



GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
AGENDA
March 6th, 2024
2:00-4:00pm / ZOOM

Attendees:

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

Meeting started: 2:04pm

1. Chair’s Remarks

We're glad you could make it today as we catch up from missing our last meeting. Currently, the 3MT heats are in progress, leading up to our campus finals on April 9th at the Mary Irwin Theatre. This event promises both enjoyment and refreshments, so keep an eye out for ticket releases later this week, as they tend to go quickly. Additionally, UBC Okanagan will be hosting the regionals for 3MT this May, gathering the best talent from each University in the West. Regionals will take place on our campus in the ballroom (UNC 200). Find more information about 3MT here: <https://gradstudies.ok.ubc.ca/3mt/>



Workday launch 2 has seen smoother progress compared to the first launch, though some delays are expected as we transition to dual entries for the next few months to ensure data accuracy. Please be patient with staff and faculty during this transitional period. Workday student access will commence on May 6th, 2024.

Admissions offers remain consistent with last year, with a slight increase noted in Engineering. As we near completion of the Graduate Student Affordability Task Force, budget constraints due to changes in international student admissions are being felt across the university.

Lastly, don't miss out on the career fair on March 6th and 7th at the EME building, offering not just career opportunities but also snacks for attendees.

2. Best Times to Offer Workshops (Paul)

We're exploring the best times for students to attend workshops, considering their varying schedules throughout the year and during the day.

Generally, Mondays and Fridays seem to be optimal, especially in the evenings, as students often have fewer commitments on these days. However, it's noted that individual availability may vary depending on where students are in their degree programs. There was a suggestion that polling students could provide valuable insights into their interests and availability for workshops. Additionally, offering Zoom or hybrid workshop models, as well as recording



sessions for future reference, could accommodate students who aren't always on campus. An example from the Engineering department is highlighted where they have set up a Canvas course with different topics and short presentations. This lets students access info whenever they need it, making learning more flexible.

3. Students' Union Report

Currently, the election is underway, with a notable number of graduate students participating, which is beneficial for representation within the community. Interestingly, there are no candidates for the Grad rep position this time. Despite this, the coffee meet-up remains a popular and ongoing event. Additionally, there's a Grad cultural night scheduled for Friday night, March 8th, 2024. Besides these updates, there isn't much else to report at this time

4. Other Business

Resources for Graduate Students:

Shirley Yang: Students from the Faculty of Science have raised questions about the availability of co-op opportunities for graduate students, particularly noting a lack of such opportunities for students in Arts and other programs. She inquires about the resources offered to address this issue.



Paul Shipley: Regarding job opportunities for graduate research assistants (GRAs), it's recommended to check the Workday job board (<https://ubc.wd10.myworkdayjobs.com/ubcstaffjobs>) and UBC Student job board ([What type of user are you? \(symplicity.com\)](#)) for available positions. Career Services offers workshops aimed at aiding students' transition from academia to a career, and reaching out to the co-op office for further assistance is advised. Additionally, it's important for graduate students to identify their career goals and what they can offer to the industry when reaching out to these resources.

(<https://students.ok.ubc.ca/career-experience/>) (<https://coop.ok.ubc.ca/contact-the-co-op-office/>)

Deanna Roberts: The Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) program is suggested for female graduate students interested in further opportunities and support within the fields of science and engineering. (<https://wise.ok.ubc.ca/>)

Meeting Adjourned: 2:26pm