



**GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
AGENDA
May 1st, 2024
2:00-4:00pm /OM2-138 or ZOOM**

Attendees:

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

Meeting commenced: 2:02pm

1. Chair’s Remarks

Welcome back, everyone. It has come to our attention that there has been a misunderstanding regarding the issuance of letters for various purposes related to students' programs. It is essential to clarify that programs are not authorized to issue letters on behalf of CoGS (College of Graduate Studies). Instead, students are required to request letters directly from CoGS for immigration purposes, study permit renewal, enrollment verification, program completion, and post-graduation work permit applications. We collaborate closely with G.E.O (Global Engagement Office) to ensure that these forms cater to the specific needs of students at



various stages of their academic journey. Failure to adhere to this protocol may jeopardize students' ability to remain in Canada, as the IRCC (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada) relies on specific letters for verification purposes. Please use this link for requesting letters: <https://gradstudies.ok.ubc.ca/resources/forms/graduate-student-letter-request-form/>

On a different note, our 3MT Regional Competition is taking place this coming Wednesday, May 8th, 2024, and we're excited to host it on campus from 2:00-5:00 pm in the UNC Ballroom. Tickets are still available online or you can watch it online via our live stream.

[\(https://gradstudies.ok.ubc.ca/3mt/2024-western-regional-3mt-competition/\)](https://gradstudies.ok.ubc.ca/3mt/2024-western-regional-3mt-competition/)

2. Federal Budget (Paul)

We have an exciting update regarding the federal budget, particularly for graduate students and postdocs. There is potential for significant positive developments in the funding of tri-agency awards. Proposed changes include harmonizing the awards across Master's, Ph.D., and Postdoctoral levels, at \$27,000 per year for Master's, \$40,000 for Ph.D., and \$70,000 for Postdoctoral awards. While this proposal is pending approval, it marks the first substantial increase in tri-agency funding in over two decades. We are optimistic about its prospects and will keep our fingers crossed that it all goes through.

Another exciting update is that CoGS has hired a new Indigenous Graduate Student Advisor, Eli Kelly (eli.kelly@ubc.ca). He is available to provide comprehensive support, advocacy, and



referrals to graduate program applicants and students who have self-identified as Indigenous (First Nation, Métis, and Inuit). He is a wonderful fit for this role and we are excited to have him on our team.

3. June Meeting (Paul)

Since attendance has been low, we're thinking about canceling our June meeting. We will reach out closer to our next scheduled meeting on June 5th to gather agenda items. If there aren't any agenda items suggested by then, we'll proceed with canceling the meeting.

4. Students' Union Report

There's not much to report. Unfortunately, we didn't receive any applications for the Graduate Student Representative position. In the meantime, we'll have temporary arrangements in place until a by-election is held. We hope to find a suitable candidate to fill the position.

5. Report from Senate (Paul)

Following the Senate meeting on April 25th, we have a few updates to share. Firstly, due to insufficient applicants who could commence the program in Canada on time, the Master of Design program will not run this year and is rescheduled to begin next year. Conversely, the Ed.D program is experiencing high demand and is set to commence as scheduled. Additionally, the Master of Biotechnology program is currently has passed Senate Curriculum and is slated to be reviewed by Senate.



6. Other Business

Food on Campus in the summer and after hours:

Regarding campus food options during the summer and after hours, Paul recently received an email outlining the current availability. Unfortunately, options are limited, with closures of Sunshine, Rocket, and Prichard Dining Hall. Presently, only Tim Hortons (operating from 7:30 am to 4 pm), Starbucks, and Comma remain open. There is nothing available after 4 or on weekends on campus. While Paul intends to contact Food Services to advocate for extended hours, he holds reservations about the likelihood of success.

In efforts to address this issue, Hamad engaged with individuals in PICNIC, who confirmed their closure for 10 days until the commencement of Summer Semester 1. Subsequently, they plan to operate only until 1 pm, possibly offering grab-and-go breakfast options. However, they will be closed for Summer Semester 2. Collaborating with GSC, there are plans to provide evening snacks, potentially in the Graduate Collegium or another suitable location for students who remain on campus.

Workday Student:

Starting May 21st, Workday Student will become accessible to students, but it's important to anticipate some inaccuracies in the information provided. The transition from SISC to Workday



has revealed several issues across various areas. It's crucial to manage expectations as we undergo this transition, which won't be fully completed until August 2024. Rest assured, efforts are underway to address and resolve these technical challenges. Your patience and understanding are greatly appreciated as faculty and staff navigate through these changes.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:28pm