



FACULTY OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

21 October 2024 | 12:30 pm | Zoom

A meeting of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies was held on Monday, 21 October 2024 at 12:30 pm. M. Hunt was the Chair.

ATTENDANCE

D. Clemens, H. Cote, J. Cragg, J. Dierkes, J. Fletcher, A. Frank, M. Gleason, B. Goold, M. Gordon, D. Grecov, S. Hagerman, N. Hodges, B. Howard, M. Hunt, J. Karim, A. Lister, J. Locher, B. Morey, F. McEachern, D. O'Donoghue, J. Phelps, R. Price, M. Read, J. Ries, C. Roskelley, A. Safdar, R. Sharma, P. Shipley, A. Summers, T. Tseng, P. Unung, B. Weber

1. CALL TO ORDER

M. Hunt called the meeting to order at 12:33 pm.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Approved by
general consensus

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That the agenda of the 21 October 2024 meeting of the Graduate Council be approved.

Carried.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Approved by
general consensus

}

That the minutes of the 4 June 2024 meeting of the Graduate Council be approved.

Carried.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

6. CHAIR'S REMARKS

- M. Hunt started the meeting by summarizing the main roles and responsibilities of Graduate Council, the composition of the Council, as well as meeting and scheduling expectations.
- As a result of the recent Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) policy, changes are largely unknown at this time. There has been a 12% reduction in international graduate student applications in the past 12 months, with enrollment numbers seemingly unaffected thus far.
- Strategic Plan Refresh:
 - Please participate in pop-up events and surveys.



- P. Unung inquired how students will be able to participate in the planning process. M. Hunt reiterated the pop-up events and surveys.

7. POLICY CHANGE PROPOSALS

Parental Accommodation Policy:

- Calendar Change: Explicitly state that Policy V-303 applies only to graduate degree students, and not to graduate certificate or diploma students (i.e., does not apply to those who do not require continuous registration).

J. Phelps A. Frank	}	<i>That the calendar change to the parental accommodation policy be approved.</i>
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- J. Phelps noted that this applies only to students in degree programs (e.g. in full-time graduate programs), and not those in certificate or diploma programs (considered to be as-to-desire basis and considered brief programs).
- P. Unung inquired how a part-time PhD student would be classified. J. Phelps answered that PhD students are degree-seeking and therefore qualify under this policy, but would not qualify if they are part-time.
- M. Hunt inquired the decision behind distinguishing full- and part-time. J Phelps answered that this was developed before there was a formal mechanism for part-time PhD study.
- P. Unung inquired if there will be a policy in the future to include part-time PhD students. J. Phelps answered that there isn't one in the process at the present time.
- A. Lister inquired if PhD students under the category of full-time with reduced workload (due to persistent disabilities) could qualify. J Phelps answered that students under this category are always treated as full-time students, therefore, they do qualify.
- F. McEachern supported the idea that parental accommodation should be offered to part-time students in order for them to sufficiently fulfill their two concurrent jobs: school and parenting. Certificate and diploma students should be reconsidered under this policy as some programs, albeit short, are nonetheless intense. F. McEachern also pointed out that the leave period is eight weeks and suggested reconsidering extending the time frame.
- M. Hunt provided context to the impetus behind the original policy, and the difference between the parental accommodation policy and the leave of absence policy. Requirement for continuous registration is not required for certificate or diploma students, therefore leave of absence is less applicable compared to a degree-seeking student where continuous registration is required. M. Hunt supported further inquiry into the distinction of part-time and full-time degree students. If none, the exclusion of part-time students should not be implemented.
- J. Phelps added that part-time students in certificate and diploma programs were not originally considered because students could just not register, therefore any formal leave policy was not relevant.

Motion rescinded.

Removal of Qualifying Student Option:

- Calendar Change: Remove qualifying student option given that new mechanisms to better integrate students now exist.

J. Phelps A. Frank	}	<i>That the calendar change for the removal of the qualifying student option be approved.</i>
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Carried.

Transfer and Ladder Credit Policy:

- Calendar Change: Clarification and separation of transfer credits and ladder credits.



J. Phelps A. Frank	}	<i>That the calendar change to the transfer and ladder credit policy be approved.</i>
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- M. Hunt clarified that the policy change recognizes that not every certificate or diploma have been approved to ladder into a degree, and not every degree will require laddering.
- P. Unung inquired on who decides on the laddering: students or the program. J. Phelps answered that the master's degree program would be the body to decide which courses are eligible to ladder.
- P. Unung inquired whether there will be a difference in course-based or research-based laddering. J. Phelps answered that there is no distinction as of now but should there be, the responsibility is on the Program to establish it.
- P. Unung further inquired if there is a possibility for the 15 credits of certificate program to increase. J. Phelps pointed towards point two of the proposals which stated that the combination of laddered and transferred credits may comprise no more than 27 (for a 30-credit program) of the total credits required for the master's degree, and transfer credits may not exceed 12. Graduate certificates are a standard 9-15 credits, meaning potentially all of credits are eligible to be transferred to a master's program.
- J. Karim inquired if the policy allows students to earn and keep the certificate and/or diploma and apply those same credits towards the master's degree and earn the affiliated master's degree subsequently. J. Phelps answered yes, it is the only instance under UBC policy in which a course can be applied to two different credentials.
- M. Hunt reiterated that laddering and transferring eligibility has to have been approved by Senate.
- J. Karim inquired if there will be a separate policy covering transfer and laddering credits for PhD programs. J. Phelps answered that transfer is 12 credits, but laddering into PhD is not yet established. The language does not explicitly state PhD programs. This leaves the decision up to each individual PhD program to decide.

Carried.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discussion:

- P. Unung asked for committee input on whether there is support for students who are seeking neither part- or full-time status, but rather something in the middle. M. Hunt suggested that individual cases be discussed offline.
- A. Lister inquired if prorated fees and prorated salary would be allowed for students under the Parental Accommodation Policy. M. Hunt acknowledged this discussion about minimum stipend and reduced workload is under works.
- D. O'Donoghue inquired about the ratification of graduate student unionization at the Labour Relations Board. M. Hunt reported that the decision had been delayed since spring.
- A. Summers inquired why first-term students are not allowed to apply for Parental Accommodation. M. Hunt reiterated the difference between Accommodation Policy versus Leave Policy. J. Dierkes confirmed that the Leave Policy cannot be applied to first-term students. J. Dierkes explained the logic being behind a non-transfer student who is arriving into a program having the option to defer admission rather than take a leave.
- A. Summers pointed out that tuition fees decrease for fourth-year domestic PhD students and the tuition awards decrease even more. This has resulted in students paying net higher fees than before their fourth-year. J. Dierkes provided a possible reason: the Faculty of Science used all of GSI to pay tuition for students. The President's Academic Excellence Initiative PhD Award is linked to tuition and so is affected in parallel to tuition amount.
- A. Lister brought up the implications of the Leave Policy for international students who may otherwise have taken a leave had the Policy allowed it. M. Hunt explained this is a long withstanding topic but currently without solution.
- P. Unung inquired when the new minimum funding will be received. J. Dierkes explained that the increase has been in effect since September 2024. The Faculty only has funding data retrospectively; Students who feel they are not receiving the minimum should first contact their Graduate advisor.

Upcoming Policy Change Proposals Overview – M. Hunt

- Academic Progress Policy
 - Statement to be reviewed: currently suggests that graduate students cannot fail a course.



- Audit Policy
 - Statement to be reviewed: “The student is expected to complete all courses requirements except the final exam, and may be given Fail standing...” in order to shift what is otherwise an undergraduate-centric policy around exams to a become graduate appropriate, where exams are not relevant thereby annulling the Audit Policy.
- Supervision
 - To review current calendar entry related to supervision of graduate students in thesis-based programs.

GenAI – Grad Working Group Update – J. Phelps

- The subcommittee is currently in the engagement phase of the project.
- Key tenets:
 - Graduate student use of GenAI is an academic/scholarly decision; subject to discretion of instructor or graduate program, ideally by mutual agreement with student.
 - UBC’s Academic and Scholarly Integrity policies are broad enough to govern appropriate use and outputs of GenAI tools in scholarship.
 - J. Phelps to share powerpoint slides and the draft of Guidelines and Advice; requesting feedback and questions from colleagues.

Thesis Embargoes – A. Frank

- G+PS is considering extending the default embargo (currently 1 year) or restricting access to open access. There is a request for information on the current embargo system.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:01 pm.