**MINUTES**

**Meeting of the GC Policy Committee**

**Wednesday, 2nd February 2022, 12.30-13.50**

Location: Zoom

Present: Laura Sly (Chair), Susan Porter, Jenny Phelps, Teresa Dobson, Brett Eaton, Bhushan Gopaluni, Jolanta Aleksejuniene, Michael Hunt, Jocelyn Stacey, John Ries, Mark MacLachlan, Shannon Hagerman, Mopelola Akinlaja, Natasha Nobell (guest), Cheryl Dumaresq (guest)

**Staff:** Max Read, Arafat Safdar

1. **Introductions and regrets**

* Sean Smukler (Regrets)
* Thomas Chang (Regrets)

1. **Adoption of the agenda**

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| *All* | } | *That the agenda be approved.* |

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| Carried |

1. **Motion to Approve the Minutes**

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| *All* | } | *That the minutes be approved.* |

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| Carried |

1. **Business**

* Joint Doctoral Fellowship (Additional Conversation)

1. **Discussion**

**Joint Doctoral Fellowship**

* Jenny listed the existing pathways for welcoming visiting students, which could be incorporated into the JDRF mechanism:

1. VIRS
2. Exchange agreements
3. VISI (visiting graduate students)

She said the goal was for students to have a simple, clear way to indicate their interests so that this information could then be used by G&PS to evaluate them and determine the pathway suitable for them – JDRF students would be registered in the non-credit course VGRD 699 – The ‘Regular VIRS’ pathway is available for students, who apply directly through the VIRS application [A comparison of these three approaches can be seen at the end of the document Jenny shared with the Committee members].

* Jenny also shared her discussion with the members of the Western Canadian Deans Association at a recent conference. She said that the Western Deans Agreement allowed students from qualifying universities to take certain courses for free at their partner universities. She proposed to the group that this provision be extended to the research students as well. Jenny reported that the conference members responded favorably to this proposition.
* Michael pointed out a potential conflict between the VIRS students getting a UBC transcript for VGRD699 and not being eligible to take courses - Jenny responded that it did not count as a course.
* Jenny mentioned Brendan Morey’s (Assistant Dean, Student Administration and Awards, G&PS) proposal of creating a JDRF award as a simple container that the units or PIs could put money in. It could be disbursed as a normal award and would be reflected on transcripts as such.
* Susan asked if this pathway could be deemed possible without physical relocation – Jenny said the new document reflected this change. She emphasized the building up of a ‘relationship’ through JDRF, rather than simply a visit to UBC. Jenny mentioned that VIRS was only for the duration of student’s stay on campus but JDRF would continue beyond the visit. Susan asked whether an international student, who is not going to visit, would not have to go through VIRS, because it could be a waste of their money – Cheryl suggested that this may not have happened but she will follow up.
* Jenny said that the expectation is that the relationship is going to stay for all terms, which overlap with their active collaboration with their UBC co-supervisor**.** Natasha asked if students only want to do it one term, would that be possible? Cheryl asked about the students, who have a co-supervisor at UBC but no desire to come here. Jenny emphasized the role of the UBC supervisor as a long-term co-supervisor and the program is meant to be for visiting AND co-supervised students. The value of JDRF lies in a more formal recognition by the university of the substantive engagement with at least the UBC supervisor.
* Jocelyn asked if G&PS had guidelines about expectation around the co-supervisor role. Jenny said work needs to be done on this.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 13:18.