

**Summary Minutes of a Meeting of the  
COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH  
Held in the Council Chamber, University Hall  
Friday, September 15, 2006, 2:00 pm**

Attendance

MRT Dale in the Chair	M Shirvani
M Allen	J Varsava
L McGann	H Hogg, Secretary

Department Representatives

E Bork, Ag, Food & Nutri Sciences	S Rice, Linguistics
J Greer, Art & Design	P Minev, Math & Stat Sciences
B Lemire, Biochemistry	Z Xia, Mechanical Engineering
H McDermid, Biological Sciences	A Underhill, Medical Genetics
B Hayes, Chem & Mat Eng	P Lacy, Medicine
J Takats, Chemistry	L Penrod, Mod Lang and Cultural St
D Zhu, Civil & Environ Engineering	H Klumpenhower, Music
N Amaral, Computing Science	J Mill, Nursing
P Defraeye, Drama	Y Bhambhani, Occupational Therapy
P Erdmer, Earth & Atmos Sciences	Y Sauvé, Ophthalmology
T Ono, East Asian Studies	S Petersen, Physical Education & Recreation
R Short, Educational Psychology	R Marchand, Physics
J McClay, Elementary Education	C Benishin, Physiology
M Adria, Extension	L Harder, Political Science
H Madill, Health Promotion Studies	A Joyce, Psychiatry
N Keating, Human Ecology	P Dixon, Psychology
N Amaral, Internetworking	P Blenis, Renewable Resources
J Acker, Lab Medicine & Pathology	N Krogman, Rural Economy
S O'Byrne, Law	W Johnston, Sociology
A Samek, Library and Info Studies	

Graduate Student Representatives

C Delling, GSA President	A Siemens, Renewable Resources
R Hao, GSA Vice-President Acad	C Schreyer, Anthropology
K Cameron, Educational Psych	L Harris, Neuroscience
T Brisbois, Ag, Food & Nutri Sciences	C Mettananda, Agric, For
D Oladele-Rabiu, Health Policy	B Jensen, Earth & Atmos Sciences
L Lunde, Anthropology	C Shaoul, Psychology

Ex officio

A Greenshaw, Office of VP Research	C Hackett, Grad Ombudservice (Observer)
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Guests

D Percy, Law	K Booth, MITACS
R Bechtel, Law	S Igoe, MITACS
J Watkinson, Office of the Provost	

Regrets

A Schmitter, J Landry, M Doherty, F Landy, R Godbout, C Devereux

**1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was approved.

**2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

a. Approval of the minutes of May 12, 2006

The minutes were approved.

b. Matters arising

A GSA representative asked if FGSR Council plans to discuss absolute grading versus relative grading at the graduate level. The Chair advised the conversation would be more appropriately addressed by General Faculties Council and recommended the GSA raise the issue at GFC.

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

**3.1 MITACS Internship Program**

K Booth presented an outline of the MITACS Internship Program and encouraged departments offering graduate programs to take advantage of the internship program.

**3.2 Role of Graduate Ombudsperson**

C Hackett, Graduate Student Ombudsperson, presented an overview of his role and encouraged departments to utilize the mediation and facilitation services of the Ombudsperson.

**3.3 Proposal for a PhD in Law**

**MOTION** It was moved by J Varsava and seconded by S O'Byrne that the proposal for PhD in Law be approved.

D Percy, Dean of the Faculty of Law and S O'Byrne, Graduate Coordinator, Law, presented an overview of the proposed program and addressed several questions raised by the GSA, including course availability/variety, Canadian student recruitment, student funding and key performance indicators for the program.

**VOTE** The motion was PUT and CARRIED, 42-2, 2 abstentions.

**3.4 Proposal for Research 900 (RSCH 900)**

**MOTION** It was moved by J Varsava and seconded by M Shirvani that the proposal for RSCH 900 be approved.

J Varsava outlined FGSR's proposal to create a course registration to permit visiting graduate students who are not registered in UofA graduate programs/courses to spend up to two terms on the UofA campus to do research under the supervision of a University of Alberta staff member. While such activity already occurs, it is done on an unofficial basis. In addition to the advantages such a registration would give the visiting graduate students, the Chair advised the proposal would be one mechanism to track visiting graduate students as the University of Alberta addresses liability and risk management issues involving visitors on campus.

Councillors raised several concerns, including the appropriateness of charging fees to visiting students, whether registration would be mandatory and enforced, and whether the visitors would be considered registered graduate students and subject to non-instructional fees such as the GSA health and dental plan.

**MOTION**

**TO TABLE:** It was moved by N Amaral and seconded by P Defraeye that the motion be tabled, pending further information on the proposal.

**VOTE:** The motion to table was PUT and CARRIED, 32-14, 1 abstentions.

**3.5 Proposal for a Course-based MA in Drama**

**MOTION** It was moved by J Varsava and seconded by M Allen that the proposal for a course-based MA in Drama be approved.

P Defraeye gave an overview of the proposal and addressed questions from the GSA.

**VOTE** The motion was PUT and CARRIED, 43-1.

**4. INFORMAL BUSINESS**

a. Question Period

A GSA representative asked for an update on how FGSR (and the University as a whole) is going to meet the graduate student growth suggested by University administration in terms of funding, supervisory capacity and infrastructure capacity.

The Chair advised the Provost's Office will be heading a task force on graduate student funding, the President's Office continues to lobby government for more funding to hire faculty and the University is continuing to address infrastructure and space issues through new building construction and retrofitting existing spaces.

A council member requested a report on the number of graduate applications and admissions prior to and after the implementation of the \$100 graduate application fee to see if the fee had impacted applications and enrolment.

A GSA representative asked if FGSR would consider giving feedback to graduate students who were unsuccessful in FGSR scholarship competitions. The Chair advised the FGSR does not have the resources to accommodate such requests and that feedback from the FGSR would not be appropriate as scholarship adjudication is done by committees made up of several reviewers.

A council member asked if the Provost Doctoral Entrance Award competition could be held year-round, rather than December to May. The Chair said the FGSR could consider this, but the limitation of funds in this awards competition often determines how long the competition can remain open. The Chair advised the graduate funding task force headed by the Provost's Office will likely look at the University's effectiveness in using scholarship funds.

A council member asked if there is another mechanism to compare Canadian institutions now that many of Canada's major universities have opted out of the Maclean's magazine rankings. The Chair said it has been suggested that University of Alberta pay for such a study, however he was unaware of such plans.

J Watkinson advised council that she will be contacting Deans, Department Chairs and Graduate Coordinators and Administrators on behalf of the Provost's Office for input on how the University of Alberta can administratively accommodate graduate student growth, including if and how a 25% increase in graduate student enrolment could be accomplished.

b. Announcements and Reports by the Chair and Councillors

1. Exit Survey/Orientation

J Kelland presented an overview of the FGSR's annual Exit Survey/Orientation report.

2. Question/Response Related to work permits for graduate students

The Chair reviewed information from the International Centre regarding the University's required role in sharing student information, noting that students who participate in the Off Campus Work Permit Program agree that the University will share required information about them with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC).

3. Internationalization Activities Update

J Varsava told council the FGSR's Task Force on Internationalization was finalizing its report with several recommendations in four key areas: recruitment, on-campus support, internationalization of the graduate student experience, and promotion and advocacy of the University of Alberta abroad.

4. Professional Master's Programs Update

M Shirvani said he is currently investigating models of professional master's degree programs used at other institutions to see what might work at the University of Alberta. A report will come before FGSR Council when complete.

5. Recruitment/Publications

R Lievers outlined the FGSR's fall recruitment schedule and advised new FGSR recruitment materials had been produced and would be distributed to departments offering graduate programs.

c. Other Business

None

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm and was followed by a reception in the Council Chamber foyer.