

## MINUTES

### Meeting of the Graduate Academic Policy Committee

Monday, 13 March 2025, 2-3.30pm

Location: Zoom

**Present:** Adam Frank (Chair), Michael Hunt, Curtis Suttle, Jie Cheng, Dónal O'Donoghue, Jolanta Aleksejuniene, Thomas Chang, Max Read, Jennifer Fletcher (guest), Orkhon Gantogtokh

#### 1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

All	}	That the agenda be approved.
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Carried

#### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

All	}	That the minutes be approved.
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Carried

#### 3. BUSINESS ITEMS

##### Duration of Masters

- Michael provided an update on the policy change concerning the duration of Masters: The tuition structure at UBC includes a set number of **regular**, **continuing** and **extension** tuition installments. By moving the duration requirement back by one year, the **extension** installments would kick in one year sooner which would result in a 3.5% increase in tuition for students between year 4 and 5. As per law, UBC is only allowed to increase tuition by 2%. There are concerns at both UBC-O and -V that making this change would require reaching out to the provincial ministry to avail a one-off exception to the 2% fee change requirement.
- Michael said this policy change would impact around 75 students a year at UBC-V who will have to pay an extra \$1000 a year.
- In response to Donal's questions around further clarification, Michael walked the committee members through the current fee structure for Masters as available on [UBC-V Academic Calendar](#). Donal pointed out that students from some programs in the Faculty of Education (such as counseling psychology) go to a practicum in year 3 and asked how would this change impact them. Michael said that the fee structure he had shared was for a general MA program but some course-based programs might have different fee structure.

##### UBC Graduate Admissions Applicant Declaration – update

- Adam provided an update regarding some changes proposed to the applicant declaration
  - Phrasing used about GenAI
  - this committee had expressed concerns around the requirement for the applicant to not be on any sanctions list
- Adam said he had reached out to Legal Counsel Office and

- 1) in response to whether the sanctions-list assertion was legal, the Legal Counsel Office said that they were permitted to ask applicants for such a declaration. The reasoning for including this assertion came from Treasury, who explained that payments might clear through these regions prior to being received by UBC. If an applicant was sanctioned by one of these countries, UBC should be aware of that and should take the information into consideration.
  - 2) in response to whether this committee was responsible for approving this requirement, the Legal Counsel Office commented that the changes were being made to the Academic Calendar, they should be requested by the appropriate people in ES/G+PS, to be approved by Senate.
- Adam said he had reached out to people in Treasury as well, who would review the document again and send it back to the Policy Committee for further deliberation.

#### **Update on Tri-Council Funding**

- Michael shared a [memo](#) (issued March 11) announcing the launch of the new Harmonized Tri-Agency Scholarship and Fellowships programs which promises an increase in the number of scholarships and fellowships for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. These awards will also be open to foreign citizens residing in Canada (Up to 15% of all doctoral awards will be awarded to international applicants).
- Tom asked if G+PS had any rough estimate for UBC's allocation. Michael indicated that Masters award might still be processed as before. Doctoral awards would perhaps be done through an allocation model which would allow UBC to send a certain number to the national competition. He did not have any information about post-doctoral fellows.

#### **4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

##### **G+PS Faculty Membership/Supervision/Teaching**

- Adam introduced the new G+PS Faculty Membership categorization, highlighting that historically, G+PS membership was restricted to tenured or tenure-track faculty members in the Research Stream (Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Professor). These faculty members needed approval from their disciplinary faculty (or equivalent) and had to meet criteria set by the graduate programs they were affiliated with.
- This historical membership structure led to the misconception that only G+PS members could supervise students. However, in reality, non-member faculty could also supervise with G+PS approval.
- Adam then outlined the two new categories of G+PS membership being introduced: Supervisory and Co-supervisory members. He also mentioned a potential third category, Co-supervisory (restricted), and the possibility of eliminating the need for G+PS approval to join supervisory committees. He invited discussion on the proposed third category.
- Jolanta inquired if a PhD candidate could be included as a member of an MSc committee. Michael and Adam said that this would present complications.
- Donal asked whether these changes would affect the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Educational Leadership faculty to which Adam responded that it would be a delicate balance to manage. The goal was to give those EL faculty members who were involved in research an easier route to graduate supervision. Conversations between individual EL faculty and graduate programs would be required.

- Curtis asked whether, once someone had been approved for G+PS membership, they needed to be approved again each time. Adam clarified that once approved, membership is granted permanently but the approval process for (the newly-proposed) restricted membership might differ. In terms of supervising students or serving on committees, Adam mentioned that G+PS membership would no longer be required for committee membership.
- Towards the end, Adam asked if the Committee members were fine with devolving the committee membership to the programs, without requiring an extra level of G+PS approval. A general consensus was recorded.

## 5. **ADJOURNMENT**

Adam delivered the closing remarks and the meeting was adjourned at 2.56pm.