

**Meeting of the GC Academic Policy Committee
Wednesday, January 13, 2016, 12:30pm–1:50pm**

Room 200, Graduate Student Centre, 6371 Crescent Road

Present: Larry Walker (Chair), Don Mavinic, Wendy Robinson, Barb Conway (in lieu of Thomas Chang), Matthew Evenden, Yousry El-Kassaby, Kin Lo, Ran Xiang, Clive Roberts, Jenny Phelps, Beth Haverkamp, Max Read, Justin Holme, Sheri Eastman (minutes)

Regrets: Susan Porter, Gail Murphy, Zhaoming Xu

Absent: Ljiljana Biukovic

1) Introductions and regrets

2) Adoption of the agenda

<i>All</i>	}	<i>That the agenda be approved.</i>
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Carried

3) Minutes of the meeting held 02 December 2015*

<i>All</i>	}	<i>That the minutes of the meeting held on 02 December 2015 be approved.</i>
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Carried

4) Chair's Remarks

a) The deadline for submitting feedback regarding the English language proficiency requirement is February 1, 2016. As such, we will be able to discuss this at the next Policy Committee meeting.

5) New Business

a) Policy on admission appeals – for approval

Larry provided an overview on the current appeals process. There is no existing graduate policy. There was an initiative to review the undergrad policy which prompted us to create a graduate policy. This policy is modelled after the undergraduate policy and has two main parts: 1. appeals on admission or readmission and 2. appeals on revoked admission offers. Larry outlined the proposed process for this policy.

Discussion that followed included:

- What is the likelihood of an application that's never been looked at?

- A gap in the wording was identified: applicants who believe they “may” have been unjustly denied *consideration* for admission or “may” have been unjustly denied admission.
- Discussion around the wording in the Calendar needing an explicit statement regarding academic regulations for graduate programs which are administered by the disciplinary faculties (e.g., unless otherwise indicated, G+PS policies prevail).
- Motion: Moved: Yousry El-Kassaby. Secunder Don Mavinic.

All } *That the proposed calendar entry be approved.*

Carried

b) Laddering of credentials (transfer credit) – for discussion

Larry provided context in which the current practice is at odds with official policy regarding transfer credit and identified a need for greater clarity. The basic view underlying this issue is that, while courses taken for a post-graduate certificate program may be fully transferrable toward affiliated master’s programs, a student should not get credit twice for the same work.

Larry provided details of the current policy from 2001 (approved by the Graduate Policy Committee but not taken further), laddering practice from comparable institutions, and identified several current graduate certificates, four of which ladder into a Master’s Degree (Rehabilitation, Technology-based Learning for Schools, Technology-based Distributed Learning, and High Performance Coaching and Technical Leadership). Larry encouraged the committee to bring forward any others.

It was noted that the units laddering the credentials are being completely transparent about this process. Therefore normalizing this policy is overdue.

Discussion between faculties highlighted the varying reasons as to why this is happening and how it looks in different contexts. It was noted that laddering is difficult to manage in our current student records system (SISC) which can cause issues with time limit of the degree (needs to be reset manually) and the assessment of fees can become complicated. Other complications occur as a result of different academic standards for admission (i.e., bachelor’s degree vs. practical experience) in different programs and between institutions and evaluating the academic rigor of each program.

Questions raised: if we agree that courses can be ladderred into a master’s, does it have to be an established/twinned program? Should it only be allowed from UBC certificates? Is it an option to have a certificate clearly state that it’s not a university recognized degree? Certificates for older students as a revenue generator? How do we evaluate all the certificates?

Further discussion indicated support for a formalized policy. Larry will follow up with a laddering policy for committee review.

Adjourned at 12:30.

7) Adjournment

All } *That the meeting be adjourned.*

Carried

*Minutes of previous meetings are available here:

<http://www.grad.ubc.ca/faculty-staff/graduate-council/academic-policy-committee-previous-meetings>