

Minutes of the Graduate Education Council Meeting

Date: May 5th, 2015

The Meeting was held at 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm in Room 1N05 International and Graduate Affairs Building

Attendees:

<i>Amit Chakma</i>	<i>Linda Miller</i>	<i>Carol Beynon</i>
<i>Peter Simpson</i>	<i>Malcolm Ruddock</i>	<i>Matt Dumouchel</i>
<i>Rebecca Waldie</i>	<i>Cristine De Clercy</i>	<i>Jaime Brenes Reyes</i>
<i>Aisha Haque</i>	<i>Jason Brown</i>	<i>Doug Jones</i>
<i>Kristen Reilly</i>	<i>Paul Ragogna</i>	<i>Arzie Chant</i>
<i>Ron Wagler</i>	<i>Kamran Siddiqui</i>	<i>Catherine Nolan</i>
<i>Robert Wood</i>	<i>Eric Smiley</i>	<i>Nandi Bhatia</i>
<i>Ruth Martin</i>	<i>Cheryl Harding</i>	<i>Susan Scollie</i>
<i>Greg Kopp</i>	<i>Erika Chamberlain</i>	<i>Jiro Inoue</i>
<i>Chantal Lemire</i>	<i>Alison Shott</i>	<i>Alison Allan</i>
<i>Pam Bishop</i>	<i>Andrew Johnson</i>	<i>Katie Merchant</i>
<i>Matt Thomson</i>	<i>Paula Menzies Cameron</i>	<i>Pam McKenzie</i>
<i>Margret McGlynn</i>	<i>Liwen Vaughan</i>	<i>Catherine Steeves</i>
<i>Melanie Caldwell</i>		

Regrets:

<i>Carol Jones</i>	<i>Joanna Quinn</i>	<i>Candace Loosley</i>	<i>Aaron Simkovich</i>
<i>Randal Graham</i>	<i>Lizhen Guo</i>	<i>Estee Fresco</i>	<i>Maya Kumar</i>
<i>Julie Shang</i>	<i>Nanda Dimitrov</i>	<i>Shirley Wales</i>	

1. Approval of the Minutes of December 9th, 2014 (attached)

The Minutes of the meeting were approved as circulated with some further discussion regarding Membership.

Clarification: Supervision membership requires a faculty appointment which can be an adjunct appointment.

2. Business arising from the Minutes (Carol Beynon)

2.1 Living Well @ Western: Wellness Wednesdays

- Launched for Graduate Students, started in April including Pet Therapy, Wellness Walks, and Music in the Atrium. Living Well at Western is also doing Yoga every Wednesday, everyone is welcome.

A reminder, please sign the Council Attendance Sheet before leaving the meeting

3. Reports from GEC Committees (Peter Simpson, Carol Beynon)

i. Operations/Agenda and Nominations (Peter Simpson)

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

- a. Graduate Chair Representative July 2015 - June 30 2018) (3 year term)
 - Tilottama Rajan
 - Rod Dekoter (*Rod Dekoter has since noted that he is unable to serve. A new nomination to come forward at the next meeting*)

Acclamation

- b. Faculty Representatives (July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2018) (3 year terms)
 1. Arts & Humanities – Jan Plug
 2. Music – Robert Wood
 3. Engineering – To be confirmed
 4. Science – Elizabeth Webb
 5. Social Science – To be confirmed

- c. SUPR-G Representatives Required – Term ends June 30, 2017.

- Kamran Siddiqui, Faculty Representative
- Chantel Lemire, Graduate Student Representative

(Nominees from the floor)

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/senate/cttees/supr-g.pdf>

Acclamation

ii. Academic Policy and Regulations Committee Report (Carol Beynon)

- No additional information brought forward from the Policy Committee
- Update on revised graduate membership process that was approved through GEC in December and brought forward to UWOFA. Three slides were shown that reviewed membership categories; current memberships will be transferred over to the new process.

iii. Postdoctoral Committee Report (Peter Simpson)

- Canadian Survey of Postdoctoral fellows was conducted with three main concerns brought forward: remuneration; concern re status as neither faculty, student or staff, lack of preparation for careers outside academia.

To help address not being well prepared for life outside of academia Western has developed a Professional Development program that will launch July 1/2015. A round table for discussion has been set up in June to discuss the content of the Professional Development program. A major push will be in collaboration with supervisors to create with their students a training plan at the beginning to help guide students with their career plan.

- Research Forum to be held May 7 from 9:00 – 5:30 in the Great Hall; 3:30-5:00 is the Three Minute Research talks for PostDocs and a reception to follow in the Great Hall

iv. Mentorship and Professional Development Committee Report

- No report at this time
- A sincere thank you to the Teaching Support Centre for everything they do.

4. GPS Announcements and Information (Linda Miller)

- PowerPoint presentation highlighting enrolment growth in graduate studies over the last decade, including increased number of programs and funding
- Set stage for dialogue with President Chakma for remainder of meeting

5. Dr. Amit Chakma, President, Western University

- Open discussion related to Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

6. Other business

- The versatile PhD program Western has subscribed to for the last two years but is not being well used we are going to try for one more year.
- My Grad Skills is another program that is being used Western has topped the charts for students accessing the modules. Dr. Miller added that OCGS responded to the need for online course development, and they put forward an initiative to develop online research methods and data analyst modules that could be accessible to all graduate students across Ontario.
- Follow up to Policy, there has been some questions regarding why the policy committee has not met, please note that nothing has been brought forward to the Policy Committee or GEC to work on please bring forward any items you feel that need to be looked at.