



FACULTY OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES MEETING MINUTES

14 December 2023 | 12:30 pm | Zoom

A meeting of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies was held on Thursday, 14 December 2023 at 12:30 pm. S. Porter was the Chair.

ATTENDANCE

H. Cote, J. Fletcher, D. Grecov, S. Hagerman, N. Hodges, C. Hoppmann, B. Howard, M. Hunt, J. Karim, J. Locher, B. Morey, J. Phelps, S. Porter, M. Read, C. Roskelley, R. Sharma, P. Shipley, M. Taiebat, B. Weber, K. Mazure

1. CALL TO ORDER

S. Porter called the meeting to order at 12:32 pm.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – S. Porter

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Approved by
general consensus

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That the agenda of the 14 December 2023 meeting of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies be approved.

Carried.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Approved by
general consensus

}

That the minutes of the 26 October 2023 meeting of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies be approved.

Carried.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

6. CATEGORY 2 CURRICULUM changes – M. Hunt

M. Hunt

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That the Category 2 changes as circulated be approved. .

Carried.

7. CHAIR'S REMARKS AND DISCUSSION – S. Porter

- S. Porter thanked all Council members for their commitment, engagement, respect, and insights, which allowed for diverse and important perspectives during her time as Dean.



- S. Porter noted there are many things to still be done in the Faculty, which will be for the next dean to tackle. She stated that M. Hunt will be the Dean pro tem, and that a broader search for a permanent dean will occur.

8. POLICY PROPOSAL: INCREASE OF PHD THRESHOLD FUNDING TO \$24,000 ANNUALLY

- S. Porter reminded Council that the threshold funding level for PhD students was to increase regularly, and that this body has the authority to approve that. Given that there is no additional funding from the university or elsewhere, and that very few programs would be affected by a small increase, it is proposed that the minimum be raised from \$22,000 to \$24,000 for September 2024 admissions. This would hold for all students in years 1-4.
- S. Porter presented the latest PhD funding data (AY2021-22) from all sources. The following represent full-time PhD students in years 1-4, excluding those receiving under \$22,000.
 - The average gross funding was \$38,383.
 - The average net funding for students after tuition costs was \$31,896.
 - Only 57 students (3% of the relevant population) received between \$22k and \$24k, representing a shortfall of \$48,000 across the university.
- B. Weber thanked S. Porter for the data. She expressed some concern in her discipline particularly, that a required funding policy preferentially selects for students with GRA funding; that is, students who will be doing their dissertation on a pre-set project overseen by their supervisor. This potentially results in fewer students able to do research stemming from their own interest. She wondered if there is a way to ensure such students are funded too. S. Porter acknowledged the disciplinary differences, and that most humanities and social science fields rely on scholarships and TAs for student funding. She also agreed that there are both positives and negatives with a minimum funding policy.
- N. Hodges echoed B. Weber and stated that while students can have the autonomy to explore a topic even when funded by a grant, there are still some constraints.
- B. Morey stated that there has not been a decrease in PhD enrolment since the implementation of the policy, however, he emphasized he does not want to minimize the concerns of programs who may find it challenging.
- D. Grecov asked if the 4YF amount would increase. B. Morey stated the 4YFs are seen as building blocks, and that they would like them to be more than the minimum threshold, but there is a lack of funding for this.

S. Porter	} <i>To increase the minimum stipend for PhD years 1-4 to \$24,000 starting in September 2024.</i>
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Carried.

B. Weber abstained.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

- N. Hodges noted that the Faculty will miss S. Porter.
- S. Porter wished everyone a restful winter break.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:17 pm.