

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GRADUATE EDUCATION COUNCIL

April 2, 2014

The meeting was held at 12:00pm in Room 2130 Western Student Services Building  
(Dr. David Chu Centre)

**Attendees:**

Natasha Hannon	Carol Jones	Samual Trosow
Jennifer Hutchison	Susan Scollie	Catherine Nolan
Jason Brown	Benjamin Hill	Clayton Hamilton
Jan Polgar	Nandi Bhatia	Rafael Montano
Blake Butler	Alison Shott	Cheryl Harding
Arzie Chant	Shirley Wales	Mohammad Bhuiyan
Meagan Seale	Pam Bishop	Margaret McGlynn
Melanie Caldwell	Glen Tigert	Lorraine Davies
Beth MacDougall-Shackleton	Matthew Riopel	Carol Beynon
Estee Fresco	Daniel Vallancourt	Peter Simpson
Jim Dickey	Bhavin Prajapati (Guest)	Ron Wagler

*Regrets Sent:*

*Jaime Brenes Reyes, Julie Shang, Sarah Copfer, Doug Jones, June Cotte, Erica Chamberlain, Pam McKenzie, Andrew Watson, Kevin Godbout, Katrina Moser*

**1. Approval of the Minutes of October 2, 2013 (attached)**

The Minutes of the meeting were approved as circulated

**2. Business arising from the Minutes - none**

**3. SGPS Announcements and Information (Carol Beynon)**

- Welcome to guest Bhavin Prajapati, one of the two graduate student senators who is wondering whether a student senator could sit on GEC with voting rights; SGPS will bring this to the Policy committee for discussion.
- Provost's Office has been working with MTCU on Western's Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA) process about planning going forward; no further information at this point. SGPS and IPB have met with all the Deans and looked at the next five years and graduate expansion and we are just waiting to hear back on the numbers.
- The IQAP audit team was here in November; much positive feedback from the initial report, and final report forthcoming. One of the big changes to come out of the new IQAP process is the development of Learning Outcomes and curriculum mapping. The Teaching Support Centre is working with graduate program chairs with regard to LOs; next LO conference in October in Toronto. If interested contact the Associate Dean, Graduate in your faculty
- Lorraine Davies is starting sabbatical at the end of June, Linda Miller is returning for a five year term and Carol Beynon will act as the Associate Vice-Provost position until Lorraine Davies returns.

- Question from floor regarding domestic expansion if these numbers will have funding implications. Carol answered yes.
- 1000 more graduate program applications than last year have been received. Reports will be sent to faculties with breakdown between international and domestic.
- SGPS will be meeting with faculties to discuss the admissions from the previous year's process and discuss suggestions and changes for next year.

### Reports from GEC Committees

- **Operations/Agenda and Nominations (Peter Simpson)**

**Recommended that the Graduate Education Council accept and approve the following membership in the GEC**

1. Graduate Student Representative – Faculty of Law – Shirley Wales  
Graduate Student Representative – Faculty of Social Science – Alison Shott  
Graduate Student Representative – Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry – Matthew Riopel  
Graduate Student Representative – Faculty of Arts & Humanities – Jaime Brenes Reyes

*Approved as presented*

2. **SUPR-G Faculty Representatives Required** (nominees from the floor)  
<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/senate/cttees/supr-g.pdf>
  - i. Tamara Hinan , Graduate Student, (terms ends June 30, 2014)
  - ii. Jim Dickey, Graduate Chair, Kinesiology (terms ends June 30, 2014) –

**Nominated:**

Clayton Hamilton, Graduate Student  
Jason Brown, Faculty Member

- **Academic Policy and Regulations (Lorraine Davies)**

- i. **8.4.4.2 Stage Two: The Thesis Examination**

- When the Thesis Examination is Successful
- When the Thesis Examination is Unsuccessful
- The Thesis Examination Board Deliberates and Renders a Decision

*Approved as presented*

- ii. **SGPS Constitution**

- **Operations Agenda and Nominating Committee Terms of Reference**
- **Academic Policy and Regulation Committee Terms of Reference**
- **Mentorship and Professional Development Committee Terms of Reference**
- **Postdoctoral Scholar Advisory Committee (Peter Simpson)**

*Approved as presented*

- iii. **Mentorship & Professional Development**

- Lead GTA Report
  - two years ago the lead GTA program was developed. Currently we have 8 people.
  - feedback has been very positive
  - Nominations are currently open
  - Jennifer Hutchinson, current Lead GTA, described her positive experiences; Positive outcomes indicates that this pilot should continue

#### 4. Other business

##### i) Information on Post-docs

- Canadian Postdoctoral survey, nationwide information and Western specific information three key concerns that came from the survey are:
  - Grey status ( currently neither student or faculty)
  - Proper recognition, grant funding, proper paid wages
  - Unhappy with the training does not match careers that they end up pursuing
  - Blake Butler Postdoctoral Fellow at Western University said the people at CAPS will provide a document summarizing the data for Postdocs here at western.
  - 43% of postdocs do not get vacation
  - Currently Postdocs that are not in the union can opt in to SOGS health plan. This is causing problems for SOGS (SOGS can continue to help support in the short term but we must find another option long-term) we need to work something out.
- National organization CAPA - Mihaela Harnos from our SGPS is one of the founders and lead executive member.
  - CAPA is trying to work with the tri agencies to get a consistent policy on postdoc benefits.

##### ii) Why a Graduate member might sit on GEC - Bhavin Prajapati

- having a contact with SGPS admin. Student services wanted to have someone on the GEC build a connection between us and student. There is hesitation from some faculty aiming to have a student senator for each faculty; - Bring forward to the next policy meeting having a Graduate Student sit on GEC.