Minutes of the Meeting of
Graduate Education Council (GEC)
Wednesday, September 27, 2023

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

Attendees:
Melissa Adler          Matthew Dumouchel          Candace Loosley          Ali Rabiei
Waliu Alaka            Rory Gillis               Julie Marion             Jiandong Ren
Liliana Alvarez Jaramillo  Joseph Gilroy           Carrie Anne Marshall    Clare Robinson
Godwin Arku            Michael Godfrey          Charlie McKenzie         Matheus Sanita Lima
Safia Bagha             Jovan Groen              Mary Helen McMurrain    Marina Schmidt
Whitney Barrett         Mihaela Harmos           Jordyn Meaney            Jamie Seabrook
Nica Borradaile        Courtney Harper          Jesse Mehravar           Kamran Siddiqui
Kara Brown              Kelly Hatch               Linda Miller (Chair)    Sarah Smith
Julie Byrd              Elizabeth Hayden         Paul Minda              Robert Stainton
Roger Chabot           Julie Jonkhans            Marisa Modeski          Mindy Studnicka
Lily Cho                Jeremy Johnston          Kevin Mooney            Stephanie Turnbull
Chris Circelli          Susuana Kwaning          Laura Murray            Ron Wagler
Thao Dang               Dan Langohr              Immaculate Namukasa     Heather Wakely
Lorraine Davies (Co-Chair)  Lise Laporte          Mars Noorani             Liz Webb
Manuel Diaz             Celeste Laube            Ileana Paul             Mark Wolfe
Peter Donahue           Anna Lee LeBlanc         Jennifer Plaskett       Audrey Yardley-Jones
Tom Drysdale            Marguerite Lengyell       Anabel Quan-Haase       Ryley Yost

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
J. Groen offered a Land Acknowledgement.

Members were asked to follow the accessibility practices of stating their name, role and Faculty before sharing a comment and/or moving/seconding a motion. The Chair outlined the procedures to be used while voting on motions.

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

Item 2.0 - Minutes of the Meeting of June 20, 2023

It was moved by L. Murray, seconded by K. Siddiqui,
    That the minutes of the meeting of June 20, 2023, be approved as circulated.
CARRIED

REPORT OF THE GEC ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE

L. 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.

Item 3.1 – Admissions

It was moved by M. Sanita Lima, seconded by T. Drysdale,
    That Graduate Education Council approve and recommend the revisions to Admissions (Regulation 2) to Senate Academic Policy Committee.
CARRIED

No discussion.
Item 3.2 – SGPS Membership

It was moved by M. Sanita Lima, seconded by L. Webb,

That Graduate Education Council approve the revised additions which addresses membership Implications of Retirement from Western (Regulation 10.4).

CARRIED

No discussion.

ANNUAL REPORTS

L. Miller, Vice-Provost (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies), shared that the following Annual Reports will be presented to Graduate Education Council each fall to highlight the work of the previous year. Linda added that P. Cameron was scheduled to provide an update on the Spring 2023 Scholarship Report, but this topic has been deferred to next GEC meeting.

Item 4.1 GEC Mentorship Advisory Committee

This committee has yet to be established.

Item 4.2. GEC Postdoctoral Affairs Advisory Committee

M. Harmos, Postdoctoral Services Coordinator, provided an overview of the GEC Postdoctoral Affairs Advisory Committee Annual Report, distributed with the agenda. Mihaela invited T. Drysdale to share the outcomes of a recent pilot at Schulich to increase the number of postdoctoral teaching opportunities. After highlighting the pilot and its successes, Tom invited other Faculties to take advantage of this pilot; noting there could be teaching opportunities between Faculties (e.g., Health Sciences and Schulich).

Item 4.3. GEC Professional Development Advisory Committee

J. Jonkhans, Doctoral Professional Development Coordinator, presented the Own Your Future Program (OYF) Annual Report, distributed with the agenda. Julie highlighted that the data in Table 1 can help each Faculty to determine if they wish to add programming/topics or request specialized programming for their students. Members were asked to help promote this program to increase participation/engagement in OYF (e.g., forwarding our messaging; including OYF in orientation sessions). Members were invited to contact J. Jonkhans to learn more about the OYF program and/or to request specialized programming.

Item 4.4. Appeals Report

The Report to the Graduate Education Council : Graduate Appeals, distributed with the agenda, included data by Faculty for appeals at the program-level and appeals to SGPS. He noted that SGPS has seen an increase in the number of appeals.

Item 4.5. Scholastic Offense Report

R. Chabot noted that 19 (of 24) scholastic offences involved plagiarism. A brief discussion ensued about the broader adoption of AI and if ChatGPT could be responsible for the increase. L. Miller shared that it is difficult to know what is behind the overall increase.

Many universities are currently drafting policies on AI Detection Software

Linda shared her plan to consult with the Associate Deans-Graduate who will consult with programs/students and report back to GEC Policy to help shape the SGPS Policy.

Members were invited to share R. Chabot’s contact information within their Faculty as Roger is available to support Graduate Program Chairs in interpreting Senate Policies and linking them to SGPS resources (e.g., decision-letters).

Item 4.6. Western’s Institutional Quality Assurance Report

Western’s Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) Report, distributed with the agenda, included the following:

- 2020-2021 Cyclical Reviews
- 2022-2023 Cyclical Reviews
- 2022-2023 New Program Approved to Commence
- listing of all Major Modifications to existing programs (September 2022-June 2023)

Candace added that every graduate program is required to be evaluated every seven years. In 2021, we had significant delays due to COVID-19.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO GEC COMMITTEES

L. Davies announced the Call for Nominations for the following vacancies. Unless otherwise noted, the nominees do not need to be a member of GEC. A number of nominations were raised from the floor. Lorraine shared that we will accept additional nominations for all seats (name and faculty) until Monday, October 2nd at 4pm. Should an election be required, a virtual vote will be held in the coming weeks.

GEC Academic Policy Committee
- Two Graduate Assistants who are not from the same Faculty and who are members of GEC (two-year cycles, on a rotational basis)**
- Two Graduate Students who represent the diversity of graduate programs (one-year cycles, on a rotational basis)**

GEC Professional Development Advisory Committee
- Three Graduate Students (1 PhD, 1 research Master's, 1 professional program)**
- One Postdoctoral Scholar
- One Graduate Assistant
- Two Graduate Program Chairs**
- Two Associate Deans-Graduate**

NEW BUSINESS/OTHER
None.

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting adjourned at 1pm. The date of the next Council meeting is November 22, 2023

Recorded by Ann Hoffer