

**Summary Minutes of a Meeting of the  
COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH  
Held in the Council Chamber, University Hall  
Friday, September 19, 2008, 2:00 pm**

Attendance

M Shirvani in the Chair                      L McGann  
M Allen                                              P Schiavone

Department Representatives

N Kav, Ag, Food & Nutri Sciences	S Rice, Linguistics
G Forth, Anthropology	P Minev, Mathematical & Statistical Sciences
J Greer, Art & Design	M Glerum, Medical Genetics
B Lemire, Biochemistry	L Guilbert, Med Micro & Immunology
R Vinebrooke, Biological Sciences	G Tyrrell, Medical Sciences
B Hayes, Chem & Materials Eng	H Bashaw, Music
C Lucy, Chemistry	K Todd, Centre for Neuroscience
I Sywenky, Comp Literature	K Moore, Nursing
R Greiner, Computing Science	A Shaw, Oncology
L Kline, Dentistry	S Petersen, Physical Education & Rec
P Defraeye, Drama	C Benishin, Physiology
T Ono, East Asian Studies	J Garber, Political Science
C Rinaldi, Educational Psychology	A Joyce, Psychiatry
R McKay, Educational Studies	N Galambos, Psychology
J McClay, Elementary Education	A Senthilselvan, Public Health Sciences
T Zackodnik, English & Film Studies	J Volden, Rehabilitation Science
M Adria, Extension (MACT)	P Blenis, Renewable Resources
Y d'Entremont, Faculté Saint-Jean	T Carson, Secondary Education
H Madill, Health Promotion Studies	W Johnston, Sociology
F Swyripa, History & Classics	P Schneider, Speech Pathology & Aud
B Skrypnek, Human Ecology	
G Rockwell, Humanities Computing Program	
J Martin, Lab Medicine & Pathology	
M Yahya, Law	
A Samek, Library & Info Studies	

Graduate Student Representatives

B Whynot, GSA President	R Shott, Biochemistry
C Levesque, GSA VP Academic	D MacRitchie, Biological Sciences
D Manolescu, GSA VP Labour Relations	B Jensen, Earth & Atmos Sciences
H Zeinali, GSA VP Op & Service	K Cameron, Educational Psychology
C Prado, Ag, Food & Nutri Sciences	A Medvedev, MLCS
L Sutherland, Ag, Food & Nutri Sciences	M Lamey, Physics

Ex Officio

A Schmude, Office of the Registrar

Observer

Chris Hackett, Grad Student Ombudsperson

Guests

I Samarasekera, President  
D Marshall, Deputy Provost  
L Vanderjagt, Digital Repository Services Librarian

**1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was approved.

**2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

a. Approval of the minutes of May 9, 2008.

The minutes were approved.

b. Matters arising

None.

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

**3.1 Addition to the composition of the FGSR Council**

Council was asked to consider the following motion:  
MOTION That the Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research recommends to the General Faculties Council Executive Committee that three Graduate Program Administrators (elected by and from the Graduate Program Administrators' Council) be added to the composition of the Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research. No more than one Graduate Program Administrator representative should come from a given Faculty.

VOTE The motion was PUT and CARRIED, 54-1, 0 abstentions.

**3.2 Membership on the FGSR Academic Appeals Committee**

Council was asked to consider the following motion:  
MOTION That the Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research approve the following faculty member FGSR Councillors to serve on the FGSR Academic Appeals Committee:

FGSR Academic Appeals Committee 2008-2010

Faculty members appointed by FGSR Council

Francis Landy, Religious Studies  
Mark Loewen, Civil and Environmental Engineering  
Katherine Moore, Nursing (1 year 2008-2009)  
Sharon Morsink, Physics  
Phyllis Schneider, Speech Pathology and Audiology (1 year 2008-2009)  
Moin Yahya, Law

VOTE The motion was PUT and CARRIED, 54-0, 1 abstention.

**3.3 Revisions to the FGSR Academic Appeal Regulations**

The proposed revisions to the FGSR Academic Appeal Regulations were sent to FGSR Council members on August 18 to review well in advance of the FGSR Council meeting. Council was asked to consider these updates to the FGSR Academic Appeal Regulations (which had not been reviewed or revised since 1991), and to consider the following motion:  
MOTION That the Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research approve the revised FGSR Academic Appeal Regulations.

There was a friendly amendment to 1.1.2: Replace 'student' with 'graduate student'.

Discussion regarding 1.5.4.4.6 – should staff members be allowed to attend an appeal in order to defend themselves? Chris Hackett explained that faculty members can attend as witnesses, but bringing them forward to defend themselves takes focus away from the student appeal.

VOTE The motion was PUT and CARRIED, 49-2, 2 abstentions.

### 3.4 Establishment of a Policy Review Committee

MOTION Council was asked to consider the following motion:  
That the FGSR Council approve the creation of a Policy Review Committee.

VOTE The motion was PUT and CARRIED, 59-2, 0 abstentions.

## 4. INFORMAL BUSINESS

### a. Discussion Topic: Electronic Thesis Submission

Leah Vanderjagt was available to answer questions and provide further explanation on the electronic thesis submission (e-thesis) project. Points were made that this will reduce paper and binding costs for graduate students. Moving to an electronic format allows other types of data to be included (ie mp3s or animated data).

Concerns were raised over potential plagiarism, as contents could be more easily harvested from an electronic format, and what hidden data may be contained in the pdf format. Students need to be well-informed regarding intellectual property, and given help to submit clean documents.

This topic will be brought back to Council for further discussion.

### b. Question Period

A GSA representative inquired into the FGSR Research Abroad Grant and if there is a plan to resume or replace this grant, noting that since it was announced as a long-term initiative, the financial planning was shortsighted. The Chair responded that the program was cut as a result of the budget deficit, and though the budget is now balanced, there is no current plan to re-launch the program due to lack of funding.

An inquiry was made regarding NSERC's new travel fund for CGS holders. L Blair explained that it is a very small allocation.

A Councillor inquired into the announcement from the provincial government regarding increased funding for graduate study and travel. It was explained that the announcement came to the FGSR in May, though it was just recently released to the public. The FGSR had advised departments in May that the number of QEII Scholarships doubled, and requested additional nominations. Under the new formula, the FGSR will receive ~500 QEII Awards.

An awards advisory committee is among the advisory committees the Dean is currently developing. This committee will provide advice in determining a formula for allocating awards to departments.

### c. Announcements and Reports by the Chair and Councillors

#### 1. Parental Leave for Graduate Students

Ben Whynot had polled graduate students with children regarding the ease of gaining parental leave and found that though provisions do exist, this information does not appear to be easily accessible to students who require it. This is perhaps a process for the new policy review committee to review.

### 2. Ethics Training

The Graduate Ethics Training (GET) course is updated online. There will be a demonstration on September 30, 2008 from 2-3 in the FGSR Conference Room and P Schiavone may be contacted with any questions or input.

The Faculté Saint-Jean representative advised that the GET course was translated into French.

### 3. Recruitment Scholarship Committee Report

The report was distributed to Council members.

P Schiavone reminded Council that the competition deadlines are posted online, and anything not yet available will be coming shortly. Also, for the Provost Doctoral Entrance Award, the ceiling for these award winners holding other funding has been raised from \$27,500 to \$35,000.

### 4. Time to Completion statistics

Statistics were provided. As the top row was missing from the provided document, H Hogg will redistribute the spreadsheet.

### 5. 'How Did You Hear About the University of Alberta' statistics

Statistics were provided.

### d. Other Business

President Indira Samarasekera and Deputy Provost Dru Marshall joined Council to present information regarding the Canada Vanier Graduate Scholarships. The Vanier is a flagship national scholarship program to help Canada attract the best international students, and retain Canadian students. International universities have been asked to provide potential candidates.

The awards are valued at \$50,000 per year for up to three years. They are based on academic, leadership/communication skills and research potential. The UofA's nomination quotas are 5 SSHRC, 9 NSERC, and 1-2 CIHR (secretary's note: CIHR later announced a quota of 3). The President emphasized that the goal is for every nomination to be successful.

Nominees will move from a faculty-level screening to the FGSR. The FGSR will remove those nominees who are not competitive, and the names will move to the President's Advisory Committee, who will determine the final nominees.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 pm.