



**GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**Wednesday January 23, 2019
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm / EME 4218**

Meeting commenced at 2:01 pm

1. Dean's Remarks

The Dean welcomed members to the new semester. He updated Council that the Ombudsperson workshop hosted by CoGS is being cancelled until the Ombudsperson position is filled. It will be tentatively rescheduled for March 11.

He advised GSAC members that Graduate Council has been revisiting the definition of *dissertation* to be more accommodating to different kinds of scholarly outputs. A draft document with an updated definition is being discussed.

Members were asked to forward requests for edits of the November 28 meeting to Marissa.

L. Mudde discussed funding allocations and awards and advocated for increased funding for continuing graduate students.

2. Graduate Council recap – C. Vien

Student Representative C. Vien highlighted topics discussed at Graduate Council on January 16:

- UGF/GDES allocations, Tri-Council awards and program rankings. Members discussed student funding and the need to also support continuing students, timeliness and transparency.
- 2019 3MT on March 14. \$6000 in prize money available.
- TOEFL English scores have been changed and Academic Calendar updated accordingly
- Best practices for times to completion
- Discussion of the new IGS program, including continuing IGS students and enrolment for the new cohort. The Dean added that existing IGS students can continue as usual, or move into newly created programs such as HKIN. There are 6 new Themes under new IGS program. CoGS has seen approximately 120 apps for this upcoming year. Conversion rate to actual new students is around 25-30%.



The Dean clarified that CoGS is only responsible for distributing UGF/GDES funds to the programs, but the programs allocate their own funding at their discretion. Programs were encouraged to consider the new award funding available for incoming students and to balance their funds for continuing students accordingly. The new algorithm takes into consideration the removal of a funding cap that was placed on one program but is otherwise similar to previous years. Funding data is weighted towards First Class students and PhDs students when deciding allocations.

3. **3MT Heats and Finals** – D. Roberts

D.Roberts reported that the annual student research competition, 3MT, will be on March 14 at the Innovation Centre. Faculty heats are running through February and all members are encouraged to check the dates on the website or posters across campus. \$6000 is available in prizes for competing students. Rick Weber will be hosting the event and featuring the winners on Global News. All graduate students are encouraged to participate or attend the event to support their peers.

The winner will be funded by CoGS to attend the Western Regional Competition in Prince George, BC and if successful, to the National competition.

<https://gradstudies.ok.ubc.ca/events-workshops/three-minute-thesis/>

4. **Nominees for Graduate Council Student Representatives**

The Dean reminded GSAC members that, under Policy 0-4.2, Graduate Council membership was revised to include seats for three student representatives. It was agreed that GSAC should vote and put forward these representatives.

CoGS received four nominations for PhD representative; and one each for Research Masters and Non-thesis Masters. Members decided to vote on the PhD representative followed by a discussion of the other two candidates as necessary.

Nominee Laura Mudde left the room.

In the first round, GSAC voted the following:

1. Selamawit Dires – Engineering (3 votes)
- 2. Rina Chua – FCCS (5 votes)**
3. Eduardo Romero-Montalvo – IKBSAS (2 vote)
- 4. Laura Mudde – IKBSAS (5 votes)**

Round 2:

- 1. Rina Chua – FCCS (9 votes)**
2. Laura Mudde – IKBSAS (5 votes)



GSAC member Laura Mudde came back to her seat and was notified of the election results. Member Chantal Vien left the room during discussion.

Nominees Michael Morgan (Research Masters) and Chantal Vien (Non-thesis Masters) win by default. No issues discussed. Chantal Vien was invited back to the room.

Graduate Council Student Representatives:

Rina Chua – PhD Representative

Michael Morgan – Research Masters Representative

Chantal Vien – Non-thesis Masters Representative

CoGS will contact all nominees by February 4th. Successful student representatives will be notified with material for the next meeting of Graduate Council on February 12th.

Members expressed concern regarding the inclusion of Engineering students on Graduate Council. It was recommended that the Engineering Graduate Student Association stay in touch with the Graduate Student representatives to keep communication open.

Member suggested added a summarized version of the Graduate Council minutes to the GSAC website for students to view, as there was concern regarding dissemination of information from some programs.

Action item: Grad Council summary to be included as a standing item on the GSAC Agenda, and to be included on the GSAC page on the CoGS website.

5. **Athletics Fees follow-up** - D. Tannant

Members discussed the response provided by Tom Huisman via Deanna Roberts in December 14 email.

C. Wallis and A. Ahsan notified Members that a Friday graduate student shuttle trip to Big White is being planned. 50-60 seats will be available. Date is TBA.

The Dean advised GSAC members to provide feedback to the Board of Governors in order to voice their concerns most effectively. An undergraduate student is the current student representative on the Board of Governors.

6. **Focus topic for February 27**

GSAC Members discussed hosting a collective graduate student event in April/March to celebrate the completion of defenses. C. Wallis suggested that the Graduate Community Facilitators could focus on this for the annual year-end social event. She reported that the Graduate Ball on March 29 will be primarily attended by undergraduate students, but that they have discussed hosting a pre-party for graduate students and going



together. Cassidy and Ashraf agreed to update the group following a scheduled meeting on this topic.

7. Other Business

GSAC members discussed the issue of available funding for continuing students. D. Robert suggested the possibility of pursuing Excellence Funds for a new continuing student award. She also reported that Phase 2 of the university-wide Blue and Gold Campaign was intended to focus on graduate students.

The Dean confirmed that UGFs this year are based on Satisfactory standing in annual progress reports, which are due at CoGS by June 1st. Formatting of the progress reports is being revised. Programs should begin working on reports in mid April.

L. Mudde reminded GSAC members that a town hall discussion for the Graduate Student Association is being held on Thursday, January 24th at 4pm in the Graduate Collegium.

D. Roberts reported that two new graduate student spaces will be opened in the Commons building: a seminar/workshop room, and a graduate student study space including lockers, a printer, and seating areas. Two bookable meeting rooms (8 people/each) will also be available. CoGS is working out how to get student access for those spaces, which are scheduled to open on February 15th. Students will be notified once a process is in place.

The Dean reported that graduate student applications are up 50%. Professional program applications are up 1/3.

He also reported that he is currently following up with the previous instructor (Peter Arthur) for IGS 630 (teaching seminar and mentorship) with Peter Newbury, to look into drafting a new course offering. The course would be available to graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and sessionals. He would like it to be recognized by other institutions and considered a professional development tool. Similar courses/projects are already in place in HES and Psychology and there could be opportunities for a joint course.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.