



**GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, October 28, 2020
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm / ZOOM**

Meeting commenced at 2:02 pm

Members discussed how the term is going so far and the importance of finding ways to continue to connect.

1. Chair's Remarks

Paul reported that Graduate Council is reviewing the updated Senate policy SC17, Sexual Misconduct and Sexualized Violence.

Policy O-9, Membership of the College of Graduate Studies, is being revised, particularly in regards to supervisory privileges. Members requested that faculty be encouraged to get student feedback on supervision.

2. Learning Strategist Support for Graduate Students – Guest: Stephanie Jury

Stephanie Jury explained that the Learning Strategist provides additional assistance with research, project management, time management, writing assistance, and other tasks for graduate students and others on campus. Students can book 1:1 or group consultations and are encouraged to reach out if they need any help or want to learn more. She can also assist with navigating comprehensive exam processes.

A self-referral form is available online via the Student Hub website.

<https://students.ok.ubc.ca/academic-success/learning-hub/learning-strategist/>

Students can also email Stephanie directly: stephanie.jury@ubc.ca

3. Vote: GSAC Community Representatives

GSAC members voted in the following new representatives:

- a. International Student Representative: Kirthana Ganesh
- b. Disabled Students Representative: Michelle Hewitt
- c. LGBTQ* Students Representative: Johanna Hernandes

4. Anti-Racist Graduate Curricula – Cassandra Gouschuk, Discussion

Members discussed what, if any, anti-racist curricula graduate programs are addressing across campus. Social Work, Creative and Critical Studies, English, Psychology and Health Sciences were identified as providing some introductory content, but these are not necessarily mandatory and do not offer additional follow-up or commitment. Pro-Seminar courses may be a good place to start these conversations in each grad cohort.



GSAC members can contact Cassandra to discuss further: Gouschuk@gmail.com

5. UBCSUO Graduate Student Committee – Cassidy Wallis

Cassidy Wallis reported that the UBCSUO has been discussing a Graduate Student Committee under the students' union, which would be able to represent and advocate for the needs of graduate students on the Okanagan campus. Past attempts to create a Graduate Student Society have been unsuccessful, and UBC Okanagan does not yet have a large enough student body to create a separate union. A graduate student committee under the UBCSUO would meet current needs.

The proposed structure would consist of eight student reps plus the Graduate Student Representative as the Chair. The Graduate Committee would also receive a \$20K budget from the UBCSUO.

GSAC members discussed challenges and options for representation, including representation by home Faculty; individual nominations based on interest; representatives from certain groups/communities; or a mixture of these with a few select roles and general positions selected by lottery.

The UBCSUO will be bringing this to the AGM on November 18th for a full vote. Graduate students are encouraged to attend and vote!

6. Other Business

CoGS will continue looking for an Aboriginal Student Representative for GSAC.

The Canvas shell for the Cultural and Social Awareness credential is now in place and will be promoted starting in November. A concentrated week of events will be scheduled for early January. A second credential for professionalization is being planned for next term.