



Adebayo, Miracle		Harper, Breanne	X	Sandler, Michael	
Ahmad, Hammad	X	Heth, Zach		Sharma, Akshita	X
Al Barazi, Mariam		Khattar, Nataasha	X	Shatzko, Amanda	
Awotwi-Pratt, Stephanie	X	Kizza, Ronald	X	Shwed, Alanna	
Conneely, Ryan		Kooijman, Allison		Singh, Shambhavi	X
Crawford, Carolyn	X	Manrique Hernandez, Johanna	X	Wiebe, Karin	
Desai, Anajali		Monir, Rifah Rafia		Yang, Shirley	
Gnyawali, Kaushal		Morshedzadeh, Yenganeh			
Shiple, Peter	X	Roberts, Deanna	X	Bissell, Laura	

**GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
 AGENDA
 December 6, 2023
 2:00-4:00pm / OM2 138/ZOOM**

Meeting started at 2:03pm

1. Chair’s Remarks

The chair covered several key updates, including the approval of the Robson award for students with disabilities and the joint competition of the Peter Wall Fund Awards by both campuses starting in the Spring of 2024. The focus on smaller donor pots to enhance future funding was emphasized. Additional awards were highlighted, including the new Thesis and Dissertation awards, which will have three awards each, the Grad Student Leadership



award, the revised Indigenous Graduate Fellowship and the new Indigenous Scholars Award. There was recognition that quite a few of these new awards stemmed from discussions in GSAC which emphasizes the power of these meetings. The recent CGSM deadline saw a significant number of applicants, indicating a positive trend.

Two additions to graduate programming have launched: The Master of Design program is now open for applications, and the Indigenous Knowledge theme in IGS is progressing towards its application phase. The EdD program received an impressive 100+ applications for 20 spots, promising an exciting cohort starting in July 2024.

The discussion also touched on campus planning, which began seven years ago, with a visit scheduled for the New Year (2024) to discuss future plans. To facilitate this, the next GSAC meeting will be postponed to January 10th, 2024. For discussions there will be a focus on campus infrastructure such as buildings, parking, access, housing, childcare, and green spaces. The emphasis is on thorough pre-planning for effective implementation of possible future plans. Everyone was encouraged to think about ideas over the winter break.

The meeting also highlighted concerns about marginalized experiences within IGS, particularly for black students. The lack of resources and support for this group was discussed, with a recognition that students find it challenging to address these issues



individually. There was a suggestion to explore joining new advisory groups and securing faculty support to enhance the support system within the program. The goal is to create an environment where current and future black students feel supported and can engage in meaningful conversations. To address this, Paul and Stephanie plan to meet moving forward. Additionally, Alison Conway, leading the IGS internal review, could potentially collaborate with Paul and Stephanie on addressing these important topics.

2. Students' Union Report

In the past month, Hammad reported some developments, with Deena actively working on policy changes for childcare, and felt that input from today's meeting may help for further insights. The Student Union AGM on November 23rd saw a good turnout, where discussions centered around making certain student positions paid to enhance their appeal. However, these ideas faced challenges as agenda points needed to be submitted 14 days in advance. Despite this, there's optimism about bringing up these topics in future meetings. There's a sentiment among attendees that the general manager of the Student Union should be present at Exec meetings, but concerns were raised about potential influence. To address this, an amendment was proposed, and now the Grad representative will be part of the meetings moving forward.

Lastly, the Coffee GSC is going very well, and everyone is encouraged to join in if possible.



3. Report from Senate

Nothing to report – just the awards discussed earlier in the meeting

4. Need for Free Childcare Facility (R. Monir)

Move to postpone this discussion until next meeting

5. Other Business

Food Facilities on Campus - The recent GSC meeting sparked discussions on food facilities on campus, introducing positive initiatives like free breakfast and \$5 meals. There was a discussion on PICNIC, inspired by UBC Wellness, to be available during the summer months in order to create more food availability to students who remain on campus. Another idea was to offer simple snacks or items like bread and eggs at the cooking stations so that students don't have to solely depend on open facilities. The hope is to discuss these initiatives with representatives from food services in upcoming GSAC meetings to explore and enhance these ideas further.



Expectations Checklist - generated a discussion on the expectations from both supervisors and graduate programs. Many students were unclear about whether they had to complete the forms and have their supervisors sign them or not. Some felt they shouldn't be obligated to get supervisor signatures and expressed concerns about being compelled to answer in a specific way. The intention of the checklist was to initiate a conversation about mutual expectations, not just those placed on students. Paul expressed openness to modifying the forms. The consensus is that the wording may need tweaking for clarity. Paul plans to email Ronald to discuss potential changes, welcoming insights from anyone on how to enhance the document.

Adjourned at 2:35pm