical Microbiology & Immunology	Edan Foley
Medicine	Nadia Jahroudi
Modern Languages & Cultural Studies	Irene Sywenky
Nursing (non-departmentalized)	Dianne Tapp

Obstetrics & Gynecology (Medical Sciences)	Denise Hemmings
Occupational Therapy	Mary Roduta Roberts
Oncology	Gordon Chan
Pediatrics (Medical Sciences)	Sujata Persad
Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences (non-dept)	Arno Siraki
Physics	Craig Heinke
Physiology	Zamaneh Kassiri
Political Science	Jared Wesley
Psychiatry	Allen Chan Andrew Greenshaw
Psychology	Chris Westbury
Rehabilitation Medicine	Trish Manns
Renewable Resources	Uldis Silins
Resource Economics & Environmental Sociology	Henry An
School of Public Health (non-departmentalized)	Ruth Wolfe
Secondary Education	Bonnie Watt
Women's and Gender Studies	Lise Gotell

Regrets:

Biological Sciences Elementary Education Music

Radiology & Diagnostic Imaging (Medical Sciences)

Absent:

Biomedical Engineering

Electrical & Computer Engineering

Internetworking (MINT)

Linguistics

Medical Genetics (Medical Sciences)

Medical Sciences Graduate Program - FoMD

Native Studies (non-departmentalized)

Neuroscience

Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences (Medical Sciences)

Pharmacology

Philosophy

Physical Therapy

Sociology

Surgery



Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Wednesday, November 24, 2021 2:00 to 4:00 pm Virtual Meeting

ASSOCIATE DEANS (GRADUATE) REPRESENTATIVES FOR DEPARTMENTALIZED FACULTIES

Present:

Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences (ALES)	Leluo Guan
Arts	Kim Noels
Education	Doug Gleddie
Engineering	Tian Tang
Rehabilitation Medicine	Trish Manns

Regrets Sent:

Medicine & Dentistry	Greg Funk
Science	Mark McDermott

EX-OFFICIO REPRESENTATIVES

Present:

FGSR Dean & Vice-Provost (FGSR Council Chair)	Brooke Milne
FGSR Vice-Dean	Ali Shiri
FGSR Associate Dean	Andrea MacLeod
FGSR Associate Dean	Samer Adeeb
Vice-Provost and University Registrar (or Delegate)	Carlo Dimailig

Regrets Sent:

Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian (or Delegate)	Dale Askey
FGSR Associate Dean	Frances Plane
FGSR Associate Dean	Micah True

Absent:

President (or delegate)	-
Vice-President (Research) (or Delegate)	Laura Beard
Chair, FGSR Academic Appeals Committee*	Moin Yahya
Director, Centre for Teaching & Learning*	Janice Miller-Young

GRADUATE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS COMMITTEE (GPAC) REPRESENTATIVES

Absent:

Department of Neuroscience Amber LaPointe

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (GSA) DIRECTLY ELECTED OFFICIALS (3) & GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (GSA) COUNCIL (20) REPRESENTATIVES

Present:

Jessica Grenke
Kathy Haddadkar
Nicole Dittmann
Nayiar Shahid
Andrew Locke
Megan Sommerfeld
Shing Kit Lao
Eamin Heanoy
Julia Nichols
Mohamed Ali
Sabrin Bashar
Emma Takeuchi
Farzad Aghazadeh Shabestari
Mona Ahmadirad
Nazif Manbub

Pediatrics	Qiuyu (Violet) Sun
Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science	Emilee Storfie
Civil & Environmental Engineering	Babaloa Olabode
Materials Engineering - PhD	Sophie Shi

Absent / Alternates:

GSA President (Regrets Sent)	Anas Fassih
VP External (Alternate)	Mohd Tahsin Bin Mostafa
VP Student Services (Alternate)	Paresh Kumar
Mechanical Engineering (Regrets Sent)	Kashif Javed

OBSERVERS - NON-VOTING

FGSR, HR & Operations Coordinator*	Medha Samarasinghe
FGSR Executive Assistant & Operations *	Andrea Riewe
FGSR, Admissions & Program Services Supervisor*	Joyce Anderson
FGSR, Supervisor, Graduate Awards*	Amanda Brown
FGSR, Director, Professional Development*	Renee Polziehn





Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Wednesday, November 24, 2021 2:00 to 4:00 pm Virtual Meeting

FGSR, Business Analyst*	Justine Gill
FGSR Admissions Team Lead*	Kelly Montgomery
FGSR Program Services Team Lead*	Kris MacManus
GFC Secretary	Heather Richholt
Executive Assistant, Faculty of Arts - History &	
Classics Dept*	Joanna Gye
Student Services, Dean of Students Administration*	Laurel Wilkie

^{*}Non-Voting

FGSR Council November 24, 2021

NOTE: FGSR Council was asked to approve two motions by evote in December 2021. These items were related to Item 11, discussed and approved at the Nov. 24 meeting. Documents were distributed to members via email with the note that GFC Programs Committee had requested that the related official suspension documents come through for approval at the same time as the new Master of Public Health in General Public Health. Therefore, we requested your approval on the additional proposal, along with calendar language that encompasses both the suspensions and the new specialization.

Motion 1: Be it resolved that FGSR Council approve the suspension of admissions for the seven current Master of Public Health second-level specializations effective October 1, 2022, as presented in the included documents, and as proposed by the School of Public Health.

Motion 2: Be it resolved that FGSR Council approve the calendar language for the MPH, which includes the new Master of Public Health second-level specialization in General Public Health, and the suspension of admissions for the seven current Master of Public Health second-level specializations, as presented in the included documents, and as proposed by the School of Public Health.

Both items were approved to move forward.

1.0 Call to Order at 2:02 PM

Vice-Provost and Dean, Brooke Milne, called the meeting to order. Members requiring further support with the virtual platform can reach out to Andrea Riewe for help. Those with voting abilities will have received an email with links. Voting members were asked to have this open in preparation for the items.

2.0 Approval of Agenda for Nov 24, 2021

Moved / Seconded: Arturo Sanchez/ Heather Coleman *Discussion / Questions:*

- Dean Milne asked to move the last two items on the agenda in order to discuss new information about restructuring (as distributed by email prior). She noted that GEFAC and GPAC colleagues were invited to attend the meeting for the new item so that all key stakeholders could hear the information at once and have an opportunity to ask questions or raise observations.
- No further objections/changes to the agenda were raised.

Approved by consent.



Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Wednesday, November 24, 2021 2:00 to 4:00 pm Virtual Meeting

3.0 Approval of Minutes of Oct 13, 2021

Moved / Seconded: Jared Wesley/Trish Reay

Discussion / Questions: None.

Approved by electronic vote.

4.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

No matters arising from the minutes.

5.0 Report from the Dean

Vice-Provost and Dean Milne noted that Covid-19 is still impacting and challenging the University. The FGSR website is up to date with relevant details and it links to other key resources and information. The formal admissions letters for Winter 2022 and onwards have been updated to include language about the University's vaccine directive. Prospective students will see similar language on the application portal. This ensures that prospective and incoming students are aware at the time of applying and/or accepting offers that there is a requirement to be fully vaccinated and to provide proof before attending university properties.

There is a great deal of transition between staff and roles at the moment across campus. Dean Milne acknowledged that Grad Chairs and ADs Grad are taking on new and additional duties during this time and reminded them to review FGSR's biweekly staff newsletters as they are a key source of information, updates, and deadlines. If you aren't receiving these and would like to be added to the mailing list please email graddean@ualberta.ca.

Questions/ Comments: None.

6.0 GSA Monthly Report

Kathy Haddadkar, VP Academic, presented the GSA monthly report as submitted.

Questions/Discussion: None

7.0 Proposal: FGSR Academic Appeals Committee Members

Vice-Provost and Dean Milne presented the updated list of Academic Appeals Committee Members. She noted her thanks to Moin Yahya for remaining as Chair and to the rest of the academic and student representatives for their service on this committee.

Motion: Be it resolved that FGSR Council approve the new and returning members of the FGSR Academic Appeals Committee as listed, and for immediate implementation.

Moved / Seconded: Ali Shiri/ Sujata Persad

Questions/Discussion:

None

Approved by electronic vote.





Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Wednesday, November 24, 2021 2:00 to 4:00 pm Virtual Meeting

8.0 Proposal: Laboratory Medicine and Pathology - Entrance Requirements

Dean Milne introduced Dr Monika Keelan to present the changes. Dr Keelan detailed the calendar changes that have been made. One of the aims of the program is to train pathologists and the changes will make it clear to prospective applicants that Canadian citizen or permanent residents will be given preference. There are only two spots supported by AHS each year so the program can't take on more at this time as there aren't enough practicum opportunities.

Motion: Be it resolved that FGSR Council approve the calendar changes for programs in Laboratory Medicine & Pathology, for inclusion in the 2022-2023 Calendar.

Moved / Seconded: Jared Wesley/ Sujata Persad **Questions/Discussion:**

- A Council Member asked if the information about the limited number of spots is publicly posted.
 - o Dr. Keelan noted that it is on their website.

Approved by electronic vote.

9.0 <u>Proposal: Neuroscience - Direct Entry, etc.</u>

Dean Milne briefly presented background information on the item, on behalf of Associate Dean, Greg Funk (who was delayed in another meeting). There has been additional language included to provide a direct entry into the PhD program for exceptional undergrad students. This allows an alternate pathway for applicants to be considered. The ELP requirements have been updated to explicitly reference IELTS and the necessary band scores.

Associate Dean Funk summarized the other change is to make the laboratory rotation courses an elective option rather than mandatory in the PhD program. This will give students more flexibility to take other courses to build on their knowledge of the discipline.

Motion: Be it resolved that FGSR Council approve the calendar changes for programs in Neuroscience, for inclusion in the 2022-2023 Calendar.

Moved / Seconded: Greg Funk/ Ben Willing Questions/Discussion:

- A Council Member asked what changed in the department's thinking from requiring a lab course to now making it optional.
 - There are often times when students spend a lot of time and investment in someone else's lab
 even if their own research interests aren't fully compatible. By providing flexibility it allows
 students to determine their own program with more precision and focus their energy on that
 rather than a very intensive lab rotation.
- A council member asked if the change was for current or incoming students.
 - Students are grandfathered into the regulations from when they were admitted, so this would be for new students.
- Is there a guide for what courses will replace the lab?
 - The idea behind this change is to provide more flexibility and options to students; for students, it's best to speak with the program director or grad chair about the courses.



Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Wednesday, November 24, 2021 2:00 to 4:00 pm Virtual Meeting

10.0 Proposal: Nursing: Clinical Requirements for Advanced Clinical - NP Focus Nursing Courses

Dean Milne introduced Associate Dean, Dianne Tapp to speak to the item. Associate Dean Tapp noted that the proposal is to update the language for the clinical requirements in the calendar. Those applying to the program are registered nurses with significant clinical experience and they are preparing to become licensed in advanced roles with additional diagnostic and prescriptive authorities. The revised language now notes that the program admits applicants from Alberta and out of province, it also replaces the language on the criminal record checks, and it updates the requirement for specific certifications that are required for placements (e.g. certification for advanced resuscitation).

Motion: Be it resolved that FGSR Council approve the changes to the Clinical Requirements for Advanced Clinical (NP Focus) Nursing Courses for the Degree of Master of Nursing, for inclusion in the 2022-2023 Calendar.

Moved / Seconded: Sania Amiri-Ishani / Arturo Sanchez *Questions/Discussion:*

None.

Approved by electronic vote.

11.0 Proposal: SPH - Master of Public Health in General Public Health

Dean Milne introduced Associate Dean, Ruth Wolfe from the School of Public Health to present the proposed changes. Associate Dean Wolfe summarized the proposal as a consolidation of the current Master of Public Health degree's seven second-level specializations into one second-level specialization in General Public Health. The changes emphasize the cross cutting of public health competencies that aligns with the public health accreditation body's requirements. The program is a 45 credit degree with 30 core and 15 elective credits. The 15 elective credits could be made out through a graduate embedded certificate. Students will have more flexibility and choice due to these changes.

Motion: Be it resolved that FGSR Council approve the new second-level specialization of Master of Public Health in General Public Health as presented in the included documents by the School of Public Health, for implementation in Fall 2023

Moved / Seconded: Greg Funk/ Samira El Atia Questions/Discussion:

None.

Approved by electronic vote.

12.0 Proposal: SPH: GEC in Climate Change and Health

Dean Milne invited Associate Dean Wolfe to present the next item. The proposal is for a new graduate certificate in the area of climate change and health. This will be the third graduate embedded certificate for the School. The certificate will address the intersection between climate change and its impacts on health. This is a more responsive approach as it offers students the option of doing electives through the graduate embedded certificate in areas of interest to them. It builds and integrates on the faculty's strengths in teaching and research. The proposal is for a 12 credit graduate embedded certificate, with several required and five elective options, and it



Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Wednesday, November 24, 2021 2:00 to 4:00 pm Virtual Meeting

would be available online and through distance delivery. It would be open to School of Public Health students across all degrees, as well as other graduate students who might be interested in the topic.

Motion: Be it resolved that FGSR Council approve the new Graduate Embedded Certificate in Climate Change and Health as presented in the included documents by the School of Public Health, for implementation in Fall 2023.

Moved / Seconded: Mark Simpson/ Trish Manns

Questions/Discussion:

• None.

Approved by electronic vote.

13.0 Proposal: AFNS: 2 New Second-level Specializations in Food Safety and Quality (FSQ) and Meat Quality (MQ)

Dean Milne introduced Dr Ben Willing. Currently there are no specializations but the calendar change is to establish two new course-based MSc Specializations – Food Safety and Quality (FSQ) and Meat Quality (MQ) under the current course-based MSc in Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science. This is driven by the demand for highly qualified personnel in the areas, and to satisfy the demand of applicants for professional training in the areas.

The two new specializations are meeting both a student and industry need, and students are required to take six defined courses and 2 electives from a set of options which are designed to meet specific learning outcomes for the programs. A key difference is that there is a group capping project or a work experience placement given the industry focus of the specializations. In addition, rather than being overseen by a supervisor, it will be a committee that is supporting the program.

Students will have a set deadline for applications and will be selected from that pool. The plan is to have 20 in a cohort for food safety and quality and 5 students for meat quality.

There is no change to fees and the programs are matching current requirements.

Motion: Be it resolved that FGSR Council approve two new second-level specializations under the current course-based MSc in Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science: Food Safety and Quality (FSQ) and Meat Quality (MQ), for implementation upon final approval.

Moved / Seconded: Ali Shiri/ Sujata Persad *Questions/Discussion:*

- Who is the target audience for these changes? Are the 200 applicants that are turned away high quality applicants? Are the main students professionals?
 - There is a bit of overlap with the SPH for food safety, but the food quality part has more difference than similarity
 - It includes a lot of international students and quite good students with high GPAs and backgrounds. A more structured program takes away demand on individual faculty decisions to take on students or not.
- If you are taking a lot of international students into the program, how does the one year speed of the course impact these students?
 - The fastest possible time frame to complete is one year but most will take longer than one year to complete it. The committee is overseeing the group as a cohort to support them.



Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Wednesday, November 24, 2021 2:00 to 4:00 pm Virtual Meeting

- Can you please elaborate on the capping exercise?
 - The capping project is coordinated as a group, but there is no group project.
- Won't Co-Op placements require international students to only work for 20 hours a week? (The maximum allowed for study permits?)
 - o The internships are unpaid, and the hours would be the equivalent to a 3 credit course.

Approved by electronic vote.

NOTE on Item 14.0: Given how quickly Council's business had moved through the items; the presenter for Item 14 had not arrived yet. The Chair asked Council to pause Item 14 until the presenter was able to arrive.

NOTE on Item 16.0: Given how quickly Council's business was moving through the approval items and that we were ahead of schedule (and our GPAC colleagues weren't joining until a specific time), Dean Milne proposed bringing back one of the two tabled items for discussion. She asked for an informal approval to discuss what was previously item 16.0 ELP For Those With Previous Credential or Accreditation. There were no objections from Council members.

16.0 <u>Discussion: ELP For Those With Previous Credentials or Accreditation</u>

Dean Milne noted that the proposal originated in discussions with GEFAC, PRC, and a number of cases from professional programs that were requesting a waiver for ELP requirements. The changes will provide an alternate pathway for exceptional circumstances where prospective applicants who hold a degree(s) from an institution where English is not the primary language of instruction, but who have demonstrated ELP through one or more of the following methods:

- Successful completion of a certificate or diploma from an academic institution recognized by the University of Alberta, where the language of instruction is English.
- Attainment of a professional certification/designation from a recognized/accredited organization that requires its own demonstration of English language proficiency.
- Demonstrated applied professional experience of at least 10 years where English is the principal language for all spoken, written, and oral communication.

Questions/Discussion:

- A Council member asked what kind of documentation would need to be provided to meet this scenario.
 - We would need to consider if the students' previous educational experience from an institution that had English as the primary language of instruction was sufficient. Other examples would include students who had accreditation from professional bodies, such as for professions like nursing or pharmacy.
- There are many institutions in countries where English is not the primary language but the institutions might have it as the language of instruction.
 - It must be where the primary language of instruction is English, as there are requirements around this already.
 - This is not replacing the standard requirement but in exceptional cases would provide an alternate pathway.
- Would we consider these exceptions in advance of the application deadline or would it only be after the applications are submitted?
 - This would apply for very specific instances when students could demonstrate one or more of the three noted criteria. If they are unable to do so then they would need to provide test scores for an ELP.



Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Wednesday, November 24, 2021 2:00 to 4:00 pm Virtual Meeting

NOTE on Item 14.0: Given how quickly Council's business had moved through the items; the presenter for Item 14 had still not arrived. The FGSR Council representative for the department was asked to provide the overview in the original presenter's stead.

14.0 <u>Proposal: Educational Policy Studies 2nd Level Specialization Name Change: Specialization in Educational Administration and Leadership becomes a specialization in Studies in Educational Leadership</u>

Dean Milne invited Dr. Darryl Hunter to present on the proposal. Dr Hunter summarized the proposed name change to the 2nd level specialization. The current name is dated and causes confusion as to whom the specialization is intended to serve. The new proposed name focuses specifically on leadership in the educational context. The change advances a broader version of what leadership is, beyond just school administration; it will support recruitment efforts, and it will represent the range of students that the program does serve within the specialization.

Motion: Be it resolved that FGSR approve the name change of the second level specialization of Educational Administration and Leadership, to the specialization of Studies in Educational Leadership, and the related calendar changes, for the Educational Policy Studies credentials, for implementation upon approval and inclusion in the 22-23 calendar.

Moved / Seconded: Doug Gleddie/Darryl Hunter *Questions/Discussion:*

- A Council member asked about the name change because of other certificates, naming conventions, and the fact that some are offered in English and French.
 - The naming of the certificate is related to the government conventions and the certificate could ladder into a particular specialization.
- A Council member asked for some clarity on the wording of the proposals and distinguishing the wording between 'implemented when approved' and 'for inclusion in the next calendar'.
 - If the motion notes that the change will be implemented in the updated calendar then it will
 come into effect for those that apply for and are admitted into that calendar year; however, if
 the changes need to happen outside of that cycle then the wording will say that the changes are
 effective upon final approval.
 - Dean Milne noted that in the case of the School of Public Health changing their requirements for comprehensive exams, students in the program would need the change to be effective upon approval so they can make decisions about whether or not they're going to continue on the pre-existing program pathway, or whether they have the option to move to the revised one once it is approved.
 - Dr. Jose daCosta noted that in the case of the name change in Education, it is important that the change is effective immediately so that students considering applying before the December 2021 deadline can know that the name has changed well in advance of the next calendar being published in the spring.

Approved by electronic vote.



Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Wednesday, November 24, 2021 2:00 to 4:00 pm Virtual Meeting

16.0 Student Services Update

Dean Milne thanked the Council for their flexibility in adjusting to these changes in the agenda. She also welcomed Associate Deans Grad from the Faculties and the program Grad Advisors that work closely with graduate students and FGSR (GPAC members). She also welcomed Vice-Provost and Registrar, Melissa Padfield. She is a co-sponsor with Dean Barb Billingsly on the Student Services stream.

Everyone here would have received the memo that was circulated from the Provost's Office outlining some details related to the high level redesign that affects the four central units within the Provost Office: the Dean of Students, FGSR, RO, and UAI.

While it was circulated on short notice, Dean Milne noted that it was important for this information to be shared in this particular venue with as many of our key stakeholders as possible before this information becomes more widely circulated over the coming days with others in the four central units, and then with the wider UA community. This is the last Council meeting for the year and the next one isn't until late January so it's important to be able to have a conversation in real time with as much inclusion as possible. Please do note that this information is confidential and is not to be shared further

The memo outlined some high level points about the changes that have been proposed and endorsed by the Provost and by PEC-S (President's Executive Committee). The changes are focusing on preparing the University of Alberta for the student enrolment growth anticipated over the next five years. As a result, much of this work has been focused on how it is that the UofA can deliver student services across the university and, in particular, across the four central units. The focus has been on how we can improve upon what it is that we do in support of graduate students and graduate education, but also for all students attending the University of Alberta.

Dean Milne drew Council's attention to three relevant points in the high level org chart. 1) Administrative Academic Advising will be moving from Faculties to FGSR; 2) The Postdoctoral Office will be returning to FGSR from the VPRI where it has been for the past several years; and, 3) The RO and FGSR will undertake a discovery process for Admissions to explore if it is possible to use one system for all admissions across campus. The proposed transition for the above items will begin shortly and take the next 18-24 months.

There are no additional details at this time but we will keep this group updated and consulted as we work out the timing and resourcing of any of the changes so that we can ensure we maintain a high level of service to students and programs.

She invited the Vice-Provost and University Registrar, Melissa Padfield, to offer additional comments. Ms. Padfield noted that she was looking forward to the opportunity to take a collaborative and thoughtful look at a very preliminary level around the area of graduate admissions support in a way that can facilitate the needs of graduate programs. She welcomed any feedback and questions from the group and looks forward to supporting these changes.

Dean Milne invited Council members to ask questions or provide feedback.

Discussion / Questions:

• A Council member noted that departments were under a lot of stress due to the changes, loss of key administrative staff, and no timelines or clarity on support in the near future.



Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Wednesday, November 24, 2021 2:00 to 4:00 pm Virtual Meeting

- The details in the memo do not clarify what will be happening with the programs, departments, faculties, and colleges. This is a challenging time and FGSR is able to support departments and programs as best as we can. There will be further discussions about what is happening at the faculty and college level in terms of support for implementing the various changes and addressing these issues.
- How will the College office that has an Office of Education, which includes both undergrad and grad, integrate with the structure that was just shown? It is unclear what that office will do and how it will help with preventing or reducing duplication.
 - Dean Milne was unable to provide much detail about the colleges other than to say that the Service partner structure will be in place to liaise and support the work that will be done at FGSR to ensure consistency. How the college offices will be populated will likely depend on discipline specific needs for grad administration. Disciplinary expertise will and should live closest to the programs.
 - Ms Padfiled noted that certain tasks could be done at the college level to ensure there aren't duplications of services and functions. It will also be important that the offices are not set up to come into conflict with work in other offices.
- A council member asked for more details related to the note that has course based recruitment housed in the Registrar's office. In Education, for example, there is a lot of recruitment that happens at teachers' conventions and through on the ground conversations.
 - Ms Padfield acknowledged that there's a lot of department specific recruitment that happens and the goal is not to consolidate all of that and take it away from the people currently doing the work, rather, is there a way to consolidate that function in a way that creates economies of scale. There would be central support for recruitment for course based masters where it makes sense and in markets that are harder to access from the departmental level. There will be a lot of conversation on this issue before any action is taken, but there is an intention to support that kind of recruitment. From a central service area the idea is to augment work and not get in the way of work where it is very particular to a discipline area and looks much more like thesis based recruitment.
 - Dean Milne added that discovery process will likely lead to a recognition that course based
 masters programs are highly variable at the UofA and we'll be in a position to make the
 distinction between those that would fall within the parameters of the work that the Registrar
 just described and those that really do not fit within that model because they are more like a
 thesis program.
- A Council member noted that the image shows awards and scholarships for course-based masters are located in the RO. What does this mean if admissions are still with FGSR?
 - The policy and the regulations for all graduate programs still fall under the purview of the Faculty Graduate Studies and Research. It's important to highlight that the way the language is framed out within the structure is still high level. There's a lot of work to do to move things forward and that will need to take into consideration those unique differences that do exist among programs, despite being classified as thesis or course-based.
- A Council member noted that clarifying language would be useful and it's important to keep in mind when determining substantive issues that are academic or programmatic, and the administrative support.
- A Council member echoed the previous comment and noted that administrative support and discipline specific knowledge or program knowledge are entangled in ways that are important. They will get damaged, and students and student progression will suffer. Things that seem simple and efficient actually end up producing bad outcomes for students.



Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Wednesday, November 24, 2021 2:00 to 4:00 pm Virtual Meeting

Dean Milne noted that when discussing centralized functions it is only for administrative
academic support that is the same for every student, program over program, department
over department/faculty. Work that does not change, irrespective of students in the program, is
distinct from disciplinary expertise and support. It will be important to create that separation in
order to facilitate greater ease of support of programs and students. The work is meant to be
complementary.

Dean Milne thanked the Council for creating the space to have this initial discussion. She reminded everyone that the information will be circulated to the university community in the coming days and until such a time to please keep the details confidential. Thank you for the comments and feedback and please feel free to send any additional thoughts or questions to the graddean@ualberta.ca email account.

18.0 Adjournment

Vice-Provost and Dean Milne thanked Council members for their attendance and participation.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 PM.

Note: TABLED: Item 15.0 - Discussion: Academic Standing and Academic Probation