



GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
Minutes
Wednesday, January 25, 2023
2:00PM-4:00PM/ ZOOM

Attendees:

Adebayo, Miracle	X	Nunes, Helena	R	Wallace, Mandy	R
Ahmad, Hammad	X	Paudel, Bhuwan	X	Walsh, Monique	R
Awotwi-Pratt, Stephanie	R	Piva, Larissa	X	Wallace, Mandy	R
Ganesh, Kirthana	X	Rempel, Kerry	X	Wiebe, Karin	
Huggins, Madison	X	Rousseau, Camille	X	Woolgar, Lucia	
Jarry-Bolduc, Gabriel	X	Singh, Shambhavi	R	Yang, Shirley (Sijie)	X
Kooijman, Allison	R	Shabir, Nadhiyya	R	Zand Dizari, Nassim	X
Kumar, Manish	R	Shatzko, Amanda	R		
Lewis, Jennifer	R	Shwed, Alanna	R		
Manrique Hernandez, Johanna Elizabeth	X	Sarkar, Debangsha	R		
Monir, Rifah	X	Steele, Andrew	X		
		Tao, Sophia Hong Yang	R		
Shiple, Paul	X	Roberts, Deanna	X	Jensen, Kendra	X

Meeting started at 2:00PM

1. Food insecurity

There was a discussion with Dani Korven, from Student Housing and Hospitality Services, regarding the need for variety of food and more facilities to choose from on campus. Access to food services throughout each day, not just during meal times, was a key discussion point. Members discussed the need for food affordability and healthy choices.

Dani shared that one of the challenges with more food service options on campus is due to staffing shortages. A complement of 300 food services’ staff is required in order to provide full services across the campus and there are currently 225 staff. The goal is to open more food stations in Sunshine.

Sunshine has a program whereby you can purchase a pre-made lunch for \$5.00; however, this option has been running out between 11:30-12:30 and is also not available on the weekends.

Another member shared that summertime food options are very limited and services are open for shorter hours.



Comma will be open this summer and may offer hours from 11:00am-8:00pm.

Other plans on campus are to outfit Orchard as a convenience store.

Members suggested running an online campaign, gathering perspectives and sharing opinions from a wide range of campus users and trying to connect with the broader campus community. Dani will put together a Google document and collaborate with those who are willing to participate. One member from the Interdisciplinary Graduate studies program, Nassim Zand Dizari, will coordinate with each department to have a representative participate in the online campaign.

Please continue to provide feedback, as this helps with planning for food services on campus. Please email dani.korven@ubc.ca with any further suggestions.

2. Chair's Remarks

The Chair discussed the graduate student teaching policy. There was originally a Board of Governors' policy encompassing both campuses, but that policy has been rescinded. The Okanagan campus is putting in a new policy that is not much different from the original policy. One of the concerns addressed in the new policy is students feeling pressured to lecture when it is not in their best interest.

The Chair raised the topic of affordability. Graduate student financial support has not kept up with inflation. An affordability task force is being formed. PhD minimum funding is increasing to \$22,000/year in Fall 2023, and we are still working on establishing minimum funding for master's students in thesis-based programs.

The Chair shared that we are working to develop a part-time Ph.D. option for some programs.

3. Students' Union Report

There were a few graduate student events including a potluck that took place over the winter break. The Students' Union office will continue with regular weekly office hours, and they are looking at the possibility of offering office hours at various locations throughout the campus. Please contact the Students' Union office at graduate.representative@suo.ca if you have suggestions for high-traffic locations.

There will be a joint town hall with Vancouver student union executives to have a conversation about how UBC Okanagan runs, ways in which Okanagan experiences are different from Vancouver, and how they mobilize their students.



The Annual General Meeting election is coming up. The nomination period opens February 7. Please speak to your brethren and help bring in a new representative. It is important to have a graduate student presence in the union. If interested, please submit a nomination. Please direct any questions about the role to: graduate.representative@suu.ca.

4. ICI Building Update (Dr. Burgess and Dr. Kalesnikoff)

Drs. Burgess and Kalesnikoff shared a PowerPoint presentation update for the new ICI building. The building is expected to be complete December 2025. The guest speakers' goals were to provide an update and gather thoughts and ideas on how best to represent graduate activities. There was concern from some members about who the space is best suited for. Students and the Student's Union have been involved from the beginning on the design to ensure there was direct input from future users.

Some GSAC members shared that smaller spaces offering privacy situated around the perimeter would be ideal. Some of the spaces in the building can be for multi-purpose use.

5. Black History Month

The College of Graduate Studies are offering several events for Black History Month:

- An anti-racism workshop;
- An academic panel discussion celebrating Black excellence;
- A film screening on February 24 in EME 0050;
- A poem unveiling and student meet and greet on February 28 from 2:00-3:00pm.

Some suggestions for movies are: The Black Panther 2, Woman King, Green Book, 13th. Please email any further suggestions to paul.shiple@ubc.ca.

6. Report from Senate

There was no update from Senate.

7. Other Business

None

Meeting adjourned at 3:38pm