

MINUTES
Meeting of the Grad Policy Committee

Wednesday, 6th October 2021, 12:30-13:50
Location: Zoom

Present: Laura Sly (Chair), Susan Porter, Jolanta Aleksejuniene, Teresa Dobson, Brett Eaton, Michael Hunt, John Ries, Mark MacLachlan, Yousry El-Kassaby, Thomas Chang

Staff: Max Read, Arafat Safdar

1. Introductions and regrets

Jocelyn Stacey – Introduction
Jenny Phelps - Introduction

2. Adoption of the agenda

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

3. Motion to Approve the Minutes

<i>All</i>	}	<i>That the minutes be approved (with a minor change to the comments made by Susan Porter)</i>
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Carried

4. Business

There were no specific business items to vote on.

5. Discussion Items

- Joint PhD – Jenny Phelps

6. Discussion

- Jenny made a PowerPoint presentation about her work on renovating the Joint PhD policy in place. She also talked about the issues with the policy and introduced an alternative option in development that would be known as *Collaborative Doctoral Research Fellowship*
- Bhushan asked about the pros and cons of each of these approaches (Joint PhD v. collaborative PhD). Jolanta asked about the experience of those students who had pursued joint PhDs in the past. Jenny said there has been no follow-up yet.

- Yousry mentioned that the real bottleneck is the legal business attached to this program, and called for a formal process to be put in place. Michael also agreed with his observation about the potential legal wrangling around such a program.
- Mark asked if there were any international funding opportunities that specifically require a joint PhD. Jenny acknowledged it was one of the challenges. Mark also asked about how would this new program differ from the Visiting International Research Students Program (VIRS). Jenny said that apart from the rebranding aspect of it – the new initiative would provide a more substantial basis for the visiting students at UBC than the VIRS program.

General Discussion

Return to Campus:

- Committee members shared their experiences regarding return to campus and no one reported any major concern about the ‘Return to Work’ plan in place.
- Teresa asked for clarity around the difference (in terms of protocol) between a community event (seminar, talks, etc.) and an educational event (classes)
- **Doctoral Exams:** Laura provided an update on the in-person, Zoom and hybrid defenses. All three are permitted at the moment.
- Michael asked if there had been any discussion around making the hybrid option permanent. Laura responded positively, saying this options would be available for the students.
- Jolanta asked if there was any financial support for external examiners coming here (UBC-V) for a defense (for hybrid defense). Laura informed the committee that a part of this expense can be covered through support from the respective programs.
- Laura briefed the committee about a working group started by Land and Food Systems that seeks to define a role for the Indigenous elders and knowledge keepers as committee members for graduate student.

7. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 13:40.