



## FACULTY OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES MEETING MINUTES

4 June 2024 | 12:30 pm | Room 200, 6371 Crescent Road

A meeting of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies was held on Tuesday, 4 June 2024 at 12:30 pm. M. Hunt was the Chair.

### ATTENDANCE

H. Cote, T. Dobson, M. Gordon, D. Grecov, S. Hagerman, N. Hodges, C. Hoppman, M. Hunt, J. Locher, B. Morey, J. Phelps, M. Read, C. Roskelley, P. Shipley, L. Sly, B. Weber

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

M. Hunt called the meeting to order at 12:34 pm.

### 2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – M. Hunt

### 3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Approved by general consensus	}	<i>That the agenda of the 4 June 2024 meeting of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies be approved.</i>
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*Carried.*

### 4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Approved by general consensus	}	<i>That the minutes of the 21 March 2024 meeting of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies be approved.</i>
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*Carried.*

### 5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

### 6. CHAIR'S REMARKS – M. Hunt

#### Admissions and Acceptances Update

- The admissions and acceptance rate as of June 1 is back to pre-pandemic levels.
- 20,813 applications thus far for 2024 registration year:
  - Compared to 2023: 3% decrease overall, 10% decrease in international applications (66% of total), 11% increase in domestic applications.
- Enrolment is expected to be relatively consistent, but we will not know for sure until September.

#### Workday Student Update

- Registration for graduate students opened today. Thousands of registrations have occurred.



- Some issues were encountered transitioning data from the SSC to Workday; nine students in particular cannot register currently. Many other data issues have been fixed. Otherwise, the transition has gone smoothly.
- Later in the summer and fall, Workday will be used for graduation and student finances.
- Workday does not support award management; the external platform, LFSM, will be used for this. Any awards prior to September 2024 will be assigned under the old system; any awards for September 2024 onwards will be on the new platform.
- Student services teams are working very hard dealing with issues.

CoLab Initiative Update

- First cohorts awarded:
  - 40+ applications
  - 5 successful applications (4 large < \$100k; 1 small < \$30k)
  - 16 students supported
  - 6 Faculties represented (Arts, Applied Science, Forestry, Law, Medicine, Science)
- Pilot Round 2 is in preparation.

Doctoral Exams Update

- The number of doctoral exams occurring is back to pre-pandemic levels.
- Less online exams are occurring over time, and more in-person exams are occurring. Hybrid exams are still being allowed and the Faculty has been very flexible regarding these.
- External Examiner Participation:
  - 75% Written Report, 16% Remote, 9% In-Person
- Major change in eligibility for University examiners:
  - At least one of the University Examiners must not have been collaborators/co-authors with the supervisor.
- Since this change, 574 University Examiner forms were processed. 90% contained two arm's length requests, and 10% contained one arm's length request.
- Exception requests have reduced slightly: 65 have been approved.

Graduate Education Generative AI Working Group

- J. Phelps started this group as part of the larger UBC Steering Committee on usage of AI.
- Information on this group was circulated.

Summer Graduate Education Working Groups:

- The following working groups are in the works and require input:
  - Enhancing Research Supervision (end of June)
  - Graduate Student Experience Landscape Review (early July)
  - Reimagining Graduate Student Funding (mid-July)
- Email invitations went out this morning.

7. POLICY CHANGE PROPOSALS

Clarification of transfer credit eligibility for Access Studies students:

- Calendar Change: Removing the unneeded, and potentially confusing distinction of “non degree” related to Access Studies students.

Approved by general consensus	}	<i>That the calendar change to the Transfer Credit for Access Studies be approved.</i>
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*Carried.*



## 8. DISCUSSION

### Tri-Agencies and Stipends

- B. Morey stated that increased award values for doctoral students will take effect in September for existing award recipients and new award recipients. Announcements will be sent out tomorrow. More awards are planning to be offered, but we do not know what this means for the application rate.
- Faculty members discussed how different start dates for students would impact funding.
- M. Hunt stated that there are still questions about what will happen at a federal level for funding for international students.

### Preferred Format and Purpose for Graduate Council

- M. Hunt noted that the Council is overdue for reflecting on its format, and asked for feedback. There have been six Council meetings this past academic year, and attendance is not as high as it could be. He suggested improving communication channels.
- C. Hoppman suggested more consistent and clearer advocacy.
- H. Cote suggested scheduling alternating weekdays for meetings for Faculty members who may teach on the same day/time each week.
- Several Faculty members suggested contacting those who consistently do not attend meetings.
- M. Hunt stated that the expectations for the Council may be unclear, and that Faculty members may not know what they are getting into when they join.
- C. Roskelley expressed support for the Policy Committee being useful.
- Faculty members discussed how often the Council should be meeting, if meetings should be in-person, online only, or hybrid, and if briefing notes would be more effective to make meetings more efficient.
- M. Hunt stated he would like meetings to be less informational and more focused on high level decision making.

## 9. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:28 pm.