



FACULTY OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES MEETING MINUTES

21 March 2024 | 12:30 pm | Zoom

A meeting of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies was held on Thursday, 21 March 2024 at 12:30 pm. M. Hunt and J. Phelps chaired the meeting.

ATTENDANCE

J. Aleksejuniene, J. Brinkman, M. L. Chu, D. Clemens, H. Cote, J. Dierkes, T. Dobson, D. Grecov, S. Hagerman, B. Howard, M. Hunt, J. Karim, A. Lister, J. Locher, P. Mehrkhodavandi, J. Phelps, M. Read, R. Sharma, P. Shipley, M. Spering, M. Taiebat

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – M. Hunt

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Approved by general consensus	}	<i>That the agenda of the 21 March 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 22 February 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

- Updates from March 20, 2024 UBC Senate meeting:
 - The proposed UBC budget for fiscal year 2025 was submitted last week.
 - The budget is balanced (though recent years' surpluses were not met).
 - UBC received 6,000+ allocations under the federal government's recent announcement on international study permit caps.
 - Provincial Attestation Letters (PALs) are already going out – BC is very early in this.
 - Recall that master's and doctoral degree students are exempt from these caps.
 - It is unknown what the yield will be, as well as numbers for next year.
- Current graduate applications (as of February 29, 2024):
 - There are 20,000+ applications for upcoming program start dates.



- Compared to 2023, this is a 2% decline overall, and a 9% decline in international student applications.
- The majority of applications are 7-9 months in advance of program start dates.
- Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships:
 - UBC received 9 in the most recent competition (7 at UBCV and 2 at UBCO).
 - Fellows across all three tri-agencies.
 - Second highest ever for UBC (10 in 2016-17).
- G+PS Opportunities:
 - Associate Dean (Policy) *Pro Tem* for a 6+ month term; applications due May 1.
 - Supervision working groups (forthcoming):
 - One committee will be focusing on Generative AI. J. Phelps encouraged Faculty members and students to join.
 - More information will come in the next 2-3 months.
- Graduate Council moving forward:
 - How to better engage with members?
 - How to increase attendance?
 - How to make membership selection more transparent?
 - How to promote “bottom up” dialogue and collaboration?
 - Working groups and diverse ideas to create change – balance wanting more voices vs. overburdening people.

7. POLICY CHANGE PROPOSALS – J. Phelps

- Calendar Change: The program has asked to remove all program-specific information and permit entry consistent with UBC G+PS practices.

Approved by general consensus	}	<i>That the removal of program-specific requirements for the Master of Archival Studies (M.A.S.) and the Master of Library and Information Studies (M.L.I.S.) be approved.</i>
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Carried.

- Calendar Change: Establish sections in the Calendar (G+PS section) for policies related to program of study for Graduate Certificates and Graduate Diplomas.
- Calendar Change: Create an exemption to Senate Policy V-302: Graduate Student Leaves of Absence for Graduate Diploma and Certificate students.
 - When does a student that needs to pause their studies require a formal leave of absence?
 - When they are in a program that pays tuition in installments, and therefore requires continuous registration, unless on a formal leave of absence.
 - When they are an international student in a program that requires presence in Canada and therefore a study permit.
- Senate Policy V-302: Update to reflect new language in LOA Calendar entry as per the leave of absence policies.

Approved by general consensus	}	<p><i>That the calendar sections on Program of Study policies for Graduate Certificates and Graduate Diplomas be approved.</i></p> <p><i>That the changes to the Leave of Absence policy for Graduate Certificates and Graduate Diplomas be approved.</i></p> <p><i>That the new language in the LOA calendar entry be approved.</i></p>
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Carried.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:24 pm.