



## FACULTY OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES MEETING MINUTES

17 March 2025 | 12:30 pm | Zoom

A meeting of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies was held on Monday, 17 March 2025 at 12:30 pm. M. Hunt was the Chair.

### ATTENDANCE

D. Clemens, H. Cote, J. Cragg, D. Elmo, J. Fletcher, S. Forwell, A. Frank, M. Gleason, B. Goold, M. Gordon, S. Hagerman, N. Hodges, B. Howard, M. Hunt, J. Karim, M. Liu, J. Locher, B. Morey, D. O'Donoghue, R. Price, M. Read, C. Roskelley, R. Sharma, A. Summers, P. Unung, B. Weber

Staff: K. Mazure

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

M. Hunt called the meeting to order at 12:31 pm.

### 2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – M. Hunt

### 3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Approved by  
general consensus

}

*That the agenda of the 17 March 2025 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 27 January 2025 meeting of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies be approved.*

Carried.

### 5. CHAIR'S REMARKS – M. Hunt

#### Tri-Agency Funding

- Harmonization of funding under Canadian Research Training Awards Suite (CRTAS) starting in 2025/26.
- Dissolution of Vanier and Banting programs, as well as all agency-specific award programs.
- Increased \$ amount (\$27k, \$40k, \$70k for Master's, doctoral, and postdoctoral, respectively)
- Increased # of awards (+300, +1,200, +220 for Master's, doctoral, and postdoctoral, respectively)
- M. Hunt indicated that UBC typically receives 7-10% of the national awards, and we expect that to be maintained with the new system.
- Master's:
  - Indigenous Scholars Awards and Supplements program extended to CIHR.



- Doctoral:
  - Up to 15% of all awards will be awarded to foreign citizens (must be held in Canada, must be enrolled at time of application).
  - Up to 20% can be held at international institutions (domestic only).
- Postdoctoral:
  - Up to 20% of all awards will be awarded to foreign citizens (must be held in Canada).
  - Up to 30% can be held at international institutions (domestic only).
  - Maximum of 3 applications per applicant; maximum of 36 months from doctoral degree completion.

#### Provincial Attestation Letters (PALs)

- PALs are being sent out (1,200+ manually so far).
- Thank you to Jens Locher for his hard work on these.

#### Applications: Breakdown by Program Type on eVision

- 17,324 total new applications for 2025 as of March 4, 2025. This is a 14% reduction, overall, in applications (25% reduction in international applications, 9% increase in domestic applications).
- Numbers are lower for thesis-based and course-based Master's; relatively stable for doctoral.
- Number of applications is not necessarily reflective of enrolment numbers.
- There have been significant reductions in applications from India and Iran, likely due to geopolitical issues. Strategies to diversify recruitment are needed.

### 6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

#### Program Duration for Master's Students – M. Hunt

- At the last Graduate Council meeting, we voted to change the maximum program duration for Master's students from 5 years to 4 years.
- This has not yet gone to Senate due to concerns about the tuition differential (this exceeds the 2% increase without seeking ministry approval). Accordingly, this conversation is currently on pause, and the maximum program duration remains at 5 years.

### 7. POLICY CHANGE PROPOSALS

None.

### 8. DISCUSSION: G+PS MEMBERSHIP AND STUDENT SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVALS – M. Hunt

#### G+PS Privileges of Membership (currently):

- Can hold any supervisory role (primary, co-, committee member) with only program-level approval.
- Count towards the 50% G+PS member requirement for supervisory committee composition.
- Are included in program listings in the UBC Calendar.
- Can vote at G+PS Faculty meetings.
- Can retain membership upon retirement with disciplinary Faculty approval.
- (Some) Can chair doctoral exams.
- (Some) Can act as University Examiners without G+PS approval.

#### G+PS supervision myths:

- Only G+PS members can participate in supervision, co-supervision, and supervisory committees.
- Non-academics play no role in the supervision and mentoring of graduate students.
- G+PS members can supervise students in any graduate program.
- Supervision is a right, not a privilege.
- G+PS strives to put up barriers whenever and wherever possible.



Current G+PS membership problems:

- Policy is unclear, not inclusive, welcoming or reflective of current practice, and is complicated and misplaced.
- Binary membership (all or none).
- Many exception requests that are almost always approved.

February Survey (at Graduate Academic Policy Committee and Graduate Council): Should individuals in each group be eligible for certain supervisory roles **without** G+PS approval?

- Sole supervision: yes to G+PS members; maybe to COGS members; no to other groups.
- Co-supervision: yes to G+PS members, COGS members, UBC Education Leadership; maybe to clinical/adjunct Faculty at UBC, non-UBC research faculty and non-UBC non-faculty scholars; no to research associates at UBC and non-UBC non-Faculty non-scholars.
- Committee member: yes to all groups.

Other Options for Membership

- UBCO:
  - Supervisory member
  - Co-supervisory member
  - Committee member
- U of Toronto:
  - Full Graduate Faculty Member (GFM)
  - Full GFM Emeritus
  - Associate GFM
  - Associate GFM Emeritus
  - Associate GFM Restricted

G+PS Membership Guiding Principles:

- Graduate students benefit from a diversity of experience and expertise on their supervisory committees.
- Effective oversight and supervision are critical to student progression and wellbeing.
- Different roles require different responsibilities with different expectations.
- Different people have different levels of attachment/commitment to UBC.
- Effective and efficient approval processes are necessary.

Proposal:

- Expand G+PS membership: Majority of co-supervision, 50% committee structure exceptions, and University Examiner requests are for Educational Leadership Faculty or Clinical Faculty.
- No longer require G+PS approval to sit on a supervisory committee (almost all exception requests are approved).
- G+PS should maintain oversight of doctoral committee composition (e.g. 50% rule).
- Expand language related to roles and responsibilities.

Discussion:

- N. Hodges, A. Summers, J. Cragg, M. Gordon, R. Price, B. Weber, and D. Elmo expressed support for the proposal.
- No Graduate Council members expressed opposition to the proposal.
- A. Frank and M. Hunt agreed that the 50% rule may warrant more discussion.
- N. Hodges noted that Emeriti were mentioned for the University of Toronto membership. She asked if a separate category would be needed, or if they would still be G+PS Members. M. Hunt responded that a separate category would not be needed for them to maintain membership.
- M. Hunt emphasized that the current practice is that you do not need to be a G+PS Member to co-supervise.
- A. Frank noted that there should be some mechanism in place at the program level, and that this should be communicated more clearly. H. Cote stated the danger of this is that each program may have vastly different rules over time, which can lead to confusion. A. Frank suggested to have a Faculty level approval in the policy to combat this issue.



- M. Hunt asked Faculty members to reflect on this proposal, as it will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### **9. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

#### **10. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:49 pm.