

**Meeting of the GC Academic Policy Committee
Wednesday, February 10, 2016, 12:30pm–1:50pm**

Room 200, Graduate Student Centre, 6371 Crescent Road

Present: Tania Astorino (in lieu of Ljijana Biukovic), Barb Conway (in lieu of Thomas Chang), Matthew Evenden, Beth Haverkamp, Natalie Marshall, Don Mavinic, Jenny Phelps, Susan Porter, Max Read, Wendy Robinson, Larry Walker (chair), Zhaoming Xu

Regrets: Gail Murphy, Ran Xiang

Absent: Kin Lo, Clive Roberts, Yousry El-Kassaby

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 13 January 2016*

<i>All</i>	}	<i>That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2016 be approved.</i>
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Carried

4) Chair's Remarks

Larry commented on the ongoing issue of academic misconduct and our need to encourage integrity in research. There was discussion around the process of managing the cases and how G+PS liaises with the departments in these circumstances. Larry noted that resources and guidelines are on our website. He also advises students to bring a GSS advocate with them when being interviewed.

It was agreed that Larry (or Max) would notify the associate dean in the appropriate disciplinary Faculty when an allegation of academic misconduct by a graduate student was being investigated.

5) Approval of Candidates for degrees

<i>All</i>	}	<i>That the candidates for degrees (February conferral) be approved and forwarded to the Senate for approval, and that the Dean, in consultation with the Registrar, be empowered to make any necessary adjustments.</i>
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Carried

6) New Business

a) Laddering of credentials (transfer credit) – for approval. Larry described the situation in which current practice allows laddering for some graduate certificates into a master’s degree but is not in alignment with University policy on transfer credit. After some discussion around the definition of graduate certificates as opposed to a master’s degree, the motion was moved and it was accepted to change the proposed calendar entry to accept laddering.

All

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That the proposed calendar entry be approved.

Carried

b) English language proficiency requirement – for approval. Larry provided feedback from programs indicating an overall interest to increase the admission standard for English language proficiency. Questions were raised as to what effect this might have on admissions. There was discussion around raising the standard even higher than undergraduate levels and changing the distribution of marks (reading, writing, speaking, listening). In the absence of an in-depth understanding of the test scoring mechanism and since those were the numbers that had been surveyed, it was decided to keep the levels consistent with the undergrad levels. It was noted that these numbers are minimums and programs are welcome to increase their levels or modify their notations in the Calendar to indicate a higher score. It was agreed that the English language proficiency requirement should be reviewed two years after the current proposal has been implemented.

All

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That G+PS adopt the UBC undergraduate standard for English language proficiency for graduate admission.

Carried

7) Adjournment

*Minutes of previous meetings are available here:

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