



## GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

27 April 2023 | 12:30pm | Zoom

A meeting of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies was held on Thursday 27 April 2023 at 12:30pm. Dean Susan Porter was the Chair.

### ATTENDANCE

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Dean S. Porter called the meeting to order at 12:32pm.

#### 2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

#### 3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

<i>Approved by general consensus</i>	}	<i>That the agenda of the 27 April 2023 meeting of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies be approved.</i>
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*Carried.*

#### 4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

<i>Approved by general consensus</i>	}	<i>That the minutes of the 23 February 2023 meeting of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies be approved.</i>
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*Carried.*

#### 5. CHAIR'S REMARKS – S. Porter

- The Peter Wall Institute is being closed and G+PS has been (re)given oversight of it for its remaining time.
- There is nationwide march for graduate and postdoctoral funding occurring May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- A workshop on new forms of dissertations occurred this morning and was well attended.
- The dean's office is working through ISP engagement. The self-assessment has been completed and the implementation phase is ongoing.
- G+PS is working on new procedures for academic unit reviews with the provost's office.
- J. Phelps is the lead on an ongoing Black and Indigenous initiative to recruit and support postdocs and support student to faculty transitions.
- G+PS is continuing to work on the concept of a collaborative PhD.

#### 6. ACCEPTANCE DEPOSITS - N. Romualdi

- There is a proposal being developed around acceptance deposits for course-based master's programs in order to provide a more efficient approach for their collection. There will be a new integrated payment collection system for Automatic Deposit Collection integrated into the Student Centre. Implementing an acceptance deposit remains completely optional for graduate programs. A finalized proposal will be circulated and programs will decide if they want to opt in and at what level.



- N. Romuladi gave an overview of the current state of deposits for graduate programs at UBC.
- A. Frankel asked If the interface is Touchnet and if so, how easy is it to use administratively? Is it internal or external to UBC?
  - J. Locher stated that all fees will be processed through Touchnet in the future. It should be seamless and easy to use. He does not expect much interaction from an administrative perspective. Student Financial Management will manage the administrative side in the future.

#### 7. GRADUATE LIFE CENTRE UPDATE - J. Locher

- J. Locher provided an update on the Graduate Life Centre and asked the faculty: how can we make the GLC most useful to you?
- J. Phelps stated that one of the benefits of a space like this is that it is one of the few set aside for grad students and this will allow them to meet people that they otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity to meet. This has exciting potential.
- B. Hirsh applauded the inclusion of a child friendly space. She stated that she has long wanted a space to hold a celebratory last seminar.
- D. Clemens stated that a bookable space was lost when Sauder assumed a lot of the space. Will that space be repurposed back to a bookable space?
  - J. Locher stated that this is the purview of the GSS and so he cannot give a direct answer at the moment.
- A. Frankel asked if we could talk about the food options and what's envisioned.
  - J. Locher stated that they are in active consultations at the moment. It will not be a full-blown option, but a small food outlet. A lot of this will hinge on how much foot traffic is in the building.
- J. Phelps asked what kinds of technology should be available in common rooms?
  - J. Locher stated that these questions will be accounted for in the second and third phases which have not yet begun.

#### 8. ADMISSIONS APPLICANT DECLARATION POLICY - M. Hunt

- This is a clarification to the calendar entry rather than policy change with regards to Graduate Admissions Applicant Declaration.
  - The policy and associated wording is being clarified to change the name from "student declaration" to "applicant declaration"
  - Currently, applicants must also click a box on eVision when submitting their application to declare that they are including a full academic history in the application (including institutions where studies were not completed)
    - The calendar entry will now include the same language as seen on eVision, as well as a link to the UBC Senate policy on authenticity of documents
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*Approved by general  
consensus*

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*That the calendar entry changes relating to graduate  
application declarations be approved as proposed.*

*Carried.*

#### 9. CHANGES TO UNIVERSITY EXAMINER ELIGIBILITY FOR DOCTORAL EXAMS – M. Hunt

- M. Hunt also presented discussions and proposals on changes to arm's length eligibility requirements for university examiners.
- S. Porter had some suggestions for the wording of the eligibility requirements.
- Changes are being proposed to the Arm's Length Requirements for UEs. These changes were approved by the graduate Academic Policy Committee.



- The first change was to adjust language to clarify formal vs informal involvement in the planning or assessment/examination of the dissertation.
- The second change was to clarify language to state that UE's cannot have a real or perceived conflict of interest.
  - P. Mehrkhovandi asked if a link to examples of conflicts of interest could be included
    - M. Hunt assented and suggested that a link to UBC Policy SC3 be included for reference
- The third change was to change the requirement such that **at least one** of two UEs cannot have been a recent collaborator with supervisors rather than both.
  - C. Hoppmann stated that this is such a welcome change that will take pressure off of professors.
  - R. Starkey stated that she wishes to ensure that we also provide information on asking for exceptions.
  - D. Clemens asked how a UE will be designated as the exception
    - M. Hunt stated that this is an issue they are still working through that will likely involve changes to UE nomination forms.

#### 10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:37pm