

Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

2:00 to 4:00 pm

University of Alberta Council Chamber, 2-100 University Hall

Attendance at FGSR Council – October 21, 2015**Department Council Rep**

Biochemistry, David Stuart
Business PhD, David Deephouse
Cell Biology, Thomas Simmen
Chemical & Materials Engineering, Vinay Prasad
*Communications & Technology (MACT) Thomas Barker
Communication Sciences and Disorders, Teresa Paslawski
Computing Science, Jia You
Drama, Piet Defraeye
East Asian Studies,
*Educational Policy Studies, Heather Kanuka
Educational Psychology, Veronica Smith
English and Film Studies, Julie Rak
*Faculte Saint-Jean, Samira El Atia
*Humanities Computing Program, Maureen Engel
Library & Information Studies, Ali Shiri
Linguistics, David Beck
Mathematical & Statistical Sciences, Stafan Gille
Mechanical Engineering, John Doucette
Med Sci-Dentistry, Patrick Flood
Med Sci-Medical Genetics, Sarah Hughes
Med Sci-Obstetrics & Gynecology, Denise Hemmings
Med Sci-Pediatrics, Sujata Persad
Modern Lang & Cult'l Studies and Comp Lit, Victoria Ruetalo
Music, David Gramit
Native Studies, Sean Robertson
Nursing, Pauline Paul
Occupational Therapy, Shaniff Esmail
*Oncology, Alan Underhill, Mary Hitt
Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, Scot Simpson
*Philosophy, Ingo Brigandt
Physical Education & Recreation, Donna Goodwin
*Physical Therapy, Mark Hall
Physics, Richard Marchand
*Psychiatry, Ester Fujiwara
*Psychology, Anthony Singhal
Renewable Resources, Glen Armstrong
Secondary Education, Catherine Adams
Sociology, Sara Dorow
Surgery, Thomas Churchill
Women and Gender Studies, Michelle Meagher

Associate Deans Graduate

Arts, Tom Spalding
*Engineering, Jason Carey
*Science, Chris Sturdy

Graduate Program Administrators (GPAC)

Heather Cook, Anthropology

GSA Representatives

Harsh Thaker, GSA VP Academic
Ahmad Al Dabbagh, ECE
*Megha Bajaj, Biological Sciences
*Surash Chandra Bairwa, Medicine
*Michal Juhas, Psychiatry
Chelsea McNaughton, Business
Hannah Madsen (MLIS/MBA)
Eyene Okpanachi, Political Science
*Estacio Pereira, Civil and Env Engg
*Leticia Pereira AFNS
*Shichao Yue, Mechanical Engg

Ex officio

Susan Hamilton

Alumni Council

*Christopher Michell-Viret

FGSR

Debby Burshtyn, Assoc Dean
Bryan Hogeveen, Assoc Dean
Mary Sturgeon, Assistant Dean (Administration)
Heather Zwicker, Vice-Provost and Dean
Medha Samarasinghe, Executive and Operations Assistant
Susan Slenders, Administrative Assistant

Guests/Observers:

Janice Hurlburt, FGSR
Joyce Anderson, FGSR
Gail Mathew
Catherine Swindlehurst
Amy Dambrowitz
Maggie Hill, Medicine
Rachel McQueen, Human Ecology
Colleen Britton, Physical Therapy
Thomas Hidson, Office of the Registrar

* grad coordinators that are new to the role as of July 2015 (note not all of them are grad coordinators)

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1. **Meeting was called to order** at 2:02 pm (Heather Zwicker)

2. **Approval of Agenda** (Approved)

3. **Approval of Previous Minutes**

Debby Burshtyn/Bryan Hogeveen

4. **Matters Arising From the Minutes**

David Deephouse commented that he appreciates the change to having the first and last names of people in the minutes.

5. **Remarks from President David Turpin** (Dr David Turpin)

Overview of UofA Strategic Planning purpose and process – brings together shared vision and purpose from “Dare to...” documents. Come up with some of the questions we want to answer in the strat planning process. Discussion Paper to be released next Friday will pose a series of questions through series of meetings, alumni council retreat, town halls, chairs council – call for input over a couple of months. Strike a committee to help us assimilate the information that comes in and interpret it. Result will be a draft plan to circulate, get feedback. June board meeting the doc will be finalized.

We have an opportunity to set the agenda for post secondary education – we have a new government. We have new leadership, the public trusts us, and this all makes us more funable. This is a chance to reframe what we do so everyone knows the value of our work. We are in a position to reframe the conversation.

A Discussion paper and website will be released October 28.

David Deephouse – Timing of Tri-Council grants. Noticed when we’re trying to admit students in Feb, SSHRC grants aren’t until April. Can you work with other members of the U15 to get the tricouncil to move the SSHRC grants to January?

David Turpin: The timing on the tricouncil announcement has been raised a number of times. The cycle is set up in in the academic year, so he’ll raise it, but it might be locked.

Breaking down barriers b/w units in this university. Timely information about graduate programs.

Megha Bajaj - PhD student from Biological Sciences: Non compliance of TA and RA agreements.

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Piet Defraeye – ratio of undergraduate to graduate students to faculty. It's more relevant to have the ratio of graduate and undergraduate students per faculty.

David Turpin – it's discipline dependent. Have a clear mandate to grow graduate programming. But do we focus on master's ?

Julie Rak – Commitment to international graduate students? They cannot apply for SSHRC. How can we support them better financially?

David Turpin – We do well in attracting students. Largest single source is China; country has become the 5th largest destination for graduate education. We're vulnerable in that regard and we're looking at it. Opp to have a discussion on FGSR-related issues.

Part of pilot in Tunisia where they have quality graduate students who are supported by the government.

Sara Dorow – What we contribute. But we don't hear about our openness and accessibility and the ways in which we're collaborating with other people and groups outside of our institution.

David Turpin – moving people both ways; it's about engagement, having our students engaging with their communities.

Samira ElAtia – What are the attributes of UofA students that set them apart from students from other universities. Done for the undergrads, but not for the grads; we should do it for the graduate students to see if there are some common elements.

David Turpin: Will look at the 2008 report. S Dew was involved with looking at the grad side.

6. **Report from the Dean of FGSR** (Heather Zwicker)

1. Convocation season – 1090 students will convocate in November. It would be great to see a few grad coordinators and advisors at convocation to see them in the biggest picture way that you possibly can, to see how happy they are to hold that degree.

FGSR is hosting a reception for PhD students; invitations will be sent next week.

Good human interest stories about graduate students – building theme. Central marcom will write the stories, but send them along to Heather.

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2. Indigenous issues and responding to TRC. Early stages but talking about recruitment event for First Nations, Metis and Inuit grad students. People from industry talking about how they got where they are. If anyone is interested in helping out this, please let Heather know.

Be on the lookout for an announcement on a new award for Aboriginal students. When it happens, it'll be a tight turnaround time. Adjudication in November and the scholarship awarded by January.

3. Recruitment funding. Have PhD recruitment scholarships available. No reason to believe it'll be discontinued. As far as we know the recruitment dollars will be there. As you go into the recruitment cycle in December, January and February, imagine that the dollars will be there and we can make multi-year offers. If you have an issue on the allocation formula, please let us know (Bryan or Heather).

4. FGSR Grad Coordinator and Administrator Survey. Half of you responded. We had consensus on 3 or 4 issues.

a) Making GPM and website more user friendly. GPM is being worked on by Debby Burshtyn and Paul Melancon. Looking to make GPM a sort of user's guide to graduate education.

b) Like FGSR to accept e-forms. Should be addressed by EDRMS project. Talking about accepting e-signatures, which are more difficult to secure.

c) Positive feedback on the orientation that Dr Melancon put together; told us you'd like to see some follow up sessions. Looking at a few issue-specific sessions in Fall or Winter.

d) Moved by the comments by people who want to see more emphasis put on the role of grad coordinators. If there are specific ideas, please let Heather know.

There will be another survey in May, 2016.

5. FGSR is looking for a volunteer to serve on the Dean's Review Committee at Augustana. Email Dean Zwicker or her assistant Medha Samarasinghe if you'd like to volunteer.

6. United Way fundraiser in Quad on October 22, led by Native Studies and Dean Hokowhitu.

7. Next month – Laddering, response to plug into institutional strategic plan with our own FGSR plan, and update on PD strategic plan.

David Deephouse – no grad programs at Augustana, would like things to happen faster at this university.

Piet Defraeye – survey. Is this the report on it or will we learn more?

Debby Burstyn – we could write a short report that gives some of the frequencies of the responses. We're aware that some of you are new, so some of the questions might have been difficult for you to address or respond to.

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7. **Native Studies PhD in Indigenous Studies** (Sean Robertson)

Piet Defraeye – incredibly impressive document and it's one of the most I've seen in the last 13 years. Very ambitious to do coursework and exams in one year.

Chris Anderson – yes, ambitious but we don't think it's impossible; have taken steps within the program to make it achievable.

Piet Defraeye – two courses and an option course; it's really three courses. Lost opportunity for an option course being placed for a specific course in NS. Opportunity for students to tap in to another existing course across the university. Many of the depts. in Arts have such courses. Also why not offer courses every other year?

Brendan Hokowhitu – the word “normally” addresses this.

Chris Anderson – yes, taking courses outside of NS would increase the interdisciplinarity but we want to use this as a moment to build up the discipline.

Pete Defrye – congratulations on the document, ideal schedule, language requirement including an aboriginal language – why is this not compulsory. Suggest you rephrase this a bit.

Chris Anderson – there's an issue around people building up proficiency in an indigenous language. Suggest you change the word “proficiency”. Entrance requirements. Does this belong in the calendar.

Julie Rak – fully supportive. GPA entrance requirement of 3.3 is a bit high. Are you making concessions for older students?

Sean Robertson – GPA; we felt that putting a higher GPA would support the requirement of getting quality master's students.

Motion: FGSR Council approves a new PhD

Sean Roberson/David Deephouse

Vote: 22/3/1

8. **Phys Ed and Rec Certificate in Indigenous Sport and Recreation** (Christine Ma)

Maureen Engel – how would this ladder into an MA program?

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Christine Ma – 3 certificates and capstone laddering into a Master's.

Tom Churchill – What's being done in the in-class session or in person?

Christine Ma – still being finalized, but we see that they've worked through something online and then work through it in person, and then present it at the conference.

Tom Churchill – What do you mean by professional experience?

Christine Ma – working in an area that's connection to recreation.

Debby Burshtyn – be more specific on nature of work experience and “in a relevant profession”

Ali Shiri – Is this revenue generation or cost recovery?

Christine Ma – revenue generation.

Catherine Adams – Did you consult with Education?

Christine – not yet but will consult with that and reach out to ATA.

Motion: Bryan Hogeveen/Donna Goodwin

Vote: 43/5/4

9. **Rehab Medicine Certificate in Bridging to Canadian Physical Therapy** (Mark Hall)

The bridging program allows international practitioners to take exam that allows them to gain Canadian credentials.

Tom Churchill – high success rate but what is that? 27% pass rate coming into the program, but 93% pass rate after the program. What is the \$11,000 put toward? Mainly personnel costs

Motion: Mark Hall/Pauline Paul

Vote: 48/1/2

10. **Public Health MPH in Food Safety** (Byeonghwa Jeon)

Moved to November meeting

11. **Medical Sciences MSc and PhD Periodontology** (Liran Levin)

Moved to November meeting

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12. **Report from the Graduate Students Association** (Harsh Thaker)

Thanks to FGSR for supporting PD event; series of coffee breaks coming up (on the website for more info)

13. **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:59 pm