

**Summary of a Meeting of the
COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH
Held in the Council Chamber, University Hall
Wednesday, May 19, 2010, 2:00 pm**

Attendance

M Shirvani in the Chair
M Allen

R Poliquin

Department Representatives

S Caulfield, Art & Design	H Julien, Library & Info Studies
D Stuart, Biochemistry	S Rice, Linguistics
P Melançon, Cell Biology	T Hillen, Math & Stat Sciences
I Sywenky, Comparative Literature	D Burshtyn, Medical Microbiology & Imm
C Flores Mir, Dentistry	G Tyrrell, Medical Sciences
C Lindsey, Economics	E Le, Modern Lang & Cultural Studies
F Peters, Educational Policy Studies	H Bashaw, Music
R McKay, Educational Studies	D Collins, Neuroscience
J McClay, Elementary Education	H Olliff, Nursing
T Zackodnik, English & Film Studies	S Petersen, Physical Education & Recreation
M Adria, Extension (MACT)	C Benishin, Physiology
M Cavanagh, Faculté Saint-Jean	A Joyce, Psychiatry
H Madill, Health Promotion Studies	M Luckert, Rural Economy
F Swyripa, History & Classics	C Boliek, Speech Pathology & Audiology
J Martin, Lab Med & Pathology	

Graduate Program Administrators

G Mathew, Anthropology

F Hey, Public Health Sciences

Graduate Student Representatives

Taylor Bureyko, AFNS	S Al-Daghreer, Med Sci (Orthodontics)
D Dipen, Chem & Mat Engineering	J Babicheva, Mod Lang & Cultural Studies
N Mostafa, Dentistry	A Florea, Public Health Sciences
H Stack-Cutler, Educational Psychology	L Mazzino, Physics
L Golshani, Mechanical Engineering	Y Wong, Rehabilitation Medicine
F Wu, Medical Microbiology & Imm	E Goble, Secondary Education

Ex officio

G Pavlich, Office of the VP (Research)

Guests/Observers

C Prado, PDFA
R Bhat, PDFA
H Zwicker, Assoc Dean GS, Arts
E Drummond, Computing Science
M Hom, Secondary Education

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as amended.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

a) Approval of the April 21, 2010 summary minutes

The minutes were approved.

b) Matters arising

The Chair advised that the suggestions by Council members in April had been incorporated into the Vision for Graduate Education document, to be considered later in the agenda.

3. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Graduate Scholarship Committee report was presented to Council.

4. FORMAL BUSINESS

4.1 Vision for Graduate Education at the University of Alberta

Councillors had before them a proposed Vision for Graduate Education at the University of Alberta, as recommended from the Review of the FGSR. M Allen said the committee had incorporated the values identified by councillors at the Council meeting and a new heading regarding the University's role in the vision was added.

MOTION It was moved by M Allen and seconded by H Madill that the vision statement on Graduate Education at the University of Alberta be adopted by Council.

The following friendly amendments were accepted:

- Verb tense corrections to the University section
- Graduate Students—Come with rich **and diverse** backgrounds and new ideas
- Graduates—Think and work **both** collaboratively and independently
- University—Envisions students as junior colleagues **by** the faculty...

VOTE The motion was PUT and CARRIED, 39-0, 2 abstentions.

4.2 Graduate Program Manual: Revisions to Sections 1 and 8

Councillors had before them revisions to Sections 1 and 8 of the Graduate Program Manual. The proposed revisions were brought to Council in April as a notice of motion by the FGSR Council Policy Review Committee.

MOTION It was moved by S Petersen and seconded by L Mazzino that the revisions to Sections 1 and 8 of the Graduate Program Manual be approved.

Councillors provided the following comments:

- A statement requiring academic advisors to explain and review any administrative or curricular changes with students could also be included in the guidelines to supervisors to reinforce open communication.
- Outlining the frequency of meetings between academic advisors and students is important because course requirements change more frequently in course-based programs.
- Concern was raised that the revisions suggest students will be required to withdraw if they refuse new supervision suggested by the department. The Chair advised the required to withdraw statement only applies if all other avenues have been explored (ie, mediation, new supervision either within or from another department) and no other supervisor can be found. If a student was required to withdraw because no supervision could be found, the student could still appeal to FGSR and then to the University.

A friendly amendment that supervisors "be aware of possible scholarship opportunities" was added to the supervisor guidelines.

VOTE The motion was PUT and CARRIED, 43-1, 5 abstentions.

4.3 List of Graduates for Spring 2010 Convocation

Councillors had before them the list of graduates for Spring 2010 Convocation.

MOTION It was moved by S Caulfield and seconded by G Pavlich that the list be approved.

VOTE The motion was PUT and CARRIED, 47-0, 2 abstentions.

4.4 PhD in Medical Sciences—Shantou Stream

Councillors had before them a proposal to add a Shantou stream to the existing PhD in Medical Sciences.

MOTION It was moved by P Melançon and seconded that the PhD in Medical Sciences—Shantou Stream be approved.

Councillors were provided an overview of the program stream in which preselected elite students who have completed at least three years of their master's at Shantou University Medical College would apply and, if eligible, be admitted to the U of A PhD in Medical Sciences in the Shantou stream. Within three years they are expected to complete the PhD, with at least one year of work at the U of A.

VOTE The motion was PUT and CARRIED, 33-5, 10 abstentions.

5. INFORMAL BUSINESS

a) **Announcements and Reports by the Chair and Councillors**

Dean's Report

The Chair advised he had received graduate student funding numbers for 2008/2009 from the Strategic Analysis Office. He said student funding had increased over the previous year and the U of A now had the highest average thesis master's funding and the third highest average doctoral funding among peer Canadian institutions.

The Chair advised Council that Associate Dean Peter Schiavone would be completing his term and the following individuals would be retiring from the U of A:

- Lynne Blair, Assistant Dean
- Sharon Milne, Executive Assistant and Operations Manager
- Marion Allen, Associate Dean
- Locksley McGann, Associate Dean

The Chair introduced FGSR's new Vice-Dean René Poliquin and said the FGSR will have two new Associate Deans.

With the staff changes, the Chair said FGSR will follow a new model where Associate Deans are no longer assigned to departments. Instead, the Vice-Dean will make day-to-day administrative decisions on student files, supported by the Program Services and Admission Services units in FGSR. The two new Associate Deans and Assistant Dean Heather Hogg will make up a new quality standards team that will deal with student problem cases.

The Chair said he and the Vice-Dean will oversee scholarship adjudications for this year. The Chair thanked the departing individuals for their service to FGSR.

Taskforce on English Language Proficiency

The Chair advised he had received 4 volunteers, but is still looking for student representatives to sit on the taskforce.

PDFA

C Prado, President of the Postdoctoral Fellows Association, said she hopes to give a presentation to Council in the future to explain the PDFA's role and raise its profile.

b) **Report of the Graduate Students' Association**

No report

c) **Question Period**

None

d) **Other Business**

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.