



GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL  
AGENDA  
Oct 16, 2024  
12:00-1:30pm /OM2-138 or ZOOM

**Attendees:**

Ahmed, Amira		Hunter, Elyssa		Sandler, Michael	X
Akter Moli, Mhamoda		Huang, Dominic (Zhongda)	X	Shatzko, Amanda	X
Bashmakova, Iana	X	Jalilvand, Iman	X	Shelton, Bronte	X
Baranov, Jo	X	Jelassi, Joud		Sowdagar, Sahar	X
Crawford, Carolyn	X	Khamseh, Mojdeh Rezaei	X	Steele, Andrew	
Dieudonne, Nweke		Lagman, Shirley		Thind, Shavneet	
Dow, Alec	X	Manrique Hernandez, Johanna	X	Teng, Lance	X
Eaton, Riley	X	Ruboooga, Emily	X	Pratt, Daniela	X
Shiple, Paul	X	Roberts, Deanna		Bissell, Laura	

*X = In Attendance*

**Meeting commenced: 12:03pm**

**1. Chair’s Remarks**

Paul welcomed everyone to the Graduate Student Advisory Committee (GSAC) and initiated round table introductions. He emphasized the committee's significance to the College of Graduate Studies (CoGS) as a vital touchpoint for discussing current issues, concerns, and future plans with graduate students. Gratitude was expressed to both old and new members for their participation and he shared his enthusiasm for the year's committee and the discussions ahead.



## 2. GenAI in Graduate Studies

Generative AI has significantly changed the university landscape and is expected to continue to do so. This shift has sparked many discussions about when it's appropriate to use. The College of Graduate Studies (CoGS) is collaborating closely with G+PS (our Vancouver counterpart) to develop documents aimed at guiding discussions with graduate students on this topic. Drafts of these documents were included in the invite for this meeting, and we are seeking input on them—specifically, any missing elements, areas needing clarification, or additional topics that should be included.

Committee members expressed concerns about the uncertainty surrounding AI usage, especially with tools like Copilot in Word. Participants questioned what qualifies as everyday use versus what needs to be declared. A strong call for clearer language on these distinctions was made, especially regarding built-in language trackers and AI definitions. Suggestions included developing courses or workshops to educate students on acceptable AI practices and their implications.

The group agreed on the importance of establishing a straightforward system for AI usage. Encouraging students to cite their AI use could help mitigate feelings of dishonesty. Overall, there was a consensus that proactive measures are essential, as AI is becoming a permanent fixture in academia. Plans for further discussions at Grad Council will take place and Paul will update the Committee on any ongoing changes.



### 3. Negotiating Contract BCEGU

Upcoming contract renegotiations for various unions will take place over the next year, including the BCEGU, to which all teaching assistants belong. If you have specific concerns or suggestions you would like to see addressed in these negotiations, please reach out to your shop stewards.

It's also important to review the current collective agreement for insights. Identifying any aspects that may not be beneficial to graduate students will help ensure these issues are discussed during negotiations.

You can find the link to the current Collective Agreement here: [Collective Agreement between UBC and BCEGU](#)

### 4. International Student Representative

The Committee held a vote to select a new International Student Representative. In-person attendees cast their votes using paper ballots, while those participating online submitted their votes via Teams messages to Paul. After the voting process, a representative was successfully chosen. They will be joining us at our future meetings.

**Meeting Adjourned: 13:10**