



**GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Minutes**  
**Wednesday, April 27, 2022**  
**2:00 pm – 4:00 pm / ZOOM**

**Attendees**

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

Meeting started at 2:03pm

**1. MITACS and CoGS peer mentor collaboration (Dana Lowton & Nora Lambrecht)**

- Approx. 36 Incoming MITACS undergrad research students will be here between May 1 and Oct 30
- The Global Engagement Office (GEO) is aiming to create a community for these visiting researchers
- We will be hosting a variety of on and off campus programs throughout the summer
- We would love graduate students to assist in a peer mentor capacity
- Commitment is minimal: participating in some events (May-Sept), virtual assistance to students who have questions
- To get involved, please email [vir.okanagan@ubc.ca](mailto:vir.okanagan@ubc.ca)

If you would like to participate, you are encouraged to join the private MITAC Facebook group. The link for the Facebook group is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mitacsokanagan2022>.

There is a list of students and there is an option to be matched up, if you choose (to someone from a specific country or looking to take part in certain research, etc.).

**2. Chair’s Remarks**

Last meeting, the group talked about conference presentation opportunities on campus. IGS is planning to run their conference this September.

An upcoming film screening and discussion is taking place May 9, 3:00-6:00pm for “Picture a Scientist”. Registration is required. Please visit this link for more information: <https://events.ok.ubc.ca/event/picture-a-scientist-film-screening-and-discussion/>.



Next year, Graduate Deans Entrance Scholarship and Graduate Fellowship will be combined into one name: *Okanagan Graduate Research Scholarship*.

When Policy AP7 is eliminated (graduate students teaching lectures), it will be switched to individual campus policies in approximately the next month.

All CGSD and CGSM have been announced and published.

### 3. Students' Union Report

The SUO now has an Advocacy and Governor's Coordinator position (1 of each handling both halves of job). Rachel Fortin, the Advocacy Coordinator, will sit in on mediations with the Ombudsmen, among other duties.

The Student Union is coordinating with UBC to make \$100,000 in funding available for bursaries for emergencies (i.e. sudden costs such as medical or technology problems, etc.). If you need assistance with applying or need help with the process, please email Kirthana: [graduate.representative@suo.ca](mailto:graduate.representative@suo.ca).

The Summer UPass is valid from May 1 through to end of summer. You can purchase a pass for \$63 at the Green Thread student bookstore in the UNC building.

### 4. Report from Senate

The last Senate meeting was the final meeting with previously-elected students. A new group of students will be coming onboard along with three continuing students. The new requirements for transferring from a master's to a doctoral program will be discussed in the next meeting. The previous requirement for 12 credits of coursework will be replaced with having either 12 credits of coursework completed or the full coursework requirement for the master's degree, whichever is fewer. A new Senate graduate student representative will be announced soon.

### 6. Other Business

A member asked if any other faculties or schools meet with their graduate students on a monthly basis for social gatherings, research discussions, etc. Some schools shared that they periodically do this through a variety of mechanisms ranging from formal colloquia to informal social gatherings.

The Student Union representative shared that last year the union allocated a budget for graduate student affairs and is hoping to move forward with an amount of approximately \$30,000. Previously, funds were used in a variety of situations such as expanding the scope of social events, among others. As a way to make full use of budget, a bursary or scholarship would be beneficial. GSAC members were asked what kind of funding options would they find helpful. One of the minimal restrictions is that funds can't be used for academics (such as tuition subsidy) or to fund credit card payments. Funding must be related to student life, such as technology bursaries or conference travel awards.

At the May meeting, it will be decided if there will be a meeting in June.



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**Meeting adjourned at 2:42pm.**