

Summary of a Meeting of the
COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH
Held in the Edmonton Clinical Health Academy, Room L1 490
Wednesday, February 13, 2013, 2:00 pm

AttendanceEx Officio

R Poliquin, Vice-Dean	L Rose, Manager, HR and Finance
J Harrington, Assoc Dean	P Melançon, Assoc Dean
J McClay, Assoc Dean	

Department Representatives

S Harris, Art & Design	D Beck, Linguistics
T Simmen, Cell Biology	J Kuttler, Math and Stat Sci
K Cadien, Chem & Mat'ls Eng	S Hughes, Medical Genetics
T Lowary, Chemistry	D Burshtyn, Med Microbiol & Immun
I Sywenky, Comparative Literature	A Nahachewsky, Mod Lang & C Std
J Sander, Computing Science	S Persad, Pediatrics
R Shannon, Drama	E Posse de Chaves, Pharmacology
B Humphreys, Economics	A El-Kadi, Pharm & Pharmaceut Sci
Y Tsui, Electrical & Computer Eng	M Smith, Political Sci
Y d'Entremont, Faculte Sainte-Jean	E Fujiwara, Psychiatry
D Sweeney, History & Classics	F Lifshitz, Religious Studies
M Keelan, Lab Medicine & Path	G Armstrong, Renewable Res.
M Mackey, LIS	G Thomas, Secondary Education

Graduate Program Administrator Representatives

J Forslund, Agriculture, Food & Nutri Sci	A Giles, Medical Microbiology & Immunology
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Graduate Student Representatives

A Bernier, GSA President	J Meston, Educ Policy Studies
N Andrews, GSA VP Academic	A Schlacht, Cell Biology
A Abdelmoneim, Pharm Sci	A Shchepetkina, Earth and Atmos Sci
C Cortez, Elec and Comp Eng	J Stolar, Renewable Resources
F Mani, Chem and Mat Engineering	M Zeng, English and Film Studies

Guests/Observers

P Dashora, Human Ecology	K Pollock, Speech Pathology & Audiology
J Freund, Oncology	L Harder

1. Approval of the Agenda - Approved
2. Approval of the Minutes of January 16, 2013
Moved by I Johnston, Seconded by P Melançon
3. Matters Arising from the Minutes - none
- 4.1 Motion: Be it resolved that the Associate Deans (graduate) or equivalent from the following Faculties and Schools be added as voting members of the Council: ALES, Arts, Education, Engineering, Medicine and Dentistry, Public Health, Rehabilitation Medicine, and Science.

The purpose for adding the Associate Deans to FGSR Council membership and granting voting privileges to them was discussed.

Their membership should enhance discussions and policy making decisions of FGSR Council and improve communications with them.

Moved by E Posse de Chaves, seconded by J Harrington

The motion was PUT and CARRIED

Yes – 21, No – 11, Abstain – 3.

- 4.2 Motion: Be it resolved that the Director of the Centre for Teaching and Learning be added as a nonvoting member of the Council.

Moved by P Melançon, seconded by J McClay

The motion was PUT and CARRIED

Yes – 32, No – 2, Abstain – 7

5. Graduate Student Management Solution (GSMS)

J Ryder provided an overview of the Graduate Student Management Solution which is a 3-year IT project intended to develop IT solutions for the operations of managing graduate education at the University.

The project is in the initial stage in which a project charter will be finalized, funds secured and key stakeholders will be identified. A Project Manager will be hired in the near future. The project will look at various middle-ware options that can interact with central repositories of student information at the University. The current approach is to consider the timeline of the student life cycle and ensure that the solutions developed can handle most aspects.

Key elements to be considered in the Project include:

- Improved online admissions platform for Graduate Studies that will manage the application process, including submissions of electronic referees, assessment of applicants by admissions committees, and workflow.
- New software for the management of the graduate awards, including set up of new awards, managing applications and adjudication for award competitions, management of review committees, communications with applicants and awarding of scholarships.
- Intermediary solutions will be considered for some aspects.

6. Update from the Working Group on Quality Measures

M Shirvani explained that there will be a short list of quality measures developed before the end of this term. To date, there has been broad discussion on the matter. An update will be presented at the March 20 Council meeting.

Discussion ensued.

The role of accreditation in the development of quality measures was discussed by Council.

It was noted that there is extensive diversity in programs at the University and that needs to be considered in the development of quality measures. Concerns regarding, how the information will be used were expressed.

A member asked when the report from C Swindlehurst would be circulated. M Shirvani responded that it will be sent to members within the next couple of days.

7. Readmission Fee: Should there be one?

M Shirvani asked members for feedback on the purpose and benefit of the current readmission fee and whether the amount should be revised or the fee removed altogether.

Discussion ensued:

- Suggestions for both lower and higher rates were raised.
- A member noted that the fee may serve to deter students from walking away from a program and coming back later.
- It was noted that The Board of Governors approves fees but that Council could submit a proposal for consideration by the Board.

- It was suggested that the Board of Governance may be able to give some background as to why this fee was created.
- It was noted that there are currently less than 10 readmissions processed per year.

This item will be discussed further at a future meeting.

8. Update on the QEII Scholarships

The allocation to the universities will be known after the provincial budget on March 7.

Options are being considered by the associate deans of departmentalized faculties:

1. FGSR calculates departmental quotas, receives departmental nomination lists (as in the past).
2. FGSR calculates faculty quotas, associate deans determine departmental quotas, FGSR receives departmental nomination lists.
3. FGSR calculates faculty quotas, faculties arrange internal selection process, FGSR receives faculty nomination lists from the associate deans.

For the QEII, 114 Masters and 268 Doctorate students applied. There is 1 scholarship for every 10 domestic students who apply. Seven years ago there was 1 scholarship for every 20 students who applied.

Q. Would the change have occurred regardless of there being less money?

A. If there were fewer scholarships than before, i.e. half, then the preference would be for option #1 .

9. Report of the Graduate Student's Association

A Bernier summarized the report of the GSA which had been pre-circulated with the Council Package for this meeting. The GSA will be sending a letter to graduate students inviting them to sign in to an online budget survey. The Premier will be on campus on February 27, 2013. The GSA is actively pursuing communications with the Provincial Government.

10. Report of the Dean

There will be some upcoming graduate policy changes:

Current Council policy contains approximately 24 circumstances in which one-over-one approval are required. e.g. Approval of supervisors, leaves of absence, exam committees, etc. After review and deliberation by the Policy Review Committee (PRC), a notice of motion will come to the March 20 FGSR Council Meeting, with a final vote at the April 17 meeting. For each process,

Council will decide:

1. Whether the process requires one-over-one approval.
2. If a second review outside of the program is needed, whether that review should be the FGSR or the disciplinary Faculty.

The University will introduce the use of the category of "Professional Master's Program" in policy. The CAQC already has a definition in place. Master's programs that are officially approved by the University as being a professional master's program could potentially be turned over to the Faculties, becoming subject to their own stand-alone standards, policies, and processes, including admissions.

11. Question Period

Q. What can programs expect in the way of allocations to departments for doctoral awards.

A. There will be more news at the March meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.