

Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Wednesday, February 8, 2023 (1:00 - 3:30 pm)

****Virtual Meeting**

Min	Item	Agenda Item	Action	Att.
10	1.0	Call Meeting to Order	Action	No
	2.0	Approval of Agenda	Approval	Yes
	3.0	Approval of Minutes of the December 7, 2022 Meeting	Approval	Yes
	4.0	Matters Arising from the Minutes	Discussion	No
15	5.0	Report from the Dean	Receive for Info	Yes
10	6.0	GSA Monthly Report	Receive for Info	Yes
10	7.0	Neuroscience: Calendar Changes Presenter: Jacqueline Cummine, Associate Professor, Communication Sciences & Disorders <i>MOTION: THAT FGSR Council approve the changes to the Neuroscience and Mental Health Institute calendar entry (as outlined), for implementation in Fall 2023 and inclusion in the next Calendar.</i>	Approval	Yes
10	8.0	Economics: GPA, Coursework & Candidacy Presenter: Kim Noels, Associate Dean (Graduate), Faculty of Arts <i>Motion: THAT FGSR Council approve the changes to the entrance requirements for the MA in Economics, and the coursework and candidacy exam requirements in the PhD in Economics, as presented by the Faculty of Arts, for implementation upon approval and inclusion in the next Calendar.</i>	Approval	Yes
10	9.0	Radiology: ELP & Residence Changes Presenter: Lawrence Le, Professor - Radiology & Diagnostic Imaging Dept <i>Motion: THAT FGSR Council approve the calendar changes for the Radiology & Diagnostic Imaging department in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, for implementation for Fall 2023, and inclusion in the next calendar.</i>	Approval	Yes
10	10.0	Medical Sciences Graduate Program: Entrance and Coursework Presenter: Jennifer Hocking, Associate Professor - Anatomy Dept <i>Motion: THAT FGSR Council approve the changes to the FoMD Medical Science Graduate Program calendar entry, for implementation in the Fall of 2023, and inclusion in the next calendar.</i>	Approval	Yes
10	11.0	Psychiatry Changes: Calendar Changes Presenter: Allen Chan, Assistant Professor - Psychiatry Dept <i>Motion: THAT FGSR Council approve the changes to the FoMD Medical Science Graduate Program calendar entry, for implementation in the Fall of 2023, and inclusion in the next calendar.</i>	Approval	Yes
20	12.0	BioMedical Engineering: Course Based Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering Presenters: Lindsey Westover, Assistant Professor, Biomedical Engineering; Pierre Mertiny, Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs); Peter Schiavone, Associate Dean, Graduate Programs <i>Motion: THAT FGSR Council approve the new Course-based Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering and the new supporting courses in the department of Biomedical Engineering, for implementation upon final approval.</i>	Approval	Yes
10	13.0	Question Period: <i>Please submit questions in advance to graddean@ualberta.ca</i>	Discussion	No
-	14.0	Adjournment	Action	No

FOR INFO: Terms of Reference for the FGSR Unit Review

****2022/23 FGSR Council Meeting Schedule: October 26 / December 7 / February 8 / March 8 / April 26 / May 31 (1:00 - 3:30 PM)**

Attendance at FGSR Council – February 8, 2023
Department/Unit Faculty Representatives

Agricultural, Food & Nutritional Science	Ben Willing
Anthropology	Marko Zivkovic
Art & Design	Aidan Rowe
Biochemistry	David Stuart
Biological Sciences	James Stafford
Biomedical Engineering	Alan H. Wilman
Business (non-departmentalized) - MBA	Michael Maier
Business (non-departmentalized) - PhD	Trish Reay
Cell Biology	Richard Wozniak
Chemicals & Materials Engineering	Hao Zhang
Chemistry	Michael Serpe
Communication Sciences & Disorders	Monique Charest
Dentistry (Medical Sciences)	Carlos Flores Mir
Economics	Heather Eckert
Educational Policy Studies	Lesly Wade-Woolley
Educational Psychology	Lesly Wade-Woolley
Educational Studies	Douglas Gleddie
Electrical & Computer Engineering	Manisha Gupta
English and Film Studies	Robert Brazeau
Faculte Saint-Jean (non-departmentalized)	Samira El Atia
Health Sciences Education	Douglas Gleddie
Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation (non-dept)	Normand Boule
Library & Information Studies	Tami Oliphant
Mathematical & Statistical Sciences	Feng Dai
Mechanical Engineering	Alexandra Komrakova
Medical Genetics (Medical Sciences)	Zhixiang Wang
Medical Microbiology & Immunology	Edan Foley
Medical Sciences Graduate Program - FoMD	Jennifer Hocking
Medicine	Nadia Jahroudi
Music	Michael Frishkopf
Native Studies (non-departmentalized)	Adam Gaudry
Neuroscience	Jacqueline Cummine
Nursing (non-departmentalized)	Dianne Tapp
Obstetrics & Gynecology (Medical Sciences)	Denise Hemmings
Oncology	Alan Underhill
Oncology	Gordon Chan
Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences (Medical Sciences)	Brittany Carr
Pediatrics (Medical Sciences)	Sujata Persad
Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences (non-departmentalized)	Arno Siraki

Philosophy	Ingo Brigandt
Physics	Claire Currie
Physiology	Zamaneh Kassiri
Physiology	Greg Funk
Political Science	Fiona Nicoll
Psychiatry	Allen Chan
Psychology	Chris Westbury
Rehabilitation Medicine - Rehabilitation Sciences	Mary Roduta Roberts
Resource Economics & Environmental Sociology	Brent Swallow
Surgery	Fred Berry

Regrets:

Earth & Atmospheric Sciences
History, Classics, & Religion

Absent:

Civil & Environmental Engineering
Communications and Technology [includes MACT]
Computing Science
Computing Science - Multimedia Program
Digital Humanities
Drama
East Asian Studies
Elementary Education
Human Ecology
Internetworking (MINT)
Laboratory Medicine & Pathology
Law (non-departmentalized)
Linguistics
Modern Languages & Cultural Studies
Occupational Therapy
Pharmacology
Physical Therapy
Radiology & Diagnostic Imaging (Medical Sciences)
Renewable Resources
School of Public Health (non-departmentalized)
Secondary Education
Sociology
Women's and Gender Studies

Associate Deans (Graduate) Representatives for Departmentalized Faculties
Present:

Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences	Leluo Guan
Arts	Kim Noels
Education	Doug Gleddie
Engineering	Peter Schiavone
Medicine & Dentistry	Greg Funk
Rehabilitation Medicine	Mary Roduta Roberts
Science	Mark McDermott

Ex-Officio Representatives

FGSR Interim Vice-Provost and Dean (FGSR Council Chair)	Roger Epp
FGSR Vice-Dean	Ali Shiri
FGSR Associate Dean	Frances Plane
FGSR Associate Dean	Cagri Ayranci
FGSR Associate Dean	Micah True
Vice-President (Research) (or Delegate)	Laura Beard
Vice-Provost and University Registrar (or Delegate)	Rebecca Liaw

Regrets:

President (or Delegate)	President Flannigan
FGSR Associate Dean	Andrea MacLeod
Director, Centre for Teaching & Learning*	Janice Miller-Young
Chair, FGSR Academic Appeals Committee*	Moin Yahya
Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian (or Delegate)	Dale Askey

Graduate Program Administrators Committee (GPAC) Representatives

GPAC Member	Nicola DiNicola
GPAC Member	Jen Freund

Graduate Student Association (GSA) Directly Elected Officials (3) & Graduate Student Association (GSA) Council Representatives (20)
Present:

<i>VP Academic (Acting President)</i>	<i>Bishoi Aziz</i>
Agriculture, Food & Nutritional Science	Emilee Storfie
Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Science	Devansh Patel
Business	Bhavneet Kaur
Chemical and Materials Engineering	Sophie Shi
Civil & Environmental Engineering	Olabode Babalola
Civil & Environmental Engineering	Hadi Mokarizadeh
Electrical & Computer Engineering	Collin VanEssen
Medicine	Olawunmi Olagundoye
Medicine	Allison Bihari
Nursing	Megan Sommerfeld
Pediatrics	Ezra Ketema
Pharmacology	Nayiar Shahid
Political Science	Telisa Courtney
Public Health	Ademola Itiola
Renewable Resources	Abhijeet Pathy

Regrets / Absent / Alternates:

<i>VP Labour</i>	<i>Hiren Kaklotar</i>
Chemical and Materials Engineering	Peyman Aghdasi Mazandarani
Civil & Environmental Engineering	Abel Suresh
Electrical & Computer Engineering	Md Habibur Rahaman
Med Microbiology & Immunology	Emma Takeuchi
Pediatrics	Qiuyu Sun
Secondary Education	Colleen Knechtel

Observers – Non-Voting*

FGSR Faculty Manager (FGSR Council Secretary)*	Bobbi Schiestel
FGSR Executive Coordinator*	Andrea Riewe
FGSR, EA to the Associate Deans*	Dena Giroux
FGSR, Director - Professional Development*	Renee Polziehn
FGSR, Team Lead, Program Progression*	Kris MacManus
FGSR, Supervisor-Admissions & Program Services Units*	Joyce Anderson
FGSR, Supervisor, Graduate Awards*	Amanda Brown
GFC Secretary*	Heather Richholt
Graduate Ombudsperson*	Remonia Stoddart-Morrison
Presenter, Faculty of Engineering*	Pierre Mertiny
Presenter, Radiology & Diagnostic Imaging*	Carol Rae

*Non-Voting

FGSR Council February 8, 2023

1.0 Call to Order at 1:04 PM

Interim Vice-Provost and Dean, Roger Epp, called the meeting to order. Members requiring further support with the virtual platform can reach out to Andrea Riewe for help. Those with voting authorities will have received an email with links. Voting members were asked to have this open in preparation for the voting items.

2.0 Approval of Agenda for February 8, 2023

Moved / Seconded: Mike Maier / Greg Funk

Approved by consent.

3.0 Approval of Minutes of December 7, 2023

Moved / Seconded: Cagri Ayranci / Doug Gleddie

Discussion / Amendments:

- n/a

Approved by electronic vote.

4.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

5.0 Report from the Dean

Interim Vice-Provost and Dean Epp noted that the written report, FGSR Report: January/February 2023, was included in the meeting package. He provided the following verbal comments:

Unit Review:

- Unit Review Terms of Reference are included in the meeting package for information.
- Have secured three externals to lead the review.
- Currently working on timing and will advise on the timing and engagement opportunities soon.

Graduate Admissions Issues

- A reminder that sending admissions to FGSR as they come in is helpful for turnaround times (instead of bundling them all together).
- FGSR has hired additional admissions help to support the peak admissions period.

Iran Application Fee Waiver:

- Interim Vice-Provost and Dean Epp requested member's feedback on the Iranian application fee waiver process and the quality of applications received.
 - Members indicated that they were pleased by the quality of applications received from Iran via the application fee waiver process.
 - Members indicated that Iranian applicants have frequently submitted multiple applications.
 - A member indicated that there are some concerns that perhaps the verbal scores on the admission tests are somehow elevated and advised that the immigration challenges remain.
 - A member indicated that FGSR should revisit application fees for students from other economically challenged countries.
 - Interim Vice-Provost and Dean Epp clarified that the decision to waive application fees for Iranian students was not an economic decision but instead a solution to the technical challenge of completing an application that required a payment.
 - A member asked about finding other ways, beyond credit cards, of paying the application fee.

Minimum Guaranteed PhD Funding:

- Interim Vice-Provost and Dean Epp commented that FGSR is continuing to work on the minimum funding proposal.
- The university cannot solve the problem of a living wage all by ourselves. Need to work with our external partners (i.e Tri-Councils).
- The solution needs to be sustainable and stretch over the great diversity of the university.
- FGSR is reviewing the awards portfolio to make sure they are aligned as well as possible with the profile of the graduate students.

New Proposals / substantive changes - Braiding Past, Present and Future: University of Alberta Indigenous Strategic Plan:

- Interim Vice-Provost and Dean Epp reported feedback from the GFC Programs Committee that new programs and substantive revisions need to take account of Braiding Past, Present and

Future: University of Alberta Indigenous Strategic Plan. This is especially the case in those professional areas that the TRC's Calls to Action would have identified (health, education, law and business).

Upcoming student events - more details in the written report:

- The Writing Retreat for graduate students will be held February 21-24, 2023.
- The We Heart Grad Students Appreciation Event will be held on February 14, 2023.

Operational updates and reminders were included in the written report, which we encourage you to review.

Discussion / Questions:

- A member asked for more information on what is meant by the "awards profile"?
 - Interim Vice-Provost and Dean Epp indicated that it is making sure we are spending the dollars that flow through FGSR is the best way possible. For example, given EDI commitments.
- A member commented that they would like to see supervisors and graduate students in general included in the FGSR Unit Review consultations.

6.0 GSA Monthly Report

Acting Graduate Student Association President (GSA) Bishoi Aziz highlighted key activities in the monthly report including meeting with the provincial government to discuss graduate students priorities (affordable tuition, housing and immigration pathways). Given the current food security situation, the GSA is collaborating with the Students' Union and Registrar's Office to improve the Campus Food Bank. GSA elections are currently underway. The GSA continues to advocate for increased funding and decreased tuition. Encourage all members to review the monthly report.

Discussion / Questions:

- A member commented about the need for increased Tri-Council funding and suggested that it would be powerful for the GSA to lobby the Tri-Councils directly.
- A member commented that due to the 12-hour limit for graduate students, when students start to struggle financially, they need to work part-time and can fall behind in their programs.
 - Interim Vice-Provost and Dean Epp commented that exceptions to the 12-hour limit for graduate students come to him and he is inclined to say "yes" to most requests because he is aware that if the student is not doing the additional work here, then they have to do it off campus.
- A member mentioned that the previous comments underscore the importance of mandatory minimum funding packages.

- A member commented that we need to remember the differential tuition fees that international students pay. Our peer institutions have found ways to deal with these and if we do not, we will lose our place as a global institution.
- A member indicated that one way to mitigate smaller departments being disadvantaged by minimum funding packages is to remove the restriction on the number of people who can be registered in a graduate course in order for that course to be held.

7.0 Neuroscience: Calendar Changes

Presenter: Jacqueline Cummine, Associate Professor, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine

Interim Vice-Provost and Dean Epp invited Jacqueline Cummine to present on the proposed Neuroscience calendar changes.

Associate Professor Cummine indicated the basic goals of the changes are to provide more complete information about the entrance and program requirements, to simplify the language in the document, to delete courses that are no longer offered, and to add some new proposed courses.

They want to adjust the required coursework for students entering the PhD with a previous master's degree, so they dropped it from nine credits to three credits. Also, they want to align the admission and academic standing GPA to the harmonized values of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry; this means they have adjusted the grade point average (GPA) from 3.3 to 3.0.

Motion: Be it resolved that FGSR Council approve the changes to the Neuroscience and Mental Health Institute calendar entry (as outlined), for implementation in Fall 2023 and inclusion in the next Calendar.

Moved / Seconded: Michael Maier / Alan Underhill

Questions/Discussion

- None.

Approved by electronic vote.

Approve: 54

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 1

8.0 Economics: GPA, Coursework & Candidacy

Presenter: Kim Noels, Associate Dean (Graduate), Faculty of Arts

Interim Vice-Provost and Dean Epp invited Associate Dean Grad Kim Noels to present the item.

AD Noels indicated that Economics would change the entrance requirements. They would like applicants to have a cumulative GPA of 3.2 on all third and fourth year economics and mathematics course work.

The other changes are to the doctoral program. One is the introduction of two independent studies courses. The independent studies courses give students the opportunity to work with a faculty member in economics on a topic that is relevant to their course of studies. The second change is an addition to the calendar language stating that for candidacy students must have demonstrated that they have a project, and that they have done some analyses on that project to demonstrate that it is an interesting and worthwhile project.

Motion: Be it resolved that FGSR Council approve the changes to the entrance requirements for the MA in Economics, and the coursework and candidacy exam requirements in the PhD in Economics, as presented by the Faculty of Arts, for implementation upon approval and inclusion in the next Calendar.

Moved / Seconded: Trish Reay / Samira ElAtia

Questions/Discussion:

- A member commented that they were surprised that Economics is so strict in terms of the courses and that there is limited opportunity for students to take electives.

Approved by electronic vote.

Approve: 50

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 1

9.0 Radiology: ELP & Residence Changes

Presenter: Carol Rae, Graduate Studies Program Assistant

Interim Vice-Provost and Dean Epp invited Carol Rae to provide an overview of the proposal.

Carol Rae indicated that the changes include reducing the English Language Proficiency (ELP) score to the FGSR standard, removing the residency requirement, and removing the minimum amount of time required to spend in the program.

Motion: Be it resolved that FGSR Council approve the calendar changes for the Radiology & Diagnostic Imaging department in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, for implementation for Fall 2023, and inclusion in the next calendar.

Moved / Seconded: Alan Underhill / Ali Shiri

Questions/Discussion:

- A member raised a question about the lack of a statement about the minimum time spent in the program as they have encountered situations where students start a PhD or Master's degree and finish quickly.

Approved by electronic vote.

Approve: 50

Oppose: 2

Abstain: 1

10.0 Medical Sciences Graduate Program: Entrance and Coursework

Presenter: Jennifer Hocking, Associate Professor, Anatomy Dept

Interim Vice-Provost and Dean Epp invited Associate Professor Hocking to present the proposal.

AP Hocking outlined that Medical Sciences is an umbrella program that includes seven units. They have made a number of small changes including rewriting the entrance requirements to be presented similarly to FGSR; updating financial supports section; adding a maximum program length statement; removing statement about approved courses; and adding a section about Ethics requirement.

Motion: Be it resolved that FGSR Council approve the changes to the FoMD Medical Science Graduate Program calendar entry, for implementation in the Fall of 2023, and inclusion in the next calendar.

Moved / Seconded: Susan Chatwood / Doug Gleddie

Questions/Discussion:

- Interim Vice-Provost and Dean Epp updated the group on how FGSR will be now monitoring ELP requirements. In cases where we have programs that have set a higher ELP standard for admission than is the university norm posted in the calendar, we have decided that we would leave the enforcement of the higher standard to the academic unit. We ask the units to be consistent in how they deal with ELP application and that if there is a change in practice that they amend the calendar language through Council.

Approved by electronic vote.

Approve: 56

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

11.0 Psychiatry Changes: Calendar Changes

Presenter: Allen Chan, Assistant Professor - Psychiatry Dept

Interim Vice-Provost and Dean Epp introduced Assistant Professor Allen Chan to present the proposed calendar changes.

AP Chan indicated that the rationale for the majority of the proposed calendar changes to the graduate program is to remove outdated information, provide some clarity on the minimum requirements, and to remove a course requirement condition of the program.

There are 5 principal changes being proposed: 1) update the departmental address information; 2) update the text reflecting the now required FGSR Ethics and Academic Citizenship course; 3) clarify the department's alignment of ELP with FGSR minimum requirements; 4) remove a required course and the contradictory language that allowed exemption from it; and 5) removing entries for required participation in the departmental research day and grand rounds.

Motion: Be it resolved that FGSR Council approve the changes to the FoMD Medical Science Graduate Program calendar entry, for implementation in the Fall of 2023, and inclusion in the next calendar.

Moved / Seconded: Mary Roduta Roberts / Alan Underhill

Questions/Discussion:

- None.

Approved by electronic vote.

Approve: 55

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

12.0 BioMedical Engineering: Course Based Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering

Presenters: Lindsey Westover, Assistant Professor, Biomedical Engineering

Pierre Mertiny, Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs), Faculty of Engineering

Peter Schiavone, Associate Dean, Graduate Programs

Assistant Professor Lindsey Westover introduced the item to council by giving background information, including that the Department of Biomedical Engineering is a joint department between the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and the Faculty of Engineering.

Proposing to add a course-based master's program since all of the other engineering departments already have this type of program. The calendar changes reflect adding this course-based option into the master's program as well as six new courses to support that program.

Motion: Be it resolved that FGSR Council approve the new Course-based Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering and the new supporting courses in the department of Biomedical Engineering, for implementation upon final approval.

Moved / Seconded: Robert Brazeau / Michael Serpe

Questions/Discussion:

- None.

Approved by electronic vote.

Approve: 55

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 1

17.0 Question period

Professor Arno Siraki sought other member's perspectives regarding different formats of candidacy exams across campus. Feedback included:

- A member commented that even within their department, professors have many different ways of administering exams. There must be a balance between finding some kind of pedagogically, evidence-based reason for the choices that we make regarding candidacy exams that is fair to all students, while at the same time recognizing the diversity of different disciplines.
- Another member indicated that they do not believe we can have standard candidacy across campus but their faculty is trying to have a faculty-wide standard exam.

18.0 Adjournment

Interim Vice-Provost and Dean Epp thanked all the members of FGSR Council for their time.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 PM.