

Summary of a Meeting of the
COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH
Held in the Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science
Room 1-140
Wednesday, January 22, 2014, 2:00 pm

Attendance

Ex Officio

Ada Ness, Office of the Registrar Director of Centre for Teaching & Learning

FGSR

J Harrington, Assoc Dean J McClay, Assoc Dean

Department Representatives

R Jacobs, AFNS	S Gille, Math & Stats Sci
S Harris, Art & Design	S Hughes, Medical Genetics
D Stuart, Biochemistry	V Ruetalo, Mod Lang & Cult'l St
D Deephouse, Business PhD	Y Lam, Mod Lang & Cult'l St
T Simmen, Cell Biology	G Tardif, Music
K Cadien, Chem & Mat'l Eng	F Tough, Native Studies
A Weiler, Chemistry	C Dickson, Centre for Neurosci
J Volden, Comm Sci & Disorders	J Profetto-McGrath, Nursing
J Sander, Computing Science	P Paul, Nursing
A Commons, East Asian Studies	A Underhill, Oncology
D Ryan, Economics	A Holt, Pharmacology
A Abdi, Educational Policy Studies	S Simpson, Pharm & Pharmaceut Sci
G Buck, Educational Psychology	D Goodwin, Phys Ed & Recreation
E Simmt, Educational Studies	G Funk, Physiology
Y Tsui, Electrical & Comp Eng	M Smith, Political Science
C Harol, English & Film Studies	S Kar, Psychiatry
M Cavanagh, Faculte Saint-Jean	T Spalding, Psychology
D Sweeney, History & Classics	T Hopper, Rehab Sci (PhD/MSc)
D Williamson, Human Ecology	F Lifshitz, Religious Studies
M Keelan, Lab Med & Path	G Armstrong, Renewable Res
A Shiri, LIS	G Jhangri, School of Public Health
D Beck, Linguistics	

Associate Deans Graduate

W Dixon, ALES	S Kresta, Engineering
M O'Driscoll, ARTS	H Ostergaard, Medicine & Dentistry
J McClay, Education	

Graduate Program Administrator Representatives

M Marvin, History & Classics
A Giles, Medical Microb & Immun

Graduate Student Representatives

M Bal, GSA Vice President Labour	M George, AFNS
C More GSA VP Academic	S Khan, Political Science
A Aderigigbe, Biochemistry	J Lee, Medical Genetics
M Borowitz, Anthropology	S Megha, AFNS
J Gardiner, Bio Sci	T Schoepp, Elec & Comp Eng

Guests/Observers

O Outar (VP-Advancement)	M Peterson (University Governance)
M Rattray, Bio Sci	G Powley, GPAC
M Airmet, Neuroscience	D Conrad, Secondary Ed

1. Approval of the Agenda – Approved.
Moved by J McClay, Seconded by D Deephouse.
2. Approval of the Minutes of November 20, 2013
Moved by D Ryan, Seconded by M O'Driscoll.
3. Matters Arising from the Minutes
None.
4. Venture Mentoring Service (VMS)
O'Neil Outar (Vice-President-Advancement) shared information regarding a new program, Venture Mentoring Services, offered through the Office of Alumni Relations. The VMS is about supporting entrepreneurs, including undergraduate students, graduate students and alumni, through mentoring. According to the Post Secondary Learning Act, the Government of Alberta recognizes that the creation and transfer of knowledge contributes to Alberta's competitive advantage in a global economy. Approximately 41 percent of PSE students see themselves as starting a business after graduation and if an entrepreneur needs extra support, VMS can help fill the

gap. On campus students need to know what mentorship is and why it's important.

There are a number of related programs and activities on campus: the Alberta School of Business *Technology Commercialization Centre*, the Faculty of Engineering *Start-Up School* and *Beaver's Den*, student groups such as *ABCampus* and *Enactus*, and *StartUpU* offered by CaPS.

Some alumni look back and wish they'd had help or remember those who helped them. It's important to identify entrepreneurs early and help them work on their idea while still in school. Mentors do not necessarily invest in or be part of the organization; the association can be at arms length.

What is Mentorship?

For an entrepreneur:

- What questions to ask at different stages
- How to deal with setback
- How to challenge assumptions
- How to fail

For a mentor:

- Paying it forward
- Meaningful volunteerism
- Engaging with passionate individuals
- Feeling inspired

The VMS vision is to develop and inspire UofA entrepreneurs. The VMS mission is to create an excellent experience for entrepreneurs and mentors as a measure of success.

The program will be comprised of approximately 200 mentors and mentees. There will be a matching system where mentees will give a four minute pitch and mentors will rank them. In the mentor/mentee relationship there will be 2-3 mentors per mentee.

All mentors will be UofA alumni volunteers with business development expertise and a desire to objectively pass along their experience and advice. The entrepreneurs will be UofA students/alumni with an idea for a new venture and the willingness to put some work into it.

Discussion ensued.

5. The University Student Appeal Processes

The University Appeals and Compliance Officer, Mr. Michael Peterson, presented a summary of the Appeals Processes and resources available. The appeals system exists to allow final arguments regarding fairness in Faculty decision-making, and the intention is to provide a transparent process. The decisions of the Appeal Boards may be subject to judicial review.

6. Report of the GSA

Colin More offered to answer any questions about the report of the GSA which had been pre-circulated with the Council Package for this meeting.

7. Report from the FGSR Associate Deans

J Harrington, P Melaçon and J McClay were available to answer any questions about the report, which had been pre-circulated with the Council Package for this meeting.

Discussion ensued. J Harrington repeated that the Associate Deans are available to assist in a variety of circumstances that arise.

8. FGSR Progress Report Re Graduate Education Recommendations

The update was circulated to Council with the package. Discussion ensued.

9. Report of the Dean

Online Admission System for Graduate Studies

It is anticipated that the new system will be ready toward the end of January 2014. Graduate Coordinators and Graduate Administrators will receive a demonstration then. Due to an upload issue in the current system, which has now been resolved attention was diverted from the new system. It is anticipated that a demonstration site will be available in the coming week. Discussion ensued.

Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master's Update

There should be a breakdown by department provided to each department by the end of the week. Cross-referencing the Tri-Agency applications with UofA Admission records has been challenging as the CGS-M applications do not include university student ID numbers, requiring a manual process for identifying UofA Admissions applicants/current students with the CGS-M application data. By February 5, 2014, each applicant's content, including GPA, will be available to departments. By March 5, 2014, departments will need to send a ranked list of applications to the FGSR. April 1, 2014 is the deadline for the institutions to load initial scholarship offers into the Tri-Agency portal. Discussion ensued.

New Graduate Funding Model

Based on the document circulated to the GFC Executive, M Shirvani presented the elements of the proposed model as being

- Guaranteed funding for full-time thesis-based students (5 years doctoral, 2 years thesis-based master's).
- A new model for allocating TA funding to the Faculties, based on U15 data.
- The proposed UA Graduate Fellowships.

Discussion ensued. Council expressed a wish that Dr. Martin Ferguson-Pell (Senior Advisor to the President), be invited to the February Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 p.m.