

MINUTES

Meeting of the GC Policy Committee Wednesday, 10th April 2019, 12:30–13:15

Room 200, Graduate Student Centre, 6371 Crescent Road

Present: Teresa Dobson, Bhushan Gopaluni, Zhaoming Xu, John Ries, Mark MacLachlan, Thomas Chang, Karin Mickelson, Megha Kalia, Larry Walker (Chair)

Regrets: Matthew Evenden, Yousry El-Kassaby, Susan Porter, Clive Roberts

Staff: Max Read, Virginia Hourihane (minutes)

1. Introductions and regrets

Wendy Robinson has come to the end of her term as Assistant Dean in the Faculty of Medicine. A replacement will be announced in the coming months.

2. Adoption of the agenda

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

3. Minutes of the meeting held 06th February 2019*

All	}	<i>That the minutes of the meeting held on 06th February 2019 be approved.</i>
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Carried

BUSINESS

5. Approval of revised graduation policy

Larry put forward a proposal from the Student Academic Services team and Enrolment Services to discontinue “rolling graduation”. Graduation ceremonies take place in November and May, but degrees are currently also conferred in September and February. This incurs quite an extra volume of work for the staff involved, which could be greatly lessened with the discontinuation of “rolling graduation” in September and February.

Program completion certificates can be provided to those students needing confirmation of their degree for further studies or work in advance of their graduation date.

Mark MacLachlan moved and Thomas Chang seconded.

All	}	<i>That the “rolling graduation” be discontinued and degrees conferred in November and May only</i>
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Carried

DISCUSSION

6. Composition of Graduate Council and the Graduate Policy Committee

There was a discussion around the current composition of the Graduate Council and Graduate Policy Committees.

Traditionally the Graduate Policy Committee comprises Associate Deans of Graduate Studies from the various Faculties or their equivalent, but moving forward the inclusion of experienced graduate advisors could be beneficial. There was also a suggestion that Associate Deans be included on Graduate Council given the broader range of issues discussed there (e.g., funding, strategic planning, and other initiatives).

Dr. Mark MacLachlan thinks that it's important to have regular faculty members on the Grad Council committee. If this were to change, there could be this perception that having graduate advisors would become more administrative heavy. He suggested allowing associate deans to be non-voting members, as he personally would be happy to attend and participate but would feel uncomfortable displacing voting members.

Dr. Thomas Chang thinks this could work for larger faculties but not for smaller faculties.

OTHER BUSINESS

Larry brought up a matter that has recently come to G+PS' attention: a number of graduate students have been undertaking research which requires ethical approval, without actually obtaining it. This is a serious matter for the student, but more especially for the supervisor, who is responsible for the ethical conduct of research in their lab. The matter is a clear violation of Policy 85 (*Scholarly Integrity*). It puts both the student and the supervisor at risk for scholarly misconduct and puts the University at great risk.

There appears to be a policy within some units that doesn't allow students to apply for ethics approval unless they have advanced to candidacy. This is ill-advised; irrespective of what their student status is, all students need ethics approval to conduct research under those various areas requiring it, particularly any research to do with human ethics.

Associate Deans were requested to be vigilant about this issue among their graduate programs.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm.

Lunch provided

*Minutes of previous meetings are available here:

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