



GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
Minutes
Wednesday, March 23, 2022
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm / ZOOM

Attendees

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

1. Student Demographic Data Project (Stephanie McKeown)

Stephanie McKeown with the Institutional Research Office gave a presentation on the student demographic data project. This is a Partnership Project comprised of Equity & Inclusion, Enrolment services, Enterprise Data Governance, and Planning & Institutional Research. This project comes about as a result to address equity and inclusion identified by UBC President, Santa Ono.

If you have any questions about this survey, or would like more information about the Student Demographic Data Project, please contact the project team at student.demographics@ubc.ca.

Some member questions and comments: It’s very important to be addressed in way in which a student wants; however, official records aren’t accommodating for those whose names change due to marriage or transitioning. How is this information updated? Students who want to change their gender records must reach out to an administrator to have this reflected in Workday.

A member asked if students would be able to update this change at any time, or are there other requirements? There are certain rules and requirements along with various information to be collected (such as insurance for legal purposes. We are currently unable to validate. We’ll take guidance from other groups and in conversation about what we’re doing in our progress and keep them updated.

2. Chair’s Remarks

It’s been a challenging time, internationally and closer to campus in the last month and students are feeling unsettled. The College of Graduate Studies is trying to be supportive and give breaks. Please be mindful that students, staff, and faculty on campus are feeling uneasy.



There are 8 3MT finalists presenting virtually next Tuesday, March 29 from 12:00-1:30pm. Please check our social media feeds as they are filled with links. One judge is a former Chemistry graduate student.

The College has been in discussions with the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office (SVPRO) as it relates to graduate students, regarding Policy SC17: Sexual Misconduct and Sexualized Violence Policy (https://universitycounsel-2015.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2021/10/Sexual-Misconduct-Policy_SC17.pdf). The goal is to reduce retraumatization in rationales submitted as part of accommodation requests submitted to the College of Graduate Studies by having the rationale consist of just a brief note from SVPRO stating that the accommodation is supported.

Residency requirements have been relaxed as a temporary measure during the pandemic. The College will revisit residency requirements in the next year in light of what has been learned during this time.

An Okanagan-specific policy on graduate students lecturing courses is being developed from the existing Board of Governors policy AP7.

The requirements for transfer from Masters to PhD programs is being revised in light of changes in existing Masters programs. The number of required is proposed to change to 12 credits of graduate coursework, or the coursework requirements of the related Masters, whichever is less.

A member asked about transferring from Masters to a Ph.D: Is this something an MA student needs to know and take up with supervisor or CoGS? At what point is that a possibility? The student initiates it. It has very strict timeline and tight rules. This information can be found in the [Calendar](#).

3. Students' Union Report

Kirthana Ganesh is continuing in her role on the UBCSUO Board.

It would be beneficial if non-UBC professional development programs are housed in one central location.

The SUO is drafting a letter explaining why graduate students need more funding which includes outlining general discrepancies between campuses (i.e. increase in living, funding and how it is difficult to produce research, etc.). Please contact the SUO if you would like to provide some input.

General election update: Students had the chance to vote on a referendum to begin the process of designing and finding funding for a new student building. 92% of students voted yes. The SUO now has the ability to develop a physical and financial plan for the building. This building will include club, student, study, recreate, essential business and religious spaces. The building is proposed to also contain significant graduate student space. The location is currently unknown.

4. Report from Senate

No report.



5. Graduate presentations to interdisciplinary audiences

A member reported that she participated in an IGS health conference. This is a great opportunity that doesn't require completed research. This is a chance to think about other examples that UBCO participates in and if none, what are other suggestions? Another member mentioned that OSC is holding a graduate student symposium in School of Education (SOE) - if interested, it is taking place virtually on April 8 @ 4:00pm-9:00pm –. Please reach out to Haley Allen (halley.allen@ubc.ca), Manager, Communications & Engagement with the College of Graduate Studies to get out on social channels. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Cohen.
<https://education.ok.ubc.ca/2022/02/01/graduate-student-symposium-boundless-transformative-education-practices-and-research/>

Individual students, organized student groups or faculty members can apply for up to \$500 in funding toward student-led research and academic initiatives and events. <https://gradstudies.ok.ubc.ca/resources/forms/ubc-okanagan-academic-fund-application/>.

A member asked if there is an office to determine what types of conferences are available within UBC Vancouver or Vancouver in general. There are currently no known central repository for events or opportunities at UBCO. In future, if there is an office that will link certain divisions at UBCV, need a link where grad students can go to register. GSAC Chair will look into this with the office of Research Services.

There was a suggestion from a member about the possibility of having a centralized database (comparison to a job-board) to share opportunities. Could we add a section on conferences?

6. Other Business

A member shared a reminder about the Graduate Students Community Facilitators postings on the UBCO Job Board.

Meeting adjourned at 3:13pm.