

**MINUTES**  
**Meeting of the GC Policy Committee**  
**Wednesday, June 10, 2024, 12.30-2pm**  
Location: Zoom

**Present:** Laura Sly (Chair), Michael Hunt, Teresa Dobson, Jolanta Aleksejuniene, Shannon Hagerman, Thomas Chang, Curtis Suttle, Davide Elmo, Patricia Unung, Jie Cheng, (guest), Jenny Phelps (guest)

**Staff:** Max Read, Jennifer Fletcher

1. **Introductions and regrets**  
Orkhon (GSS Academic Policy)  
Sumeet Gulati, Miriam Spering

2. **Land Acknowledgement**

3. **Adoption of the agenda**

<i>All</i> }	<i>That the agenda be adopted.</i>
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Carried
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4. **Motion to Approve the Minutes**

<i>All</i> }	<i>That the minutes be approved.</i>
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Carried
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5. **Items for Business**

- a. **Graduate student Parental Accommodation Policy**

- Laura introduces the changes being made to the existing policy:
  - A clarification that this policy does not apply to students in graduate certificate and diploma programs, who are not required to maintain continuous registration.
  - Removing reference to programs that are discontinued: PharmD (no longer a grad program), MAAPPS (still in calendar until last student graduate but no new enrollment), DMD/PhD (discontinued).
- Curtis points out that the word 'currently' can be removed from the first paragraph. Laura agrees.

<i>All</i> }	<i>That the motion be approved.</i>
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Carried
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**b. Qualifying student:**

- Laura proposes removing the calendar entry related to “qualifying student”. This category has not been used for over 10 years, no plans for its use in future, and it is not compatible with current systems.

All	}	<i>That the motion be approved.</i>
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Carried
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**c. Transfer and Laddered Credits:**

- Jenny introduces the proposed policy change to the committee, which aims at determining and approving policy revisions that differentiate laddered credits from the transfer credits, and setting maximum combined transfer and laddered credits that may be applied to master’s programs that are specifically affiliated with Graduate Certificates and Diplomas.
- She poses some questions for broader discussion: Should we allow both laddered credits and transfer credits (which could be credits from outside UBC)? What should be the maximum total number of laddered/transfer credits that could be applied to Master’s program?
- One thing that came up in internal discussion is - proponents within UBC of the idea of stackable credentials – province is interested in ways for people to take smaller size credentials and stack them together into a higher-level credentials. If We allow up to 27 laddered credits, that would enable someone to use 3 stacked. We don’t have any structures at UBC for now but some programs are interested in structuring a new program that would be managed that way
- Christiane asks if the proposed arrangement would be appealing to professional programs? Jenny says most of the grad certificates that ladder into a Masters program are professional masters. Michael says he is not aware of any thesis-based Masters that allows laddering. Jenny agrees.
- Michael asks if the limit should be set as a number or a percentage because there are a number of course-based MA programs at UBC that exceed 30 credits. Jenny says we generally provide both – a number and a percentage.
- Laura supports the idea of letting the maximum number of laddered credits to be approved for MA program, arguing it offers maximum flexibility for students as well. Thomas agrees.
- Jenny says - A program in Forestry that wants to ladder 15 credit graduate certificate and have their students be allowed to take another 6 credits from a partnering university. Shannon supports flexibility in the approach.
- Laddered credits always have to be UBC courses (33) and do not count towards the 12 credits transfer credit restrictions
- Patricia asks about sub-section (d) under the Laddered Credit head - how does it apply to folks who have certificates already and want to start a Masters later. Jenny says this is a standard policy that for any course to be applied to a Master’s degree – they have to have taken it within five years of commencement of the Master’s program.
- Michael argues for clarity in the language used in the proposed policy change so as to explicitly state the policy - for example, adding the phrase ‘with program approval’ in the first section to make it clear that it is still a program-level situation. Jenny agrees with that and makes the change.

- Teresa asks if there are no more than 12 credits to be transferred and no more than 15 to be laddered – Jenny somebody could transfer 3 and ladder 24 – the limit is on the transferred credits not the laddered ones
- Michael suggests this wording: “A combination of laddered and transferred credits may comprise no more than 90% of the total credits required for the master's degree, with transfer credits not exceeding 12 of these.”
- The motion is put forth for approval by the committee members

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>All</i>                      }    <i>That the motion be approved (with minor changes).</i></li> </ul>
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Carried
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#### 6. Discussion

- Michael asks the committee members to think about the Graduate Council should be run and what would be the best approach moving forward. He tells the group that there were three standing councils for Graduate Council in the past: Curriculum, Scholarship and Policy. The Scholarship Committee does not exist now. Curriculum is a grad council sub-committee and a Senate Curriculum sub-committee as well. Michael invites the Committee members to assess if there are things that that could go straight to the Senate without being brought to the current Committee.
- Michael acknowledges the valuable contribution of the Committee members who will be leaving the Committee after the current meeting. These members are Laura Sly, Teresa Dobson, Christiane Hoppmann.

#### 7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 13:26.