

GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm / ZOOM

Attendees

Al Ousi, Sahar	R	Nunes, Helena	X	Wale, Janna	X
Ahmad, Hammad	X	Piva, Larissa	X	Wallace, Mandy	X
Amoh-Siaw, Felix	X	Rempel, Kerry	R	Walsh, Monique	R
Crampton, Kara	X	Rousseau, Camille	X	Wiebe, Karin	X
Ganesh, Kirthana	x	Shatzko, Amanda	X	Woolgar, Lucia	R
Hewitt, Michelle	R	Singh, Shambhavi	X	Wiebe, Karin	X
Huggins, Madison	R	Steele, Andrew	R		
Manrique Hernandez, Johanna Elizabeth	X	Tao, Sophia Hong Yang	R		
		Ueda, Yukie	R		
<i>Shipley, Paul</i>	X	<i>Roberts, Deanna</i>	R	<i>Jensen, Kendra</i>	X

Meeting started at 2:03pm

1. Chair's Remarks

UBC-V is looking to change Board policy AP7 on students lecturing. Policy AP7 outlines that graduate students do not generally teach courses prior to advancing to candidacy. They are looking at modifying or starting from scratch. UBCO is looking at doing this as well.

UBCO's graduate student residency requirements are being revised as there have been cases where there are equity concerns where the existing policy presents inequitable barriers.

Indigenous Programs and Services has been reaching completion on creating an Indigenous pipelines to faculty positions program.

Progress reports are now being submitted. You may receive questions from students. Please ask us for support if needed.

2. Students' Union Report

It's been a quiet month. Working on onboarding new members. Grad committee is now an official committee. First board meeting is taking place in a few weeks. Student at large - any student on campus available to help Kirthana help the union on advocacy and event-related concerns. We have an honorarium of \$50/meeting and meet twice per month. This year we currently have five members and can increase to nine. We are

looking for representatives from a broad spectrum. Meetings will be via Zoom, but it may change to in-person or hybrid. The governance is flexible and democratic.

Drafting call for students, once we send out, you can email SUO and have a brief meeting.

There will be student events throughout the summer, such as trivia nights or socials or walk on campus, etc. We will share more as details become available.

3. Report from Senate

The GDES and UGF awards have been combined into a new scholarship, the Okanagan Graduate Research Scholarship. New scholarships for female grad students in engineering.

Learning and Research Committee - Digital strategy that our campus is working on, i.e. come and do workshops with student senators. Look at what is future of digital strategy for this campus. How do we want to operate in classrooms, and what accessibility needs do we need?

Just passed and added Truth and Reconciliation Day for September 30. The University will be closed on that day. There's interest in taking part in educational activities on or around Truth and Reconciliation Day.

A GSAC member brought up an event held by OC on Truth and Reconciliation Day last year, including a powwow, information tables, and local artists.

CoGS will check with IPS re: September 30. If you have specific thoughts, please contact Paul Shipley.

4. Other Business

Participation Marks:

Update: feedback from some international graduate students as they are expressing that they are feeling challenged with participation marks as they may come from cultures where you don't speak in class or don't jump into conversations. This was brought up to Education for review and became a round table discussion. Starting in the fall, the focus on evaluation needs to be shifted to reflective learning where students submit a learning reflection. Course outlines should provide detailed rubrics for how participation is evaluated, and a Canvas module on learning to participate effectively is being developed.

Psychology event:

Collaboration with Faculty of Arts and Sciences – received funding dedicated to promoting our research to the community and to UBC student community. Sunday, May 29 – 5:30-6:30pm at the Rotary Centre for Arts. There will be a presentation on research paper where traces cultural evolution. The event will include: presenting the art work, live music, poetry, short stories, visual arts and a question and answer

period. This is a free event. Kirthana to forward the event information to Paul, who will ask Haley to push out the information on CoGS social media channels.

Printing on campus:

A member brought up printing costs for graduate students and should anyone who is employed as a TA/RA have access to free printing. If printing is teaching-related the Department covers the cost. If printing is research-related, then the supervisor should pay for it.

For independent graduate student projects, it is less clear who should be covering the costs. Paul will look into small-pot funding sources for such costs.

A member inquired about a rationale about why continuing fees for international students are considerably higher than domestic when a student takes longer than the set time to complete their degree. ([Link here](#))

One GSAC member shared that he wasn't aware that he had to pay summer tuition. It would be helpful if there's a way to make the offer letter clearer so that students know that they have to pay, even if they aren't taking classes. Another suggestion was asking the program to send an email at the start of the program indicating tuition is assessed during the summer. Paul will follow up with CoGS and programs to try to clarify language in the admission letters, and recommend the same for program admission letters and welcome letters. Clarity on what terms TA positions are available was recommended by a GSAC member.

One member shared that students have a variety of concerns, such as scholarships for international students, on-campus security, work struggles, and language, to name a few. There was a suggestion that when students come back in the fall, to do an event where students can express different concerns and make things more accessible. This would be beneficial in helping to build a community of mutual support. There was a suggestion of "Meet your GSAC representative" at fall orientation. The Student Union's office may join and be a part of a "Meet your GSAC rep." CoGS will schedule this event as part of orientation this year.

One member expressed the need for better ways to receive communication. Winter term may be a good time to receive additional communication to reinforce ideas and other valuable information. Winter term because there may be less information to be saturated with than in the start of fall.

There are concerns that there isn't enough student/community support to try and solve every day life challenges. One suggestion was to have a day of listening where we can create ideas to help students, such as: social media conversations to share information.

Another suggestion to support students throughout the year is to provide multiple opportunities to meet with GSAC representatives.

There was a suggestion of a townhall scenario. Graduate Studies office will reconnect with GSAC on this to schedule a town hall in T2.

Please feel free to attend drop-ins at the Students' Union in September onwards to discuss any concerns you may have or via email for any student who wants to reach out. Please share email with any graduate student: graduate.representative@suo.ca.

Chemistry students have expressed frustration with the lack of graduate space. There was a suggestion to provide lockers where, at the very least, you can leave stuff so don't have to haul back and forth.

Summer GSAC meetings:

We are proposing taking off June and July and have a meeting in August.

If we set up GSAC representative meeting, then introduction at orientation would be beneficial.

Please feel free to email the graduate studies office if anything arises in between meetings: kendra.jensen@ubc.ca, gradask.ok@ubc.ca or paul.shipley@ubc.ca.

Our office will send a doodle poll in August.

Meeting adjourned at 3:17pm