



FACULTY OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES MEETING MINUTES

16 December 2024 | 12:30 pm | Zoom

A meeting of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies was held on Monday, 16 December 2024 at 12:30 pm. M. Hunt was the Chair.

ATTENDANCE

H. Cote, J. Cragg, J. Dierkes, D. Elmo, J. Fletcher, A. Frank, M. Gleason, M. Gordon, D. Grecov, S. Hagerman, B. Hirsh, N. Hodges, M. Hunt, J. Karim, A. Lister, J. Locher, D. O'Donoghue, J. Phelps, R. Price, M. Read, C. Roskelley, P. Unung, B. Weber

Staff: K. Mazure

1. CALL TO ORDER

M. Hunt called the meeting to order at 12:32 pm.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – M. Hunt

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Approved by
general consensus

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*That the agenda of the 16 December 2024 meeting of the
Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies be approved.*

Carried.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Approved by
general consensus

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*That the minutes of the 21 November 2024 meeting of the
Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies be approved.*

Carried.

5. CHAIR'S REMARKS – M. Hunt

- M. Hunt stated that the St. John College's expansion is looking to open in 2029, which will provide 1500 additional beds focused on graduate students.
- This year, there were tri-agency changes to funding: increases in graduate award funds and number of awards given out.
- M. Hunt thanked all members of Graduate Council for their engaging and thoughtful participation in council meetings this year.
- Applications are down 13% overall compared to the same time last year (decrease in international applicants, but increase in domestic applications). It is too early to know what impact this could have for enrolment.
- M. Hunt's position as Dean *Pro Tem* has been extended until June 15, 2025.



6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Transfer and Ladder Credit Policy Changes – J. Phelps

- There were some changes requested by the Senate Policy Committee; they were simply wording and placement changes. The gist of the new policy has not changed and still differentiates transfer credits from ladder credits.
- The most important change is that there is no longer a limit of 12 ladder credits that can apply to a Masters degree. This change is beneficial for innovation.

Maximum Program Duration for Masters Students - M. Hunt

- At the last meeting, M. Hunt noted that UBCO proposed initially three years for a Masters maximum program duration. M. Hunt stated that was too short, as it could create unnecessary stress for students and extra work to request and approve program extensions. There was consensus that five years was too long from the Faculty at the last Graduate Council meeting.
- The maximum duration of four years will likely be proposed and discussed at the next Graduate Council meeting. This is a bi-campus wide decision.

Academic Progression Policy – M. Hunt & A. Frank

- There was confusion regarding the policy section on failed courses at the last council meeting.
- M. Hunt emphasized that the policy needed to relate to courses that are required by the program, rather than all courses taken for credit, and that this was clarified in the policy language. The policy also needed to include what the responsibilities and authority of programs are – specifically, that programs are best positioned to determine what is and is not required for their program. These modifications were made and approved at the Faculty's Academic Policy Committee.
- Language around research was discussed extensively and will be revised further. The discussion also focused on protecting students and making sure they are not being taken advantage of.
- Feedback will be reviewed and this will be brought to the next Graduate Council meeting.

Thesis Embargo Limits and Renewal Changes – A. Frank

- Students can now request 12 or 24 months; after this they can resubmit extension requests with minimum effort up to the 5 year mark. Further extensions to thesis or dissertation embargoes beyond 5 years will still require justification. This change is to create more flexibility and better communication.

7. POLICY CHANGE PROPOSALS – A. Frank

M. Hunt

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That the changes to the Graduate Student Parental Accommodation Policy be approved.

Carried.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Graduate Curriculum Committee Updates – J. Fletcher

- There were 15 category one proposals and 28 category two proposals reviewed from September to November 2024.

Graduate Student Funding Landscape at UBC Vancouver – M. Hunt

- 2022-23 UBC-V Funding Breakdown:
 - Total: \$186.2 million across 11,000+ graduate students
 - Total number comes from a combination of research assistantships, teaching assistantships, scholarships, etc.



- Current funding package composition reflects diverse unit-specific needs, and funds that flow through G+PS are a combination of structure (eg. 4YF), flexibility (eg. GSI), and universality (eg. PAEIPA)
- The current “minimum policy” (\$24,000) does not reflect the reality of PhD student funding at UBC-V, as the median amount of total funding for all PhD students in Years 1-4 (full-time, no leaves) in 2022-23 was approximately \$40,000.
- What can be done with graduate student funding to remain competitive and differentiate UBC from others?

9. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:06 pm.