

GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm / ZOOM

Attendees

Al Ousi, Sahar	X	Lawrason, Sarah		Singh, Shambhavi	X
Ahmad, Hammad	X	Low, Jonathan	X	Steele, Andrew	X
Amoh-Siaw, Felix		Manrique Hernandez, Johanna Elizabeth	X	Tao, Sophia Hong Yang	
Ayres Rebello, Thais	R	Nunes, Helena		Ueda, Yukie	X
Crompton, Kara	X	Petillion, Riley	X	Wale, Janna	X
Del Buono, Katie		Piva, Larissa		Wallace, Mandy	X
Ganesh, Kirthana	X	Rempel, Kerry	X	Walsh, Monique	X
Hewitt, Michelle		Rousseau, Camille		Wiebe, Karin	X
Huggins, Madison	X	Shatzko, Amanda	R	Woolgar, Lucia	
Shipley, Paul (chair)	X	Roberts, Deanna (CoGS)	X	Jensen, Kendra(secretary)	X

1. Chair's Remarks

Policy 09 has been approved.

The Admissions and Records team in CoGS is experiencing a very high volume of applications and email inquiries and therefore; turn around times are slower than normal.

GSAC exists to support graduate students. We are interested in what students have to say and we want to support you as best we can. Please email our office (kendra.jensen@ubc.ca) to add anything to the agenda or if you require any additional assistance.

2. Students' Union Report

It is election season. The General election is between March 7-9, 2022. You will receive an email to vote. Please vote and let your voice be heard. Debates will be March 3-4, 2022. An email will be sent with more details. Ask candidates challenging questions to see about representation.

3. Report from Senate

Not in attendance.

4. Honoraria

A discussion regarding honoraria was brought up at the November 2021 GSAC meeting. Honoraria are intended for members who are actively contributing throughout the year. We took your comments to our team and put together a draft policy. GSAC is the largest committee that would benefit from receiving an honorarium. Please



let us know if you have any further suggestions before the draft policy moves forward. This would be retroactive for this academic year.

Some members expressed their appreciation to the university for listening to their thoughts on being provided with an honorarium and are pleased that students' input is being recognized.

The College of Graduate Studies emphasizes that we see this as a gift, rather than remuneration.

Please feel free to email Paul Shipley (paul.shipley@ubc.ca) with any additional questions you may have.

5. Other Business

A member asked if defences and examinations are required to be held in UNC 334. They are not. The only requirement is that in-person defences and examination need to be held in a room that is reasonably well-equipped with audio-visual equipment. If you want to talk about arrangements, please reach out to CoGS. We know that we need a more suitable dedicated defence space.

Some members spoke about their appreciation regarding the 3MT survey poll. It was very quick and easy. A question was asked regarding more opportunities between meetings that need short bursts of input as a way to support the administration.

There was a discussion regarding the logic behind the tuition increases and the challenges it poses for graduate students, particularly since the pandemic began. Some students feel that the tuition increases are not being put towards benefiting students directly such as funding or bursaries. The University keeps asking for more but isn't giving anything back in return. There were no known consultations with the College about tuition increases. It was noted that tuition increases are a Board of Governors decision.

Another concern about increasing tuition fees is that it is affecting community members' decisions about applying to graduate school. It's a challenge that adds to the fear of whether they can commit to schooling at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40pm.