



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

Attendees:

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

X = In Attendance

Meeting Commenced: 2:02pm

1. Chair’s Remarks (Paul)

The 3MT (Three Minute Thesis) competition is set to take place in early 2025, with exact dates to be announced. This is an exciting event that takes place every year where participants are challenged to present their research in a clear, concise, and engaging way using only one static slide and a maximum of three minutes. It’s a fantastic opportunity to hone your presentation skills and share your work with a wider audience.



There are some great incentives for taking part—winners receive cash prizes and the chance to advance to the next level of the competition. The campus finals will be held at the Mary Irwin Theatre in downtown Kelowna, and seats sell out (it’s a free event) every year. For more information, please check out the [3MT website](#).

Something else just for your awareness – there is a proposed change in the works to reduce the time allowed to complete a master’s program from five years to four. It’s still under discussion, and I will keep you updated once a final decision is made.

2. Ombudsperson (Cindy Pearson Leopard)

Cindy thanked the Committee for the opportunity to come talk with us and provided an overview of the UBC Office of the Ombudsperson for Students. The Ombuds Office helps students address concerns about unfair treatment and promotes fairness across the UBC community. She explained that they offer guidance on university policies, practical advice, and support in resolving conflicts. They can also refer students to appropriate resources, assist with strategy planning, and facilitate informal resolutions. In cases where other avenues have been exhausted, the Ombuds Office may investigate complaints and provide an objective perspective.

Remaining neutral is central to the Ombuds Office’s work; they do not advocate for individuals, take sides, or intervene in formal proceedings like appeals or legal matters. Confidentiality is a



key part of their service, though it may be broken if legally required, necessary to address a request, or in situations involving health or safety concerns.

Cindy emphasized that fairness at UBC involves treating people reasonably while considering individual circumstances. Key rights include the right to be heard and the right to an unbiased decision, reflecting UBC's values of respect, equity, and community. She reassured students that the Office is always a good starting point, even if the issue needs to be directed elsewhere.

Cindy is available full-time during the academic year (September to April) and part-time in the summer (May to August).

If you would like more information, or to connect with Cindy, please find her information below:

UBCO office: UNC 328

Tel: 250 807 9818

Email ombuds.office.ok@ubc.ca

For issues related to AMS, such as student fees, events, or clubs, please contact the AMS Ombuds Office in the NEST.

You can read the Office of the Ombudsperson for Students TOR here: [Terms of Reference 2020](#).

There is also a [FAQ](#) page that goes in to more detail on the topics we discussed today.



3. Rescheduling Jan 2025 meeting (all)

Our January meeting is currently scheduled for January 1st, but we're moving it to January 8th, 2025. The calendar invite has been updated.

4. Other Business

Issues with funding:

Some concerns were raised about PhD students not receiving the full \$24,000 minimum funding, or deductions being made that shouldn't be. Paul emphasized the importance of reporting any funding issues to Program Coordinators or the Associate Deans of CoGS (Paul Shipley and Margaret Reeves), who can help resolve them. Since Workday doesn't provide detailed information on funding, students need to reach out directly for assistance. Note that the minimum funding policy currently applies only to PhD students.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:00pm