



GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES

Wednesday, October 27, 2021
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm / ZOOM

Meeting commenced at 2:03pm

1. Graduate Student Spaces on Campus (Dale Mullings & Natalie Walliser)

There was a discussion regarding the lack of graduate space on campus and the need for dedicated offices in addition to desk space. UBC worked with a consultant to prioritize areas throughout the campus that are in greatest need of repair and what can be done to better utilize those spaces.

A PowerPoint presentation was shown outlining each of the buildings and rooms that will be receiving various types of upgrades. The university is waiting on budget approval in order to start the improvements in the next several months.

The presentation showed the spaces that have been identified for improvements and those will include new paint, new carpet, improved lighting, upgrading electrical and standardizing furniture (4x2 desk) plus chairs and lockers. There will be two lockers per desk in the space. Some areas will allow for additional seats, improved lighting and new lockers.

The university is looking at additional formal and informal graduate spaces. There is a new series of units called OM2 where it would add/offer formal graduate space with a dedicated informal space for those who work out of that space. This is a pilot project which would allow for the ability to share or book a space on campus.

ICI building There will be a new graduate lounge (2nd on campus),

The types of amenities in some of these graduate spaces will be new electrical, dedicated lockers, new lighting and new furniture.

The committee was asked if there are spaces that have been missed that you would like to see that have not been captured here.

Some other questions posed to the members were:

- *What amenities would you like to see in renewed formal spaces (e.g. dedicated electrical per desk, dedicated lockers, monitors, etc.)?*
- *Would graduate students be open to shared desk space with another graduate student (we understand this is not possible for all types of graduate students)? For those who think this is possible, what would be needed to support this (e.g. access to private space)?*
- *Would graduate students be open to using a booking software for accessing shared desk space?*
- *Are there other spaces you would prioritize over the one's we have outlined?*



It was noted that there are no upgrades in the EME building. Also, there are no spaces to make a drink or heat food. It would be great if there is a place to plug in a kettle or microwave (especially in the larger rooms). Bookable spaces: (co-sharing) is ideal for some grad students; however, some spaces need to be bookable for conducting interviews.

Another member spoke of potential issues when food prepping in study spaces because if they are in the same room it may become a bit contentious which would make it more into a collegium type of space, rather than a study space. Some members would prefer a bookable space over desk dividers.

The Director of the College of Graduate Studies reminded members that the university currently has a Collegium space designed for social gatherings and the Commons which is bookable study space.

Some additional feedback:

- Can we make sure that there are some larger lockers?
- Try to make the design/style feel less colonial or institutionalized to make it less stark.
- There is not much collaborative space on campus.

Below is a link to the various informal learning spaces throughout the campus.

<https://learningspaces.ok.ubc.ca/informal-learning-spaces>

2. Adrienne Vedan – Director, AVP Students-Indigenous Programs & Services

Student-led projects can align with any (at least one) of the 43 actions in the ISP (Indigenous Student Plan). Undergraduate and graduate students can apply to this stream. Please follow the link below for more information.

<https://isp.ubc.ca/implementation/isi-fund/funding-streams/stream-3-student-led-projects/>

Please let us (Indigenous Programs and Services) know if you have an initiative that fits the 43 actions in the ISP. This is an excellent starting point to making it happen. A considerable amount of staff and faculty is required to put forward initiatives from the department's side. Letters of intent are due in January and then again in summer. If interested, you may want to connect with Stephanie Trenholm (stephanie.trenholm@ubc.ca) in the Office of Indigenous Programs & Services to learn more about info sessions in November.

3. Standard reports (Student Union & Senate)

UBCSUO report: The Annual General Meeting is taking place on Wednesday, November 24, 2021 and consist of a mix of in-person and remote participation. There is a motion to formally constitute a graduate studies standing committee. This was tabled last year, but did not pass as quorum was not achieved. An ad hoc committee with a one year term was created last year. This would allow this representation to continue.

Senate report: There is a new parental leave policy that will allow a path towards starting a leave with more flexibility. There are a number of award changes going through the senate sub committee. Hope to provide an update at the next GSAC meeting in November.

4. Introduction of new members

Tabled until November GSAC meeting.



5. **Chair's remarks**

New non-credit credential research writing has been launched. Minimum funding has had issues, but it is currently being worked on. If you are coming across any issues, please contact Paul Shipley (paul.shipley@ubc.ca) for assistance. A GSAC member asked how is it shared broadly with students. Is it up to programs, or campus-wide communication? CoGS will look into this to ensure that information reaches students.

6. **Honoraria for representatives of traditionally marginalized populations**

There was a discussion regarding providing honorariums for member representation from historically marginalized populations. It is not uncommon to ask someone from this population to provide an honorarium. The college is working towards a CoGS-wide policy that is both consistent and equitable. CoGS will update this committee when more information becomes available.

Meeting adjourned at @ 3:08pm.