

Minutes of the Meeting of Graduate Education Council (GEC) Tuesday, June 20, 2023

The meeting was held at 12:00pm, in the Western Interdisciplinary Research Building, Room 3000, and via Zoom.

COUNCILLORS:

Akis Psygkas – Law
Arzie Chant – Engineering
Ayman El Ansary – Engineering
Busra Copuroglu – SGPS/Arts
Cindi Ryde – Health Sciences
Doug Woolford – Science
Genevieve De Viveiros – French Studies
Immaculate Namukasa – Education
Jamie Baxter – Social Science
Joanna Blom – Engineering
Kamran Siddiqui – Engineering
Kelly Hatch – University Librarian
Kevin Mooney – Music

Linda Miller – SGPS (Chair)
Lisa Hodgetts – Social Science
Lisa Latif – Registrar's Office Δ
Liz Webb – Science
Lorraine Davies – SGPS
Marguerite Lengyell – Education
Matheus Sanita Lima – Science
Melanie-Anne Atkins – CTL Δ
Melissa Adler – Information & Media Studies
Michael Milde – POLICY Chair
Nandi Bhatia – Arts & Humanities
Pam McKenzie – Information & Media Studies
Peter Donahue – Kings
Ruth Martin – SGPS

Sharon Wei – Music
Shawn Whitehead – Schulich
Tom Drysdale – Schulich
Tony Adebero – SGPS/Health Sciences
Victor Chu – SGPS/Schulich
Waliu Alaka – SOGS
Yolanda Babenko-Mould – Health Sciences

OBSERVERS:

Mark Wolfe – SGPS
Roger Chabot – SGPS
Ron Wagler – SGPS

| | Items/Discussion (Host) | Motion(s)/Action Item(s) |
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| 1. | Land Acknowledgement and Welcome Jamie Baxter offered a Land Acknowledgement. Members were asked to follow the accessibility practices of stating their name before sharing a comment and concluding with "end of thought". | |
| 2. | Minutes of Prior Meeting It was moved by Michael Milde, seconded by Kamran Siddiqui, That the minutes of meeting of May 2, 2023, be approved as circulated. | CARRIED |
| 3. | Results of E-Vote Further to discussions held on May 2, 2023, Linda Miller, Vice-Provost (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies), reported that an e-vote was conducted to approve an Interdisciplinary Combined PhD option. The motion was carried and went forward, via the Senate Academic Policy Committee, to Senate on June 9, 2023. Now a policy, this option can be advertised and promoted. | |
| 4. | New Business | |
| 4.1 | GEC Academic Policy Committee Lorraine Davies, Associate Vice-Provost (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies), presented the following recommendations from GEC Academic Policy Committee. Lorraine provided the background for each agenda item and reviewed the proposed changes. | |
| | 4.1.1 SGPS Membership It was moved by Jamie Baxter, seconded by Kamran Siddiqui, That Graduate Education Council approve the revisions to Duration and the additions, with friendly amendments, to addresses membership Implications of Retirement and Leaving Western (Regulations 10.2, 10.4, 10.5). | CARRIED |

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| <p>A 10-minute discussion ensued.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members supported two friendly amendments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10.4: Switch the order of the two sentences within the first paragraph and use bullets 10.5: Rename title to "<u>Faculty Members</u> Who Leave Western for Reasons Other Than Retirement" <p>It was moved by Kamran Siddiqui, seconded by Waliu Alaka,</p> <p>That Graduate Education Council approve the revisions to the SGPS Membership Regulations that address the Criteria and Qualifications for Master's and Doctoral Membership (Regulation 10.3).</p> <p>No discussion.</p> | CARRIED |
| <p>4.1.2 Registration</p> <p>It was moved by Matheus Sanita Lima, seconded by Shawn Whitehead,</p> <p>That Graduate Education Council approve and recommend the addition of the student progress and withdrawal statements to Regulation 4.07 and the deletion of the sentence that relates to the Scholastic Discipline for Graduate Students' Policy to Senate Academic Policy Committee.</p> <p>No discussion.</p> | CARRIED |
| <p>4.1.3 Financial Support</p> <p>It was moved by Matheus Sanita Lima, seconded by Arzie Chant,</p> <p>That Graduate Education Council approve the revisions to the Funding for Students in Research-Based Programs that addresses band funding and the Funding Plan communication to students (Regulations 5.01).</p> <p>Lorraine Davies shared that Amanda Myers's and Christie Bressette have been consulted and both support this proposed change. A 20-minute discussion ensued.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was recommended that GEC consider a similar change for Students who win a scholarship as this merit-based achievement should not impact a Student's base funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linda Miller noted that Band Funding is distinct from a scholarship as it's neither competitive nor adjudicated; As per our consultation with Indigenous colleagues, this is akin to getting money from your family It was proposed that a sentence be added to differentiate between the two It was recommended that instead of "Band funding received by Indigenous students...", the policy could read "Support provided by an Indigenous Student's Band..." <p>ACTION: Lorraine to consult Christy Bressette on this revised wording and bring her recommendation back to GEC in the fall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members agreed to proceed with approving the wording as written for the benefit of incoming students A few members expressed concern over the removal of the phrase "but no later than the third week of their first term of study" as programs may find it difficult to predict the funding a year in advance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members agreed that students need to know what their funding package is before they start a program (e.g., many must sign a one-year lease) | CARRIED |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programs are increasingly complying with this policy; Ron added that a student's promise of funding is for three terms from their admit term A friendly amendment to the second sentence within the sixth paragraph "This Funding Plan must be updated each year hereafter <u>during the Student's fundable period.</u>" | |
| 4.1.4 Admissions | <p>It was moved by Matheus Sanita Lima, seconded by Lisa Hodgetts,</p> <p>That Graduate Education Council to approve and recommend the revisions to Admissions (Regulation 2) to the Senate Committee on Academic Policy.</p> <p>A 5-minute discussion ensued.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members were reminded that university programs receive accreditation; not the institution itself <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was proposed that "recognized" could be used instead of accredited GEC Policy had an in-depth discussion on this topic As per Wiki, there is information on Accreditation that we may wish to explore Ayman El Ansary shared that Engineers Canada are looking into which Engineering Programs are recognized. Ayman offered to bring more information back to this table to help with curriculum mapping for international students Members agreed to keep the wording "from an accredited university or college" in the proposal for now <p>ACTION: Lorraine Davies to consult with the SGPS Admissions Team and provide an update to the GEC Academic Policy Committee in the fall.</p> | CARRIED |
| 4.2 | <p>Call for Nominations</p> <p>Linda Miller invited members to consider a self-nomination and/or to pass along the information to anyone who may be interested in serving on the Senate Subcommittee on Program Review – Graduate for any of the following vacant seats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three Graduate Student representatives (term July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024) One Faculty Member* representative (term July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2025) - * a Graduate Chair or Graduate Committee Member at the time of their election | |
| 5. | For Information | |
| 5.1 | <p>2023-2024 Meeting Schedules</p> <p>The Graduate Education Council Meeting Schedule, circulated with the agenda, has been expanded to include the dates for GEC Academic Policy and Senate. This format helps to depict the timelines for a proposed change which requires Senate approval authority.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate Education Council is scheduled for the fourth Wednesday of alternating months between September and May GEC Academic Policy Committee is scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month from September to June | |
| 6. | <p>Other Business</p> <p>Linda Miller thanked members for sharing their wisdom this academic year. On behalf of Graduate Education Council, Michael Milde thanked Linda Miller for her leadership on this Committee for the past 14 years!</p> | |

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| 7. | Adjourn | |
| | The meeting adjourned at 1:16pm | Date of next meeting: September 27, 2023 |

Recorded by Ann Hoffer