

**Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research**

Wednesday, September 28, 2022 (1:00\* - 3:30 pm)

Virtual Meeting

**\*NOTE: Change in Start Time**

Min	Item	Agenda Item	Action	Att.
5	1.0	Call Meeting to Order	Action	No
	2.0	Approval of Agenda	Approval	Yes
	3.0	Approval of Minutes of the May 25, 2022 Meeting	Approval	Yes
	4.0	Matters Arising from the Minutes	Discussion	No
10	5.0	Report from the Dean	Receive for Info	Yes
15	6.0	Overview: FGSR Council and FGSR Team & Services	Receive for Info	No
10	7.0	GSA Monthly Report & Strategic Work Plan for 22-23	Receive for Info	Yes
10	8.0	<b>Graduate Committee Membership Approval</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Graduate Scholarship Committee (GSC) Members</li> <li>Policy Review Committee (PRC) Members</li> <li>Graduate Program Support Team (GPST) Members</li> </ul> <i>Motion: THAT FGSR Council approve the new and returning members of the Graduate Scholarship Committee (GSC), the Policy Review Committee (PRC), and the Graduate Program Support Team, as listed, and for immediate inclusion on the committee.</i>	Approval	Yes
10	9.0	<b>Education: Laddering Changes</b> <i>Presenter: Doug Gleddie</i> <i>Motion: THAT FGSR Council approve the laddering changes for the Faculty of Education's GCES and GCSL certificates into the MES, for implementation upon final approval and inclusion in the next Calendar.</i>	Approval	Yes
10	10.0	<b>Rehab Med: PhD in Rehab Science Changes</b> <i>Presenter: Trish Manns</i> <i>Motion: THAT FGSR Council approve the Rehab Med PhD calendar changes, as included, and for inclusion in the 23-24 calendar.</i>	Approval	Yes
10	11.0	<b>Rehab Med: Admission Deadline, Entrance Requirements, and Coursework Changes</b> <i>Presenter: Mark Hall and Karin Werther</i> <i>Motion: THAT FGSR Council approve the Rehab Med OT and PT calendar and entrance requirement changes, as included, and for inclusion in the 23-24 calendar.</i>	Approval	Yes
10	12.0	<b>Duolingo Changes</b> <i>Presenter: Jane Lee</i>	Receive for Info	Yes
20	13.0	<b>Update: Supervisory Initiatives</b> <i>For Info: Progress Report <a href="#">FAQ</a></i>	Receive for Info	No
5	14.0	<b>Update: Exam Policy Revisions</b>	Receive for Info	No
10	15.0	<b>Question Period:</b> <i>Please submit questions in advance to <a href="mailto:graddean@ualberta.ca">graddean@ualberta.ca</a></i>	Discussion	No
	16.0	<b>Adjournment</b>	Action	No

**\*\*The 2022 - 2023 FGSR Council Meeting Schedule:**
**October 26 / December 7 / February 8 / March 8 / April 26 / May 31**
**(All meetings from 1:00 - 3:30 PM)**

**Attendance at FGSR Council – September 28, 2022**
**Department/Unit Faculty Representatives**

Anthropology	Marko Zivkovic
Art & Design	Joan Greer
Biochemistry	David Stuart
Biological Sciences	James Stafford
Biomedical Engineering	Alan H. Wilman
Business (non-departmentalized) - MBA	Michael Maier
Business (non-departmentalized) - PhD	Trish Reay
Chemicals & Materials Engineering	Hao Zhang
Chemistry	Rylan Lundgren
Civil & Environmental Engineering	Zaher Hashisho
Communication Sciences & Disorders	Monique Charest
Communications and Technology [includes MACT]	Gordon Gow
Dentistry (Medical Sciences)	Hollis Lai
Digital Humanities	Daniel Laforest
East Asian Studies	Yoshi Ono
Economics	Heather Eckert
Educational Policy Studies	Lesly Wade-Woolley
Educational Studies	Douglas Gleddie
Electrical & Computer Engineering	Manisha Gupta
English and Film Studies	Mark Simpson
Faculte Saint-Jean (non-departmentalized)	Samira El Atia
History, Classics and Religion	Heather Coleman
Human Ecology	Rachel McQueen
Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation (non-departmentalized)	Normand Boule
Laboratory Medicine & Pathology	Jelene Holovati
Law (non-departmentalized)	Matthew Lewans
Library & Information Studies	Tami Oliphant
Linguistics	Johanne Paradis
Mathematical & Statistical Sciences	Feng Dai
Mechanical Engineering	Alexandra Komrakova
Medical Microbiology & Immunology	Edan Foley
Medicine	Jennifer Hocking
Native Studies (non-departmentalized)	Michael Frishkopf
Neuroscience	Adam Gaudry
Nursing (non-departmentalized)	Kelvin Jones
Occupational Therapy	Shaniff Esmail
Occupational Therapy	Karin Werther
Oncology	Alan Underhill
Pediatrics (Medical Sciences)	Sujata Persad
Pharmacology	Elena Posse de Chaves
Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences (non-departmentalized)	Arno Siraki

Philosophy	Jennifer Welchman
Physical Therapy	Mark Hall
Physics	Claire Currie
Political Science	Fiona Nicoll
Psychiatry	Allen Chan
Psychology	Chris Westbury
Radiology & Diagnostic Imaging (Medical Sciences)	Lawrence Le
Rehabilitation Medicine - Rehabilitation Sciences	Mary Roduta Roberts
Rehabilitation Medicine - Rehabilitation Sciences	Bernadette Martin
Resource Economics & Environmental Sociology	Brent Swallow
School of Public Health (non-departmentalized)	Susan Chatwood
Sociology	Gillian Stevens
Surgery	Fred Berry
Women's and Gender Studies	Katy Campbell

**Regrets:**

Earth &amp; Atmospheric Sciences

**Absent:**

 Agricultural, Food & Nutritional Science  
 Cell Biology  
 Computing Science  
 Computing Science - Multimedia Program  
 Drama  
 Educational Psychology  
 Elementary Education  
 Medical Genetics (Medical Sciences)  
 Modern Languages & Cultural Studies  
 Music  
 Nursing  
 Obstetrics & Gynecology (Medical Sciences)  
 Physiology  
 Renewable Resources  
 Secondary Education  
 Health Sciences Education  
 Internetworking (MINT)  
 Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences (Medical Sciences)

**Associate Deans (Graduate) Representatives for Departmentalized Faculties**
**Present:**

Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences	Leluo Guan
Arts	Kim Noels
Education	Doug Gleddie
Medicine & Dentistry	Greg Funk
Rehabilitation Medicine	Trish Manns
Science	Mark McDermott

**Ex-Officio Representatives**

FGSR Interim Vice-Provost and Dean (FGSR Council Chair)	Ali Shiri
FGSR Associate Dean	Andrea MacLeod
FGSR Associate Dean	Cagri Ayranci
FGSR Associate Dean	Frances Plane
FGSR Associate Dean	Micah True
Vice-Provost and University Registrar (or Delegate)	Jane Lee

**Graduate Program Administrators Committee (GPAC) Representatives**

GPAC Member	Nicola DiNicola
GPAC Member	Jen Freund

**Graduate Student Association (GSA) Directly Elected Officials (3) & Graduate Student Association (GSA) Council Representatives (20)**
**Present:**

<i>GSA President</i>	<i>Anas Fassih</i>
<i>VP Academic</i>	<i>Bishoi Aziz</i>
<i>VP Labour</i>	<i>Hiren Kaklotar</i>
Agriculture, Food & Nutritional Science	Emilee Storfie
Business	Bhavneet Kaur
Chemical and Materials Engineering	Peyman Aghdasi Mazandarani
Chemical and Materials Engineering	Sophie Shi
Civil & Environmental Engineering	Abel Suresh
Civil & Environmental Engineering	Olabode Babalola
Civil & Environmental Engineering	Hadi Mokarizadeh
Electrical & Computer Engineering	Collin VanEssen
Medicine	Olawunmi Olagundoye
Medicine	Allison Bihari
Nursing	Megan Sommerfeld
Pediatrics	Ezra Ketema
Pharmacology	Nayyar Shahid
Political Science	Telisa Courtney
Renewable Resources	Abhijeet Pathy
Secondary Education	Colleen Knechtel

**Absent:**

Engineering	Tian Tang
-------------	-----------

**Regrets:**

President (or Delegate)	President Flannigan
Vice-President (Research) (or Delegate)	Laura Beard
Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian (or Delegate)	Dale Askey
Director, Centre for Teaching & Learning*	Janice Miller-Young
Chair, FGSR Academic Appeals Committee*	Moin Yahya

**Regrets / Absent / Alternates:**

Public Health	Ademola Itiola
Electrical & Computer Engineering	Md Habibur Rahaman
Med Microbiology & Immunology	Emma Takeuchi
Pediatrics	Qiuyu Sun

**Observers – Non-Voting\***

Provost and Vice-President (Academic)*	Verna Yiu	FGSR - Awards Specialist*	Jennifer Parkatti
Deputy Provost, Students & Enrolment*	Melissa Padfield	FGSR - Admissions Functional Analyst*	Ianna Ings
FGSR - Supervisor, Admissions & Program Services*	Joyce Anderson	FGSR - Community Connect Lead & Professional Development Coordinator*	Charity Slobod
FGSR - Program Services Team Lead*	Kris MacManus	FGSR - Office Services*	Dolly Balcita
FGSR - Admissions Team Lead*	Kelly Montgomery	FGSR - Functional Analyst & Project Lead*	Grace Tsang
FGSR - Director, Professional Development*	Renee Polziehn	FGSR - Program Services Specialist*	Nicky Ings
FGSR - EA to the Associate Deans*	Dena Giroux	FGSR - Program Services Specialist*	Samantha Hurlberg
FGSR - Admissions Specialist*	Alana Bosse	FGSR - Program Services Specialist*	Kristy Lynn
FGSR - Financial Administrator*	Barb O'Neil	University Calendar Editor, Office of the Registrar*	Rebecca Liaw
FGSR - Admissions Specialist*	Valeria Antonietti		
Communications Associate*	Sarah Coffin		
FGSR - Admissions Assistant*	Michele Gray		
FGSR - Program Services Specialist*	Ana Sharma		

*\*Non-Voting*

## FGSR Council September 28, 2022

### 1.0 Call to Order at 1:15 PM

Interim Vice-Provost and Dean, Ali Shiri, called the meeting to order and welcomed the group to the first FGSR Council meeting of the academic year. He thanked members for their patience as we adjusted the meeting time to accommodate our guests.

Members requiring further support with the virtual platform can reach out to Andrea Riewe for help. Those with voting authorities will have received an email with links. Voting members were asked to have this open in preparation for the voting items.

### 2.0 Approval of Agenda for Sept. 28, 2022

Addition: Interim Provost and Vice-President, Verna Yiu and Deputy Provost, Melissa Padfield are at the meeting today provide an update. We will add them to the agenda as the next item.

**Moved / Seconded:** Michael Maier / Heather Coleman

**Approved by consent.**

### NEW ITEM: Update from Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Verna Yiu and Deputy Provost, Melissa Padfield

- Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Verna Yiu thanked the group for what they do for graduate students, and noted that the University can't function without grad students. She noted that supporting graduate students is critical, and expressed her gratitude for all the hard work of those on Council.
- She noted that there have been some recent changes to the FGSR Office; she hopes the changes will provide an opportunity of how we can position and steer graduate studies and support for graduate students. She acknowledged that we have done good work up to this point and that we are not interested in starting from scratch, and that we can take what has been done that is good but also acknowledge the places where there have been hiccups and processes that could use streamlining.
- She noted that she is planning to launch a unit review for FGSR (similar to the one done pre-pandemic in the Dean of Students Office).

- Verna thanked Ali for stepping in as Interim FGSR Dean, and noted that an announcement around leadership is forthcoming.
- She acknowledged that the changes have been difficult; but that she and all of us have the same common goal that we want the best services and support for graduate students, and noted her commitment to that.

***Discussion / Questions:***

- A member noted his appreciation for strong graduate programs, and that Dean Milne was focused on student experience, guaranteeing standards across the university, holding faculty accountable for that student experience, and important initiatives and progress along those lines. He commented that he felt there is a critical role for FGSR in being a leader in setting standards, and that he is looking forward to see how this evolves.
  - Interim Provost Yiu noted that this was a purposeful move to help the student experience. There is an ability to pull all of this together and use resources in the RO to supplement what's happening in FGSR. Grad students are so vulnerable, and the Supervisory initiatives under Brooke's guidance, are imperative.
  - She noted that there will always be a need for a center of expertise: who else will develop standards, and streamlined uniform processes? She noted that she is not the expert in graduate student experience so she is reliant on this group, and Melissa and Ali as the experts to help in this.
- What is your vision of seeing graduate student management within the four tiered system of the department, faculty, college and FGSR?
  - There is complexity, but Interim Provost Yiu noted she wants to make a seamless system for all of the users and break down barriers, providing an opportunity to engage and co-design the parts that are broken while leveraging what we've learnt and those parts that are not broken.
- Graduate students are the ones who do the most research, but we can't have quality students, without quality programs, and that can't happen without faculty and staff. Are there identified first steps other than the unit review? How can we help?
  - The first step will be the interim leadership beginning, and then the sooner we can do the unit review, the sooner it can inform what comes next.
- What are your preliminary thoughts on the role of program offices?
  - We need to recognize the importance of how everyone contributes, understand the relationships that graduate students have, and prioritize graduate student experience, including finding places we can simplify.
- Academic restructuring is happening in the background of this; it seems it was a big idea that was short on details at the beginning and now we are being tasked with working out those details. Is there any way to incorporate this issue within the scope of a unit review for FGSR's role?
  - Interim Provost Yiu noted her intent to share the terms of reference for the unit review with this group, and commented that they will take this idea away.
- What is the main driver for the changes intended for FGSR given the background of restructuring, which was triggered by funding issues? Are these changes for funding reasons or more focused on functions?
  - The change was around the functionality.
- The relationship with the students is with departments, but there is a great discrepancy between students in different programs and colleges. How can we keep this relationship strong, and ensure there is equity of grad experience?
  - Interim Provost Yiu noted that we are trying to find the balance between too much centralization and too much decentralization. We need some standard experiences and minimum standards for programs, but yet every program is different, so we need to find the 'sweet spot'.

- The GSA was given a promise that if the restructuring goes successfully, then FGSR would remain a standalone faculty to provide services for graduate students, and that grad students wouldn't have to compete for services with the undergrad students. The interests of grad students are quite different than undergrad students. Also, looking at other U15 institutions, they all have a FGSR. The title doesn't matter, but if grad students need services they should be able to access right away. Considering the recent issues with shared services, what assurances can you give on improving the student experience for graduate students?
  - Interim Provost Yiu noted that if people disagree with her, she is always open to hearing other sides as she recognizes that she is not always right, but how you think about the unit (academic vs. service) affects how we proceed. When building the philosophy and culture of the group, a service unit is very different from being an academic unit.
  - What metrics should we hold ourselves - all of us - accountable to?
- What is your perspective on transparency with stakeholders? The member reiterated that stakeholder engagement is important. During restructuring small faculties have been looked at differently; the hope is for a way to emphasize those nuances and have that voice brought to the table.
  - Interim Provost Yiu noted that she was not saying that we don't need a Faculty of Graduate Studies. We need a central unit, but what we call it is of less importance.
  - We need to make sure the balance of the multiple players, and how we align ourselves so that we row in the same direction. Functionally we need to move forward in a direction where we bring the community along with us.
- FGSR has been working as a strong partner across campus and supporting academic progress. The local relationships are very important to grad students, but when those relationships break down, FGSR plays an important role in providing an outside voice to help maintain student experience.
- FGSR has shown core academic requirements - so programs can still have flexibility to design and adapt their programs, while maintaining quality and equity. Our grad students are part of our engine and core to our mission as educators.
  - Graduate students are core to our deliverables. FGSR has done a lot of really great work, and we need to make sure we keep the good things we've created. But we also need to be pragmatic optimists, and will need to use the expertise of those in FGSR as we go forward.
- Looking at FGSR as a service unit is undervaluing its role. There are academic aspects and advice this member has learned from working with FGSR that have allowed her to enrich her program at the departmental level. She noted concern that if FGSR is becoming only or mostly a service unit, we may lose that.
- Deputy Provost, Melissa Padfield noted that we need to look at the processes with the student at the centre and open up space for creative thinking. How can we configure the support to the distinct needs of grad students while ensuring student experience? Central units can be complimentary experts between admin and the academy, and policies and processes need to be supports for programs. There is a rich knowledge that exists throughout FGSR and through departments and we need to harness that in a complimentary way going forward.
- Interim Vice-Provost and Dean, Ali Shiri, thanked the Provost and Deputy Provost for their time and the discussion.

The Chair noted that this year the meetings were scheduled for 2.5 hours; we are aiming for ending by the 2 hour mark, but if we need it that extra half hour it is there. This will prevent us from having to extend as we had to last year in a couple meetings, as it ensures that we have a buffer if needed.

- 3.0 Approval of Minutes of May 26, 2022**  
**Moved / Seconded:** Greg Funk / Aidan Rowe  
**Discussion / Amendments:** None  
**Approved by electronic vote:**  
Approve: 45  
Abstain: 6  
Oppose: 0

- 4.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes**  
None

**5.0 Report from the Dean**

Interim Vice-Provost and Dean noted that a written report was included in the package and encouraged members to review those operational updates.

He noted one error in the written report, that the SSHRC application deadline is Oct. 3, not Sept. 21, (just like the NSERC and CIHR deadlines).

Dr. Shiri also noted that the FGSR Governance report for the 2021-22 Academic year was included in the May package, and it outlines which items were passed last year and where they are now. He noted that members could reach out to Andrea for a copy.

- 6.0 Overview: FGSR Council and FGSR Team & Services**
- At the start of the academic year, it's important to share information on the official role of FGSR Council and the purpose of Council Meetings. As well, we like to share a bit about FGSR for those who are new to their roles and also to provide a refresher to returning members.
  - Interim Vice-Provost and Dean, Ali Shir shared a slide of the key functions and operations of FGSR. Units include Office Services, Admissions, Program Services, Awards & Scholarships, Professional Development, and Student Systems and Reporting. He highlighted that FGSR admits over 3700 students each year; process over 17,000 admissions conditions; handles over \$28 Million of awards and scholarships; coordinates a range of PD activities, ethics, GTLP and other sessions on various aspects; and works with multiple systems and services, (ie. EDRMS, Campus Solutions, GSMS).
  - Dr. Shiri took some time to introduce the FGSR Decanal Team:
    - Ali Shiri, Vice-Dean (School of Library and Information Sciences, Education)  
*Portfolio includes: Quality Assurance, Special Collaborative Projects, Data and Digital Initiatives*
    - Andrea MacLeod, Associate Dean (Communication Sciences and Disorders, Rehab Med)  
*Portfolio Includes: Course Based Master's and Professional Programs; Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; Indigenous initiatives*
    - Frances Plane, Associate Dean (Pharmacology, FoMD)  
*Portfolio: New Program Development and Program Changes, International Agreements; University Governance*
    - Micah True, Associate Dean (Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, Arts)

*Portfolio Includes: FGSR Institutional Academic Regulations, Strategic Programming*

- Cagri Ayranci, Associate Dean (Mechanical Engineering)

*Portfolio Includes: Awards and Scholarships*

- Last year we made some adjustments to the portfolios of the Associate Deans to make them roughly parallel to the College disciplinary compositions, with adjustments for the home depts of the ADs, etc.
- Dr. Shiri outlined the nature of the student cases that come to FGSR. They are very diverse and include the following. He noted that many cases are multi-faceted and complex and we work with various parties on campus to help resolve these issues.
  - Candidacy exam issues
  - Change of category (PhD to Master's)
  - Thesis defense
  - Required to withdraw
  - Academic probation
  - Conflict with supervisor
  - Perceived neglect
  - Program extension
  - Supervisor on leave
  - Leave of absence
  - Intellectual property
  - Data ownership
  - Joint authorships issues
  - Bullying and Harassment
  - Funding & Financial issues
  - Family & health issues
- In making decisions, we use a broad range of documents and resources:
  - U of A Calendar
  - U of A Policies (UAPPOL)
  - U of A Graduate Program Manual
  - U of A Faculty, Department, and Program Regulations
  - U of A Code of Student Behaviour
  - U of A Collective Agreements
  - U of A Institutional Strategic Plan
  - U of A Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Strategic Plan
  - Consultation with U of A Provost / Vice Provosts
  - Past U of A Student Cases
  - Internal and External Award Terms of Reference
  - U of A Graduate Scholarship Committee Handbook
  - U of A Scholarships and Awards Manual
- Dr. Shiri stressed the importance of Council representatives, and attending Council meetings, acting as units representative, providing consistency and ensuring you are conveying new updates, information, recommendations to departments, and working collaboratively with FGSR. It is important to make sure collaboration happens at multiple levels given the new structure on campus. Council is the main forum for decision making for graduate education at the University of Alberta.
- We have three standing committees, and they all include representation from FGSR Council:
  - Graduate Scholarship Committee
  - Academic Appeals Committee
  - Policy Review Committee



- Dr. Shiri noted that resources for Grad Coordinators, Supervisor and Staff can be found on our website.
- In terms of voting at FGSR Council:
  - *Only councillors or properly appointed alternates may vote in FGSR Council meetings. Each councillor (or properly appointed alternate) shall have one vote on all motions presented at the Council. Some councillor positions have been designated as non-voting memberships; these councillors may not vote.*
  - *The Chair does not vote except to decide a tied vote. In this instance, the Chair may vote for or against the motion (in which case the motion is carried or lost, respectively) or the Chair may choose to abstain (in which case the motion is lost for lack of a majority vote).*
  - *All members of FGSR Council are charged with the responsibility of examining issues before Council and voting as they judge fit on such issues. No member of FGSR Council, regardless of how that person gains membership on Council, is an instructed delegate.*
  - If you are unsure of your voting status, reach out to Andrea
- Observers at FGSR Council may neither participate in debate nor vote.
- FGSR Council agendas and related materials are ideally distributed one week prior to the scheduled meeting.
- Your Graduate Administrative counterparts also meet throughout the Academic Year (known as GPAC), usually the week after FGSR Council, and they discuss various issues pertaining to graduate students and the administration of those programs. If your administrative counterparts don't regularly attend, please encourage them to do so.

**Discussion / Questions:** None

## **7.0 GSA Monthly Report & Strategic Work Plan for 22-23**

The GSA President noted the report is as noted, and that they are working on the strategic work plan for the year. These strategic items are based on conversations with the GSA Board and Executive, a series of townhalls, and surveys that asked grad students to identify pressing issues and what they believe should be advocated for.

He noted a couple of additional highlights:

- The GSA has been in conversation with the Provincial Government on areas where they think they can collaborate.
- The GSA is shifting back to in person operations.
- They met with the Minister of Advanced Education.
- They have been in conversations regarding proposed guaranteed minimum funding packages with the Provost. Some students are generously funded and others are not, so they are working to address this.
- They are brainstorming ideas for an EDI Workplan to guide the GSA work for the next few years.
- They are working on fundraising for the Campus Foodbank as the number of grad students that use the foodbank is higher than undergrads; and including a large number with families.

## **8.0 Graduate Committee Membership Approval**

Item 8 is the standard update to committee membership after replenishment over the summer. This includes the

- Graduate Scholarship Committee (GSC) Members
- Policy Review Committee (PRC) Members
- Graduate Program Support Team (GPST) Members

The proposed members are as listed and the chair noted that we would like to vote on all three as one.

*Motion: Be it resolved THAT FGSR Council approve the new and returning members of the Graduate Scholarship Committee (GSC), Policy Review Committee (PRC),, and the Graduate Program Support Team, as listed, and for immediate inclusion on the committee.*

**Moved / Seconded: Alan Underhill / Kelvin Jones**

**Discussion / Questions:**

- Will Brooke Milne continue chairing, or will that be amended?
  - No, we will amend this.
- How does one get nominated to these committees? Is there a formal process that happens throughout the year?
  - Student representatives are brought forward by the GSA through their process.
  - The Graduate Administrators were sent out form for nominations and expressions of interest.
  - We also emailed Council asking for interested individuals for FGSR Council representatives on GPST.
  - For Council members, we try to look at the composition of the committees looking at the cross section of units across all the committees, working to ensure there is a wide range of representation, and looking at the Colleges and standalone faculties.
  - We are still looking for a couple more individuals for Academic Appeals Committee members, please reach out if you are interested.
- Is there a time when the call comes out for GPAC members?
  - In the summer.

**Approved by electronic vote.**

Approve: 55

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

**9.0 Education: Laddering Changes**

*Presenter: Doug Gleddie, Associate Dean, Grad in Faculty of Education*

Doug Gleddie noted this is fairly editorial change, but they wanted to tighten up the wording for laddering.

*Motion: Be it resolved that FGSR Council approve the laddering changes for the Faculty of Education's GCES and GCSL certificates into the MES, for implementation upon final approval and inclusion in the next Calendar.*

**Moved / Seconded: Michael Maier / Samira ElAtia**

**Questions/Discussion:**

- Why was something that was previously only required to be 'in good standing' changed to a star 12?
  - If you complete the certificate you will always be in good standing, as you can only complete it if you are in good standing.
  - It was always a star 12, this is not a change.
- Should CSJ do something similar for their laddering?
  - Yes, if it clarifies, it will make it easier and more consistent.
- Are there clear procedures for the laddering process noted somewhere?

- This is a good point, and one of the items we would like to work on in the near future is the development of calendar language and regulations for certificates, embedded certificates and laddering processes.
- It would be great to have a working group to make the process as smooth as possible.
  - We will definitely do that.

**Approved by electronic vote.**

Approve: 54

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 1

**10.0 Rehab Med: PhD in Rehab Science Changes***Presenter: Trish Manns, Associate Dean, Office of Education, Health Sciences College*

Trish Manns noted this change is a clarification of course requirements for PhD students who previously completed a Masters degree either at the UofA or another institution. If they have previously completed a Masters, they only need to complete 12 of the 18 credits.

*Motion: Be it resolved that FGSR Council approve the Rehab Med PhD calendar changes, as included, and for inclusion in the 23-24 calendar*

**Moved / Seconded: Doug Gleddie / Sujata Persad****Questions/Discussion:**

- 18 units for a PhD sounds like a lot, but also understand the discipline context is different.
  - The last bullet point in this change addresses the capacity issues.
  - Certainly the number of credits is something they have looked at, and it is something that is being discussed.
- Perhaps inconsistency between the faculties and the number of courses that are required for programs could be a topic for future discussion.
  - There is variability between programs, and it would be related to learning outcomes. It's an important conversation.
  - In this program, they can typically finish the 18 credits in one year, and candidacy the following year.
- A member noted that students come in with a lot of skills and knowledge and perhaps learning outcomes could be individualized.

Dr. Shiri thanked Trish as this ensures the calendar language is clear as it provides consistent language in the calendar for students.

**Approved by electronic vote.**

Approve: 53

Oppose: 1

Abstain: 1

**11.0 Rehab Med: Admission Deadline, Entrance Requirements, and Coursework Changes**

*Presenter: Mark Hall (Associate Chair, Physical Therapy)*

Mark Hall noted that this provides clarity in calendar requirements and communication to applicants.

For the PT change, they are removing volunteer work hours as part of the application, providing clarity for students taking courses extra to degree, and removing the English language requirement as prerequisite courses.

*Motion: Be it resolved that FGSR Council approve the Rehab Med OT and PT calendar and entrance requirement changes, as included, and for inclusion in the 23-24 calendar.*

**Moved / Seconded: Alan Underhill / Samira ElAtia**

**Discussion / Questions:**

- Students take fluff classes in their third or fourth undergrad years, and removing the requirement that they have volunteer work experience puts more emphasis on student grades. Wouldn't that make students more likely to try to take courses to boost their grades? Is there something that replaces the volunteer work experience in the application process?
  - For PT, the volunteer hours didn't contribute to the admissions decision at all. There is an interview, and they have changed the weighting of the interview to approx 70%.
  - For the extra to degree courses only, they are trying to prevent students from using these extra courses to boost their GPA.
  - For OT, they have a casper system that is 30%, while GPA is 70%, and the letter of intent, and reference letters are other contributing factors.
- Could you elaborate on the English course requirement removal?
  - For students from Canadian institutions, they all have to typically take an English course and write something. It doesn't seem to add to the process, but just adds another step that requires verification administratively.
- It would be good to ensure there are other opportunities and ways that communication skills, group work skills, and professional development skills are still included.

**Approved by electronic vote.**

Approve: 44

Oppose: 1

Abstain: 3

**12.0 Duolingo Changes**

*Presenter: Jane Lee, Acting Associate Registrar*

Jane Lee noted for context:

- The Duolingo English test was brought in as an additional way to meet ELP requirements during the COVID pandemic. It was the one of the only ways to do the test online when testing centres were closed.

- It has been approved for use until the 2024 Admissions cycle. It's ongoing use will be evaluated and a future recommendation may come forward.
- The Duolingo scores were recently updated to better coincide with the IELTS score which we use as our benchmark.
- The changes were outlined in the materials, and are effective October 1.
- We wanted to stay consistent with our postsecondary counterparts and ensure students have the English skills that will allow for success in their programs.

***Discussion / Questions:***

- How long has it existed and why haven't we used it before?
  - It became much more prominent during the first couple months of the pandemic. There was a long period of time where the major test didn't bring in an online version.
  - It's not in the calendar but is noted online for special permission use until 2024, so we want to take our time to make sure that students using this measure have equivalent success.
  - It is the lowest cost option, so accessibility is one piece to consider but we want to balance that with academic performance.
  - We could also allow it to expire and discontinue use.
  - All of the major test providers now have an online version, so that is no longer an issue.
- A member noted her experience with Duolingo and how they are doing interesting work with language assessment.
- What about students who already applied but haven't been admitted yet?
  - We need to finalize this component for graduate studies, since grad applications periods are more rolling than undergrad. Jane Lee will need to discuss further with Dr. Shiri.
  - On the undergrad side, they are honoring any applications submitted prior to the implementation date, and then will use the new rules for things submitted after that implementation date.
- A member noted that grandfathering would be important.

**13.0 Update: Supervisory Initiatives**

This item was to be presented by Medha Smaarainghe, our HR & Operations Coordinator, who was not able to be here today. Interim Vice-Provost and Dean noted a few quick updates:

- The FAQ continues to be updated, and the link is included in the agenda.
- Access for grad coordinators is being finalized with IST, and we are working to have it in place this week or next week.
- We will contact Grad Coordinators to let them know which students who are categorized "in need of improvement" or "unsatisfactory".
- No students have been blocked in terms of registration as part of this process. We are helping and supporting students with this new process. If there are technical issues, you can email and let us know.

**14.0 Update: Exam Policy Revisions**

Associate Dean, Micah True, let individuals know that we will be continuing the consultation process that began last year. Some work was done over the summer collating feedback that was received, including a google form to this group. We are looking at how to change the proposal based on the feedback, and the next version that comes to this group will see some changes based on that feedback.

We are hoping to vote on it in hopes to move through GFC this year. We may look at some townhalls; be on the lookout for how to engage in those conversations.

Dr. Shiri recognized Dr. True's work to enhance the language and regulations, and his work on this important topic.

## 15.0 Question Period

None received in advance.

### *Discussion / Questions:*

- Where can the Code of Conduct for Students and Faculty Members be found? Is it under revision?
  - Dr. Shiri is on the CoSB review committee: it is in process and further work is being done by the Student Conduct and Accountability Office.
  - The current version, updated July 2020, is available on the UofA website.
  - For faculty, there are policies, which can be found in UAPPOL. This includes a range of various policies, plus the Collective Agreement for Faculty.
- Regarding credit requirements, a member noted that they are widely different even in the same faculties, and often it's because degrees are two different destinations (the credit requirements are designed for different pathways).
- Not all students have the same ability to take the time and participate in different types of volunteerism, and it's important to keep that in mind in terms of admission decisions.
- Regarding the new Ethics requirements, will there be a course evaluation, and what are the plans for getting a sense of how it's rolling out and meeting the needs of the students?
  - As they complete the course, they provide feedback through the process in terms of the content. We intend to review it again, including new policies that come into effect.
    - A member noted that what they say at the end of the course is one piece, but how they see it as important once further along in the program is also important.
- Previously when there were controversial votes, we would be able to implement sharing those vote numbers.
  - This is tricky with google forms, we need to ensure that there are only 20 total votes from student members, and that we only have one vote per dept (primary or secondary).
  - Andrea can discuss with Ali how to do this differently going forward if it is a more controversial closer vote.
  - When we are back in person this will also be much easier.

## 16.0 Adjournment

- The next meeting is Oct. 26, 2022, and we are planning to meet in person, but will confirm closer to the meeting.
- Motion to Adjourn: Doug Gleddie
- Interim Vice Provost and Dean, Ali Shiri, thanked the members for taking the time participate today.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:26 PM