

## Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Wednesday, December 7, 2022 (1:00 - 3:30 pm)

\*\*Virtual Meeting

Min	Item	Agenda Item	Action	Att
10	1.0	<b>Call Meeting to Order</b>	Action	No
	2.0	<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	Approval	Yes
	3.0	<b>Approval of Minutes of the October 26, 2022 Meeting</b>	Approval	Yes
	4.0	<b>Matters Arising from the Minutes</b>	Discussion	No
10	5.0	<b>Report from the Dean</b>	Receive for Info	Yes
10	6.0	<b>GSA Monthly Report</b>	Receive for Info	Yes
10	7.0	<p><b>Nursing: PhD Regulation and Course Changes &amp; Masters Course Changes</b>  <i>Presenter: Dianne Tapp, Associate Dean - Grad, Faculty of Nursing</i></p> <p>Motion: THAT FGSR Council approve the program and calendar revisions, and related course additions and changes, for the PhD Nursing program, and the courses for the Master of Nursing program, as presented in the following documents, for inclusion in the next calendar and implementation for the Fall of 2023.</p>	Approval	Yes
10	8.0	<p><b>BioMedical Engineering: Program Change</b>  <i>Presenter: Alan Wilman, Assoc Chair Grad - Biomedical Engineering Dept</i></p> <p>Motion: THAT FGSR Council approve the changes to the required course list for the MSc in Biomedical Engineering in the Faculties of Medicine and Engineering, as noted in the included documentation for implementation upon final approval and inclusion in the next Calendar.</p>	Approval	Yes
5	9.0	<p><b>Rehab Med: Suspension of the Graduate Certificate in Stroke Rehabilitation</b>  <i>Presenter: Bernadette Martin, Associate Dean - Rehab Med</i></p> <p>Motion: THAT FGSR Council approve the Suspension of the Rehab Medicine Graduate Certificate in Stroke Rehabilitation, beginning on July 1, 2023.</p>	Approval	Yes
5	10.0	<p><b>Rehab Med: Suspension of the Graduate Certificate in Bridging to Canadian Physical Therapy Practice</b>  <i>Presenter: Bernadette Martin, Associate Dean - Rehab Med</i></p> <p>Motion: THAT FGSR Council approve the suspension of the Rehabilitation Medicine Graduate Certificate in Bridging to Canadian Physical Therapy Practice, to take effect on July 21, 2023.</p>	Approval	Yes
10	11.0	<p><b>East Asian Studies: Entrance Requirement Changes</b>  <i>Presenter: Kim Noels, Associate Dean - Grad, Arts</i></p> <p>Motion: THAT FGSR Council approve the changes to the Entrance Requirements for the Graduate Programs in East Asian Studies, in the Faculty of Arts, as noted in the included documentation for implementation upon final approval and inclusion in the next Calendar.</p>	Approval	Yes
10	12.0	<p><b>MMus Performance and Choral - Calendar Changes</b>  <i>Presenter: Kim Noels, Associate Dean - Grad, Arts</i></p> <p>Motion: THAT FGSR approve the changes to the Language Requirement and other minor changes for the MMus Choral and Performance, effective on approval, and to be reflected in the next Calendar.</p>	Approval	Yes
20	13.0	<p><b>Joint Degree Agreements with IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur, and IISC</b>  <i>Presenter: Cen Huang, Vice-Provost &amp; Associate Vice-President (International)</i></p> <p>Motion: THAT FGSR Council approve the Joint Doctoral degree agreements between UAlberta and each of: IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur, and IISC, for implementation upon final approval, including approval by the Dean of FGSR, and signature by the UofA and each institution.</p>	Approval	Yes

5	14.0	<b>ALES: RENR Changes</b> <i>Presenter: Andreas Hamann or Nadir Erbilgin</i> Motion: THAT FGSR Council approve the Faculty of ALES Calendar and related course changes for the department of Resource Economics & Environmental Sociology, for implementation upon final approval and inclusion in the next UofA Calendar.	Approval	Yes
10	15.0	<b>ALES: RENR Academic Standing Change</b> <i>Presenter: Andreas Hamann or Nadir Erbilgin</i> Motion: THAT FGSR Council approve the changes to the Academic Standing Requirements for the Department of Renewable Resources in the Faculty of ALES, for implementation upon final approval and inclusion in the next Calendar.	Approval	Yes
25	16.0	<b>Early Idea Generation: Minimum PhD Guaranteed Funding</b>	Discussion	No
10	17.0	<b>Question Period:</b> <i>Please submit questions in advance to <a href="mailto:graddean@ualberta.ca">graddean@ualberta.ca</a></i>	Discussion	No
-	18.0	<b>Adjournment</b>	Action	No

**\*\*The 2022 - 2023 FGSR Council Meeting Schedule: October 26 / December 7 / February 8 / March 8 / April 26 / May 31  
(All meetings from 1:00 - 3:30 PM)**

**Attendance at FGSR Council – December 7, 2022**
**Department/Unit Faculty Representatives**

Art & Design	Aidan Rowe
Biochemistry	David Stuart
Biomedical Engineering	Alan H. Wilman
Business (non-departmentalized) - PhD	Trish Reay
Chemicals & Materials Engineering	Hao Zhang
Civil & Environmental Engineering	Zaher Hashisho
Communications and Technology [includes MACT]	Thomas Barker
Dentistry (Medical Sciences)	Hollis Lai
Digital Humanities	Daniel Laforest
East Asian Studies	Yoshi Ono
Economics	Heather Eckert
Educational Policy Studies	Trudy Cardinal
Educational Psychology	Lesly Wade-Woolley
English and Film Studies	Mark Simpson
Faculte Saint-Jean (non-departmentalized)	Samira El Atia
Health Sciences Education	Douglas Gleddie
History, Classics, and Religion	Heather Coleman
Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation (non-departmentalized)	Normand Boule
Law (non-departmentalized)	Matthew Lewans
Library & Information Studies	Tami Oliphant
Linguistics	Johanne Paradis
Mathematical & Statistical Sciences	Feng Dai
Mechanical Engineering	Alexandra Komrakova
Medical Microbiology & Immunology	Edan Foley
Nursing (non-departmentalized)	Dianne Tapp
Oncology	Alan Underhill
Oncology	Gordon Chan
Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences (Medical Sciences)	Brittany Carr
Pediatrics (Medical Sciences)	Sujata Persad
Pharmacology	Elena Posse de Chaves
Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences (non-departmentalized)	Arno Siraki
Philosophy	Jennifer Welchman
Physics	Claire Currie
Physiology	Greg Funk
Political Science	Fiona Nicoll
Psychiatry	Allen Chan
Psychology	Chris Westbury
Radiology & Diagnostic Imaging (Medical Sciences)	Lawrence Le

Rehabilitation Medicine - Rehabilitation Sciences	Berni Martin
Renewable Resources	Andreas Hamann
Resource Economics & Environmental Sociology	Brent Swallow
School of Public Health (non-departmentalized)	Susan Chatwood
Surgery	Fred Berry
Women's and Gender Studies	Katy Campbell

**Regrets:**

Communication Sciences & Disorders  
 Earth & Atmospheric Sciences  
 Human Ecology  
 Internetworking (MINT)  
 Music  
 Native Studies (non-departmentalized)

**Absent:**

Agricultural, Food & Nutritional Science  
 Anthropology  
 Biological Sciences  
 Business (non-departmentalized) - MBA  
 Cell Biology  
 Chemistry  
 Computing Science  
 Computing Science - Multimedia Program  
 Drama  
 Educational Studies  
 Electrical & Computer Engineering  
 Elementary Education  
 Laboratory Medicine & Pathology  
 Medical Genetics (Medical Sciences)  
 Medical Sciences Graduate Program - FoMD  
 Medicine  
 Modern Languages & Cultural Studies  
 Neuroscience  
 Obstetrics & Gynecology (Medical Sciences)  
 Occupational Therapy  
 Physical Therapy  
 Secondary Education  
 Sociology

**Associate Deans (Graduate) Representatives for Departmentalized Faculties**
**Present:**

Arts	Kim Noels
Education	Doug Gleddie
Medicine & Dentistry	Greg Funk
Rehabilitation Medicine	Mary Roduta Roberts
Science	Mark McDermott

**Ex-Officio Representatives**

FGSR Interim Vice-Provost and Dean (FGSR Council Chair)	Roger Epp
FGSR Vice-Dean	Ali Shiri
FGSR Associate Dean	Andrea MacLeod
FGSR Associate Dean	Cagri Ayranci
FGSR Associate Dean	Micah True
Vice-President (Research) (or Delegate)	Laura Beard
Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian (or Delegate)	Dale Askey
Vice-Provost and University Registrar (or Delegate)	Jane Lee

**Graduate Program Administrators Committee (GPAC) Representatives**

GPAC Member	Nicola DiNicola
GPAC Member	Jen Freund

**Graduate Student Association (GSA) Directly Elected Officials (3) & Graduate Student Association (GSA) Council Representatives (20)**
**Present:**

<i>GSA President</i>	<i>Anas Fassih</i>
<i>VP Academic</i>	<i>Bishoi Aziz</i>
Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Science	Devansh Patel
Chemical and Materials Engineering	Peyman Aghdasi Mazandarani
Medicine	Olawunmi Olagundoye
Pediatrics	Ezra Ketema
Electrical & Computer Engineering	Collin VanEssen
Nursing	Megan Sommerfeld
Renewable Resources	Abhijeet Pathy
Agriculture, Food & Nutritional Science	Emilee Storfie
Civil & Environmental Engineering	Olabode Babalola
Civil & Environmental Engineering	Hadi Mokarizadeh
Medicine	Allison Bihari
Pediatrics	Qiuyu Sun
Pharmacology	Nayiar Shahid
Political Science	Telisa Courtney
Secondary Education	Colleen Knechtel

**Absent:**

Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences	Leluo Guan
Engineering	Peter Schiavone

**Regrets:**

President (or Delegate)	President Flannigan
FGSR Associate Dean	Frances Plane
Director, Centre for Teaching & Learning*	Janice Miller-Young
Chair, FGSR Academic Appeals Committee*	Moin Yahya

**Regrets / Absent / Alternates:**

<i>VP Labour</i>	<i>Hiren Kaklotar</i>
Business	Bhavneet Kaur
Chemical and Materials Engineering	Sophie Shi
Civil & Environmental Engineering	Abel Suresh
Electrical & Computer Engineering	Md Habibur Rahaman
Med Microbiology & Immunology	Emma Takeuchi
Public Health	Ademola Itiola

**Observers – Non-Voting\***

FGSR Faculty Manager (FGSR Council Secretary)*	Bobbi Schiestel
FGSR Executive Coordinator*	Andrea Riewe
GFC Secretary*	Heather Richholt
FGSR, Supervisor, Graduate Awards*	Amanda Brown
FGSR Supervisor-Admissions Unit /Program Services Unit*	Joyce Anderson
FGSR Director Professional Development*	Renee Polziehn
FGSR, EA to the Associate Deans*	Dena Giroux
Calendar Editor*	Rebecca Liaw
Office of the Students Ombuds*	Eric Awuah
Presenter: Senior International Agreements Administrator, UAI*	Shawn Heinz
Presenter: Vice-Provost & AVP International, University of Alberta International *	Cen Huang

\*Non-Voting

**FGSR Council December 7, 2022**
**1.0 Call to Order at 1:03 PM**

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

**2.0 Approval of Agenda for December 7, 2022**

**Moved / Seconded:** Bishoi Aziz/Greg Funk

**Approved by consent.**

**3.0 Approval of Minutes of October 26, 2022**

**Moved / Seconded:** Sujata Persad/Heather Coleman

**Discussion / Amendments:**

- n/a

**Approved by electronic vote.**

Approve: 51

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 1

**4.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

None

**5.0 Report from the Dean**

Interim Vice-Provost and Dean Epp noted that the written report, *FGSR Report: Nov/Dec 2022*, was included in the meeting package. He provided the following verbal comments:

**Unit Review:**

- We are starting to narrow down the thinking on the unit review.
- The unit review is about how FGSR positions itself within a university that is still in the middle of a reorganization; to determine where we fit within the university so that we can most effectively be partners with each of you in the work of supporting graduate students and the work of enlarging our graduate programs.
- Dr. Epp is becoming familiar with a lot of the history, the recent consultation and proposals, and the document history that has surrounded the thinking about FGSR.
- It is time to engage external reviewers on this project.
- We expect that this review will occur in early 2023.

**Minimum Guaranteed PhD Funding:**

- Interim Vice-Provost and Dean Epp mentioned that we will be discussing the minimum guaranteed PhD funding initiative later in the agenda, as we are currently in the information gathering stage.
- This initiative has support from the GSA and is a matter of commitment from the Interim Provost.
- There are challenges to overcome and we know it is not straightforward.
- Minimum funding guarantees are important and valuable in all kinds of ways, including that it keeps us in step with other U15 institutions.
- We are trying to see how we can make this work across the university in a sustainable and attainable way. The initiative cannot work if it results in unintended and negative consequences for parts of the university.

**Ukraine Conflict:**

- Prospective students joining the university in the 2023-24 year through the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) program will be charged the domestic tuition rate instead of the international tuition rate for the duration of their program.
- U of A is one of only a few universities in Canada to offer CUAET students domestic tuition rates, which is a 70-80% reduction, depending on the program, from the international tuition rates.
- The application fee will not be waived.

**Iran Application Fee Waiver:**

- The pressure for a fee waiver for prospective students from Iran has been increasing and is an open and active conversation.
- We have 600+ graduate students from Iran. 1 in 6 students from our entire international cohort is from Iran.
- We are aware that applications are down sharply.
- The University is trying to move from emergency responses to global crises to a more responsive, sustainable way to support students experiencing issues.

- FGSR is being as flexible about deadlines as we can be, and we encourage you to be accommodating where you can be.

**Certificate Working Group:**

- Thank you so much for all of the interest in participating in the Working Group on Graduate Certificates. We were pleased to have so many interested individuals. In composing the group, wherever possible, we considered the following:
  - Representation from the three Colleges and standalone Faculties
  - Representation from faculties with previous experiences in developing Graduate Certificates, and those who are considering creating a Certificate.
  - Gender balance.
  - Representation of Associate Deans - Grad, Grad Coordinators, Graduate Administrators and Graduate Students.
- This working group will identify barriers and make recommendations regarding university policy around how we treat certificate students and certificates.
- Confirmed Members so far are:
  - Frances Plane (CHAIR)
  - Bobbi Schiestel, FGSR
  - Dianne Tapp, Nursing
  - Doug Gleddie, Education
  - Gillian Steves, Arts
  - Jelena Holivati, Medicine and Dentistry
  - Katy Campbell, Arts
  - Michael Maier, Business
  - Sophie Shi, Engineering
  - Tonia Harris, ALES

**Communication updates:**

- The “Shortlist Newsletter” has been replaced with the Graduate Staff and Contacts Digest, however, the content will be the same as the Shortlist.
- Going forward, we will also be communicating with graduate students using the graduate student digest instead of the newsletter.
- Both digests are sent out on Wednesday mornings.

**Graduate Student Teaching Awards:**

- We are excited that this award is returning after being on hold for three years.
- It recognizes graduate student contributions to teaching, which not only build a community of service and positively affects their well-being, but it builds a reputation of teaching excellence on campus and creates paths for these students to receive future recognition and opportunities (scholarships, internships, jobs).
- We expect double-cohorts this year.
- Please see the written report for details.

Operational updates and reminders were included in the written report, which we encourage you to review.

***Discussion / Questions:***

- A Council member asked for a timeline for the unit review process as they are eager to start moving forward with everything in FGSR and faculties (i.e. how we organize graduate activities at the College versus faculty levels).
  - Interim Dean Epp mentioned that some of this depends on people’s availability, but he is hoping that within the first 3 months of 2023 the review could be wrapped up.
- A Council member asked about the plan for the consultation process for the unit review.
  - Interim Dean Epp commented that there is not a plan yet, but an intention that it be done as widely as possible within the timeframe that we have.
  - Would hope that it includes Graduate Coordinators, Directors, Associate Deans, people who are working in graduate administration, and those within FGSR.
- A Council member asked about the field of questions that will be addressed during this review.
  - Interim Dean Epp commented that the primary question to be addressed is about the positioning of FGSR within the structure of the One University model. The secondary questions are around process and governance.
- Council Members asked for graduate students and supervisors as well as stand-alone faculties to be added to the list of consultations.
- A Council member commented that some international students from Iran and Ukraine were not able to meet the deadline of their departments because of the lack of internet. Departments and Coordinators need to be mindful of the issue and be flexible in these situations.
- A Council member mentioned that we need to also be flexible regarding fellowship money when attempting to recruit students from “risky” countries who may experience Visa delays. The member suggested that FGSR could allow departments to redirect fellowship money in cases like this.
- A Council member mentioned that Iranian students who are required to defer are granted a new admission letter, which comes with a 6% increase in tuition over their original guarantee. It would be helpful if we could transfer their recruitment money to a credit towards that tuition.

**6.0 GSA Monthly Report**

Anas Fassih, GSA President, presented the GSA Monthly Report. He highlighted the Minimum Guaranteed Funding project that the GSA is working on with FGSR and the Office of the Provost. This has been a priority for graduate students for 10 – 15 years. The University of Alberta is lagging behind other institutions in Canada that already have funding guarantees in place. The GSA is starting with an environmental scan both externally and internally. There is a lot of variability between departments in terms of PhD funding.



GSA President Fassih updated the group on recent meetings in Ottawa with federal government officials. In these meetings, the GSA addressed their priorities including Tri-Council funding increases and mental health funding.

Currently, the GSA is developing the budget for the upcoming year.

GSA President Fassih indicated that the GSA hosted a number of social events in December. As well, they are currently processing grants and emergency funding. Finally, the Executive continues to work on their new strategic plan.

## **7.0 Nursing: PhD Regulation and Course Changes & Masters Course Changes**

*Presenter: Dianne Tapp, Associate Dean - Grad, Faculty of Nursing*

Interim Vice-Provost and Dean Epp invited Associate Dean Tapp to present on the proposed PhD regulations and course changes, and the Masters course changes.

AD Tapp spoke broadly about a few of the highlights of this package. These calendar changes are coming from a 3-year process of program and curriculum review of all programs in the Faculty of Nursing. The Faculty of Nursing made a decision to retain and revise the existing core courses in the curriculum rather than start over. The revisions to core courses and electives reflect the current content and contemporary focus of the doctoral program courses. The Faculty explicitly adopted the national accreditation body's guidelines for doctoral program outcomes, and they align nicely with the calendared FGSR program outcomes. They have added additional outcomes to address specific capabilities regarding reconciliation and EDI that they wanted graduates to be exposed to and confident in.

Three new one-credit courses are added as core-required courses. These are a series of courses to help build cohorts within incoming doctoral students and to build some of the soft skills that are required to help achieve overall program outcomes. They are a fantastic safety net for graduate supervisory topics. These courses are prerequisite to the doctoral dissertation seminar that will then happen in the winter term of year 2.

Finally, there is a deletion of the Residency requirement, which was unanimously approved by the Faculty of Nursing Council in October.

AD Tapp also spoke to the Masters changes indicating that the Faculty of Nursing implemented changes to the Master of Nursing curriculum in the fall of 2021. Now they are putting forward a revision to a course description as well as minor course title tweaks from courses that were introduced last year. There is a similar three one-credit Community of Inquiry series and they wanted to distinguish a Master Community of Inquiry level from the doctoral ones being introduced. Changes to the capstone project -- Nursing 900 is now going to be a guided seminar instead of an independent study.

*Motion: Be it resolved that FGSR Council approve the program and calendar revisions, and related course additions and changes, for the PhD Nursing program, and the courses for the Master of Nursing program, as presented in the following documents, for inclusion in the next calendar and implementation for the Fall of 2023.*

**Moved / Seconded:** Ali Shiri / Cagri Ayranci

**Questions/Discussion**

- A Council member commented how exciting it is to see EDI and reconciliation changes added to the program.

**Approved by electronic vote.**

Approve: 50

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 1

**8.0 BioMedical Engineering: Program Change**

*Presenter: Alan Wilman, Associate Chair Graduate - Biomedical Engineering Department*

Interim Vice-Provost and Dean Epp invited Associate Chair Wilman to present on the proposed program change for BioMedical Engineering.

AC Wilman outlined a change to the BioMedical Engineering program. They have three courses of which two used to come from the required course list. A number of those are outdated courses and the PhD program already dropped their course list. In addition, they want supervisors to be able to choose the courses with their committee. They have a wide variety of students and want to be able to choose the courses that are appropriate.

*Motion: Be it resolved that FGSR Council approve the changes to the required course list for the MSc in Biomedical Engineering in the Faculties of Medicine and Engineering, as noted in the included documentation for implementation upon final approval and inclusion in the next Calendar.*

**Moved / Seconded:** Alan Underhill / Cagri Ayranci

**Questions/Discussion:**

- None.

**Approved by electronic vote.**

Approve: 54

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

**9.0 Rehab Med: Suspension of the Graduate Certificate in Stroke Rehabilitation**

*Presenter: Bernadette Martin, Associate Dean - Rehabilitation Medicine*

Interim Vice-Provost and Dean Epp invited Associate Dean Martin to provide an overview of the proposal.

AD Martin outlined the reasons for the proposed suspension of the Graduate Certificate in Stroke Rehabilitation. The certificate has been up and running since 2010. The challenge has been a lack of enrolment, as the original targets have never been reached. In the last few years, they have found that the number of applicants and learners completing the certificate has significantly decreased to the point where it is not financially viable.

*Motion: Be it resolved that FGSR Council approve the Suspension of the Rehab Medicine Graduate Certificate in Stroke Rehabilitation, beginning on July 1, 2023.*

**Moved / Seconded:** Doug Gleddie / Sujata Persad

**Questions/Discussion:**

- None.

**Approved by electronic vote.**

Approve: 55

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

**10.0 Rehab Med: Suspension of the Graduate Certificate in Bridging to Canadian Physical Therapy Practice**

*Presenter: Bernadette Martin, Associate Dean - Rehabilitation Medicine*

Interim Vice-Provost and Dean Epp invited AD Martin to present the proposal.

AD Martin outlined the history of the certificate indicating that it was funded for the first four offerings through a Health Canada grant. The certificate was well subscribed with 25 – 30 internationally educated Physical Therapists in each cohort. They have found that although it is a good program, it is too expensive for this population of learners and the enrolment has dropped significantly. They intend to roll out a non-credit new curriculum in this area.

*Motion: Be it resolved that FGSR Council approve the suspension of the Rehabilitation Medicine Graduate Certificate in Bridging to Canadian Physical Therapy Practice, to take effect on July 21, 2023.*

**Moved / Seconded:** Andrea MacLeod / Cagri Ayranci

**Questions/Discussion:**

- None.

**Approved by electronic vote.**

Approve: 54

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 1

**11.0 East Asian Studies: Entrance Requirement Changes***Presenter: Kim Noels, Associate Dean – Graduate, Arts*

Interim Vice-Provost and Dean Epp introduced Associate Dean Graduate Kim Noels to present the proposed entrance requirement changes.

AD Noels indicated that the Department of East Asian Studies currently requires all entrance students to have four years of university-level study in a language that will be the focus of their graduate degree. The department would like to reduce that to three years to improve recruitment. East Asian Studies' own undergraduate program only requires three years of language study. This approach would be much more consistent with their own program and other programs across Canada.

*Motion: Be it resolved that FGSR Council approve the changes to the Entrance Requirements for the Graduate Programs in East Asian Studies, in the Faculty of Arts, as noted in the included documentation for implementation upon final approval and inclusion in the next Calendar.*

**Moved / Seconded:** Katy Campbell / Heather Coleman

**Questions/Discussion:**

- None.

**Approved by electronic vote.**

Approve: 53

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

**12.0 MMus Performance and Choral - Calendar Changes***Presenter: Kim Noels, Associate Dean – Graduate, Arts*

Associate Dean Graduate, Kim Noels outlined the proposed calendar changes. The Department of Music would like approval for some changes to the Masters of Music in Choral and Performance programs. They would like students to take at least one academic course. It was felt that a requirement that would ensure students complete an academic paper before they graduated was important for that degree.

There is also a desire to remove the language other than English requirement. It is felt that the students in most comparable programs in Canada do not have this requirement at the Masters level. Further, it is difficult to acquire competence in a two-year program, and this is better done either in the undergraduate or in a doctoral program.

*Motion: Be it resolved that FGSR approve the changes to the Language Requirement and other minor changes for the MMus Choral and Performance, effective on approval, and to be reflected in the next Calendar.*

**Moved / Seconded:** Samira ElAtia / Micah True

**Questions/Discussion:**

- None.

**Approved by electronic vote.**

Approve: 50

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 2

**13.0 Joint Degree Agreements with IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur, and IISC**

*Presenters: Cen Huang, Vice-Provost & Associate Vice-President (International) and Shawn Heinz, Senior International Agreements Administrator, UAI*

Interim Vice-Provost and Dean Epp invited AVP University of Alberta International (UAI) Cen Huang to present information about the three joint degree agreements.

AVP Huang indicated that these proposals were part of a group of these agreements that were approved at the October 2019 FGSR Council meeting. These three new agreements are proposed now because they were not ready in 2019 when the other programs were approved. They expect students will finish their candidacy exam or evaluation on the Indian side and then would come to the University of Alberta to do research aligned with their dissertation. The research will be jointly supervised by IIT and U of A professors. When students complete one year of PhD research at the University of Alberta, they will go back to their home institution to get a PhD degree from IIT. AVP Huang stressed that the institutions we are proposing joint degrees with are the top universities/ institutions in India.

Interim Dean Epp added that the agreements had received a legal screen/review.

*Motion: Be it resolved that FGSR Council approve the Joint Doctoral degree agreements between UAlberta and each of: IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur, and IISC, for implementation upon final approval, including approval by the Dean of FGSR, and signature by the UofA and each institution.*

**Moved / Seconded:** Telisa Courtney / Collin VanEssen

**Questions/Discussion:**

- A Council member mentioned that at PRC they discussed ideally completing the candidacy exam and all the course requirements at the home institution prior to visiting the collaborating institution; however, agreement does provide provision for taking courses at the collaborating institution if approved by the student's supervisory committee. Our understanding is that this does not comply with the University of Alberta calendar and taking required courses at the collaborating institution would put the student's degree at risk. One way around it is to say courses taken at the collaborating institution are extra to the degree.
  - Vice-Dean Ali Shiri clarified that it is expected that students will successfully complete all their required courses and their candidacy exam at their home institution before visiting the collaborating institution. It is implied that they need to complete required courses as reflected in the University calendar. If there is going to be an additional or separate set of courses, they would need to be approved by supervisors from the home Institution and the visiting institution.
  - AVP Huang indicated that they would take these points and revisit the language in this particular section of the agreements.
  - The Chair mentioned that the motion would allow for editorial revision with Deans sign off.
- A Council Member questioned what the financial impact is on the University of Alberta for a program like this.
  - AVP Huang indicated that the agreement is built as a reciprocal exchange and the U of A provides a stipend to students. Jointly funded by UAI and the Provost's Office at a value of \$50,000 per year.
- A Council member asked how many University of Alberta students are at IIT Institutions presently. As well, the member asked about the number of members on the supervisory committee.
  - AVP Huang indicated that no students are presently at IIT, but they will be promoting this opportunity.

**Approved by electronic vote.**

Approve: 44

Oppose: 2

Abstain: 7

**14.0 ALES: RENR Changes***Presenter: Andreas Hamann, Grad Coordinator - Renewable Resources Department*

Interim Vice-Provost and Dean Epp invited Graduate Coordinator Andreas Hamann to present the RENR Changes.

GC Hamann indicated that these changes are mostly small administrative clerical changes. The first one is in regards to a qualitative course requirement for thesis-based programs. They used to have a three-credit single course, quantitative requirement, but subsequently changed this to a one-credit module, so all quantitative courses are now given as one-credit modules and still have to take two. It turned out that those one credit modules were actually better reflected as 1.5 credit modules because they are given in half a term, and students can choose what they need. They want to up these to 1.5 and revert to the three-credit quantitative requirements.

*Motion: Be it resolved that FGSR Council approve the Faculty of ALES Calendar and related course changes for the department of Renewable Resources, for implementation upon final approval and inclusion in the next UofA Calendar.*

**Moved / Seconded:** Andreas Hamann / Doug Gleddie

**Questions/Discussion:**

- None.

**Approved by electronic vote.**

Approve: 50

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

**15.0 ALES: RENR Academic Standing Change**

*Presenter: Andreas Hamann, Grad Coordinator - Renewable Resources Department*

Grad Coordinator Hamann indicated that RENR wants to drop their separate academic standing requirements. Previously they have required a 3.0 grade point average instead of 2.7 for students to go forward to graduate. It is not something supervisors want anymore and this requirement has been neglected for years. They want to default to the normal 2.7 of FGSR as this simplifies everything.

*Motion: Be it resolved that FGSR Council approve the changes to the Academic Standing Requirements for the Department of Renewable Resources in the Faculty of ALES, for implementation upon final approval and inclusion in the next Calendar.*

**Moved / Seconded:** Andreas Hamann / Greg Funk

**Questions/Discussion:**

- None.

**Approved by electronic vote.**

Approve: 53

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

**16.0 Early Idea Generation: Minimum PhD Guaranteed Funding**

Interim Vice-Provost and Dean Epp introduced the item indicating that we are very much in the information-gathering stage right now, and gathering both U15-related and internal data. The GSA has done some helpful work related to this initiative. We want to get as close as we can to identify potential gaps and risks at the program level. We have many data sources, but what is most important is a profile of PhD students. If, when completing the FGSR survey, you find that the numbers are hard, spend your time on building the profile and identifying risks and gaps. We want the exposure of the university to be minimal. We will be collecting data from multiple sources and comparing it, and many things have changed since we did some of this work in 2018/2019.

***Questions/Discussion:***

- A Council member mentioned that they are part of a new PhD program focused on work and employment. They worry about small programs having to provide guaranteed funding.
  - Interim Dean Epp indicated this feedback is consistent with what we have heard and we recognize there is a funding gap that needs to be made up in order for this not to simply be a way to produce winners and losers.
- A Council member indicated that they are surprised that the guaranteed funding package is so different from the GSA agreement. The member asked how we arrived at the number of \$18,000 and also raised the issue of differential fees, as international students are incredibly disadvantaged because they do not qualify for Tri-Council funding. If we are going to have a funding guarantee, we should probably have a separate equation for international students.
- A Council member indicated that they are from a small program with the same concerns mentioned previously. Alberta government funding is very inflexible now and that will be a challenge. They noted that the University of Alberta could consider a tuition waiver as part of the funding package as it would simplify the process for departments.
- A Council member mentioned that they worry that without some additional funding sources to complement our capacity to fund doctoral students internally they will have to decrease the number of doctoral students. This decrease would have a real impact on their reputation and program.
- A Council member mentioned a concern with the survey is that each question is required. They also indicated support for the idea of a tuition waiver. The member raised an additional concern that there are instances where tuition costs for course-based programs are the same as thesis-based programs.
  - Interim Dean Epp indicated that FGSR will adjust the survey so not all questions are required.
- A Council member indicated that they do not see a solution to this issue without some central funding.



- A Council member indicated that we should approach this initiative as an opportunity to advocate for students and programs. Rather than be scared, we need to push very hard for additional funding.
- A Council member mentioned that it is important to remember that graduate students receive tax credits when they pay their tuition. They would rather allow them to have a funding package and then pay tuition with that tuition package.
- A Council member indicated that there are financial ways to make this happen. The University of Calgary has had a give back on their tuition for a while.
- A Council member mentioned that tax related issues need to be examined (i.e. would the tax credit idea apply to international students). Also mentioned that they recall that Alberta does not do tuition tax credits anymore.
- A member mentioned that there is not a clear purpose statement telling why we would provide minimum funding for students. A tuition waiver is better than tax credit because students do not get all of tuition back when claimed. Scholarships often come too late for recruitment and are instead viewed as a reward.
- A member mentioned that finding out where the University of Calgary is receiving their funding might be a starting point for this initiative.
- A Council member mentioned that at the University of Calgary there were centrally distributed funds for graduate students. There has been a long-standing central commitment for graduate students at the U of C.
- A member commented that the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Calgary has been much more effective in their fundraising efforts.
- A member indicated that we need to think what is the minimum to be “international and relevant” with regards to having international students. Do we need 40% international students to be a “global university”?
- A Council member mentioned that they have heard multiple references to central funding as if there is central funding. We need to have different conversations at this university about funding priorities. This is about the budget process.

## **17.0 Question period**

Professor Heather Coleman raised a question about whether the deadline for completing the ethics course could be extended.

Associate Dean Doug Gleddie asked about the scheduling of the next GEFAC meeting.

## **18.0 Adjournment**

Interim Vice-Provost and Dean Epp acknowledged and thanked all the members of FGSR Council for their time, attention, and really good contributions at today’s meeting. He mentioned that FGSR will be hosting an Open House on December 13<sup>th</sup>, and invited Council members to stop by

The meeting was adjourned at 3:31PM.