

Graduate Academic Policy Committee Meeting

MINUTES

3 May 2017

12:30pm–1:50pm

Room 200, Graduate Student Centre, 6371 Crescent Road

Present: Barb Conway (in lieu of Tom Chang), Yousry El-Kassaby, Matthew Evenden, Max Read, Wendy Robinson, Susan Porter, John Ries, Jenna Shapka, Belsher Sidhu, Larry Walker (Chair)

Regrets: Ljiljana Biukovic, Tom Chang, Cyril Leung, Mark MacLachlan, Anna Ringsred, Clive Roberts, Zhaoming Xu

Minutes: Josephine Ok

1) Introductions and regrets

2) Adoption of the agenda

All } *That the agenda be approved.*

Carried

3) Minutes of the meeting held 8 March 2017*

All } *That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2017 be approved.*

Carried

4) Chair's remarks

The Chair kindly requested a reminder of the requirements for the dissertation, particularly of substantive introductory and concluding chapters, as recently there have been four manuscripts that were rejected on that account. A preface is also a mandatory component explaining the publication status of any manuscripts and the respective roles and contributions of various co-authors of research chapters.

Lay Abstract: The lay abstract is now called a lay summary, and will be required effective 1 May 2017.

5) Approval of candidates for degrees – May/June conferral (N = 643)

All } *That the candidates for degrees (May/June 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.*

Carried

6) New business

a) Delay-in-start-of-program policy (for approval)

Larry presented this policy, noting that international students are often delayed in their arrival to UBC due to delays in obtaining visas and study permits. This creates problems for both students and graduate programs, and graduate programs are left to decide whether to defer admission of the student to a subsequent term or allow the student to start the program late. Graduate programs have asked for a firm deadline so that students can be prepared to defer their admission if they are unable to arrive by the set deadline. The set deadline will be two weeks after the start of term, in alliance with the course drop/withdrawal deadline.

After discussion, it was recommended to change the wording 'deferred to a subsequent term' instead of 'deferred to the following term' in order to allow more flexibility if a September start date is preferable to the student or program.

<i>Moved: Wendy Robinson</i>	}	<i>That the delay-in-start-of-program policy be approved and forwarded to Graduate Council.</i>
<i>Seconded: John Reis</i>		

Carried

7) For discussion

a) G+PS Strategic planning sessions... next steps

Susan reported that the first strategic planning session was held on May 2 with the Faculties of Medicine, Pharmaceutical Sciences and Dentistry. The common themes brought up included: more money (internal and provincial); breaking down barriers between departments, disciplines, structures; career outcomes and professionalization; innovation and solution orientation; supervision; a space for students; better communication.

A suggestion was made to improve communication by having graduate secretary meetings and asking graduate program staff to disseminate information (i.e., career outcomes, PSI). Another suggestion was to access the existing digital signage on campus.

8) Other business

Susan reported that Mitacs is looking for funding projects, as they have recently been given a large amount of money from the government.

There was a discussion of 4-year industrial degrees, and whether UBC should push this agenda to help forge industries with academia. This would be an ideal time to do so as 1/3 of graduates end up in the private sector, and some have commented that they don't feel prepared.

9) Adjournment: 1:25pm

Lunch provided

*Minutes of previous meetings are available here:

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