

**Summary of a Meeting of the  
COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH  
Held in the Council Chamber, University Hall  
Wednesday, February 17, 2010, 2:00 pm**

Attendance

M Shirvani in the Chair  
M Allen

Department Representatives

S Caulfield, Art & Design	D Burshtyn, Medical Microbiology & Imm
J Chang, Biological Sciences	E Le, Modern Lang & Cultural Studies
Joan White, Business MBA	H Bashaw, Music
D Cooper, Business PhD	D Collins, Neuroscience
R Greiner, Computing Science	P Koop, Nursing
T Chacko, Earth & Atmospheric Sci	R Godbout, Oncology
CR Lindsey, Economics	A El-Kadi, Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences
J McClay, Elementary Education	S Petersen, Physical Education & Recreation
M Cavanagh, Faculté Saint-Jean	C Sturdy, Psychology
H Madill, Health Promotion Studies	P Blenis, Renewable Resources
J Martin, Lab Medicine & Pathology	M Luckert, Rural Economy
T Hillen, Mathematical & Stat Sci	K Hughes, Sociology
	C Boliek, Speech Pathology & Audiology

Graduate Program Administrators

S Campbell, Medicine

Graduate Student Representatives

R Coulthard, GSA President	M Azadi, Mechanical Engineering
M Rahman, GSA VP Academic	A Chazimirsaid, Mechanical Engineering
A Laarman, Agriculture, Food & Nut Sci	A Mohamed, Pharmacy
R Shott, Biochemistry	C Dyck, Political Science
F Anderson, Computing Science	E Omosa, Rural Economy
B Jensen, Earth & Atmospheric Sci	B Farnesi, Pediatrics
H Stack-Cutler, Educational Psychology	

Ex officio

G Pavlich, Office of the VP (Research)  
A Schmude, Office of the Registrar

Guest

C Hackett, Office of Student Judicial Affairs  
C Prado, Postdoctoral Fellows Association  
R Bhat, VP Research, Postdoctoral Fellows Association

**1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was approved.

**2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**a) Approval of the January 20, 2010 summary minutes**

The minutes were approved.

**b) Matters arising**

FGSR circulated an updated Total Graduate Financial Support 07-08 document to Council. The table reflects the numbers for both trust-funded RAs and scholarships. External scholarships are not reflected. FGSR expects to have the 08-09 numbers soon.

**3. FORMAL BUSINESS**

**Notice of Motion for the March 17, 2010 FGSR Council Meeting  
Calendar Statement on ethical practice**

A proposed calendar statement on ethical practice was circulated to Council. C Hackett told council that the proposal fills the need for a statement of ethics for graduate students, providing a description of expectations and policies already in place. The new statement works to ensure graduate students know they will be held ethically accountable, regardless of their training or exposure to policies.

**4. INFORMAL BUSINESS**

**a) Discussion Topic**

**Central Funding Support for Graduate Students: Needs-based or Merit-based?**

The Chair presented Council with data concerning the scholarships administered by the FGSR:

- FGSR controls approximately \$4.9 million in scholarship funds (~5% of the funding available to graduate students)
- Total award dollars per student vary from \$0 - \$60,000
- Departments have different approaches to central funds – some provide low funding dollars to reach higher numbers of students, while other departments provide high funding to a small number of students

The chair opened the floor to councilors for feedback concerning whether the FGSR should be distributing scholarship funds based on student need or merit. Discussion included:

- More graduate scholarships money should be based on need rather than merit because graduate students, particularly doctoral students, have already established their academic excellence.
- There is disparity in that the QEIs are based on merit, but exclude international students
- Difficult to monitor student need, as we do not track non-university funding, other sources of income, etc. One method of determining need would be to look at students' CRA total income.
- TA funds are included in each department's operating budget; departments may choose how to allocate the funds, either needs-based or merit-based.
- GSA provides 50 \$2,000 emergency bursaries each year based on need. As the demand for both the bursaries and the campus food bank have been growing, there is greater demand for need-based funds.
- How are other 90% of awards granted? Is there a hole for needs-based awards to fill?
- Most departments do not guarantee a minimum level of funding
- FGSR would need an extra \$19 million to ensure all doctoral students receive minimum funding of \$20,000.

**b) Question Period**

None.

**c) Announcements and Reports by the Chair and Councilors**

**1. Update on provincial government-funded graduate scholarship programs**

The U of A received funding for 227 master's (at \$10,800 each) and 162 doctoral (at \$15,000 each) QEII Awards this year. There will be 222 master's and 151 doctoral

distributed to departments. Five master's awards will be withheld by FGSR for departments with a quota of zero, if they are able to make a case for one of their students. Eleven doctoral awards will be withheld by FGSR to correct for last year's over expenditure of awards for aboriginals (these awards were to come out of central budget, but the funds are lacking). There are no extra awards allocated for aboriginals this year. The total number of awards dropped by approximately 130 because international students are excluded from the student-ratio count.

FGSR evaluated the 80-10-10 vs 50-25-25 formula (previous QEIs won-eligible Tri-Council awards-full time domestic students), and found the results to be almost identical. FGSR will be using the 50-25-25 formula this year. The department quotas will be distributed within the next two weeks.

Departments should review students' GPAs and ensure they are 3.3 or greater. The FGSR does not adjudicate QEIs, but will check eligibility.

For the General Awards competition, the Chair advised department quotas for Killam and Dissertation nominations will be listed as one total – departments may submit any combination of the two awards. The deadline for QEI nominations to be submitted to FGSR is June 1, 2010.

## **2. Graduate Education at the University of Alberta (Vision Statement)**

M Allen shared the committee's current vision statement with Council. Suggestions from Council included:

- Inclusion of the phrases/words: global impact, curious, citizens or citizenship
- Discussion surrounding "to graduate". Possible replacements include "to educate" or "to develop".
- Discussion surrounding modifying "common good" to more current phrasing, such as "pursuing social objectives"
- Discussion surrounding "lead the transformation". Possible replacements include "who will lead society" or "transform society"
- Avoiding jargon, such as "uplifting of the whole people"

Any thoughts or key words can be forwarded to M Allan at [marion.allen@ualberta.ca](mailto:marion.allen@ualberta.ca) by the end of March.

## **3. Report of the GSA**

GSA President R Coulthard provided Council with a GSA update. There are many new GSA elected representatives and staff members. The next GSA election will include referendums regarding the current U-pass, a potential spring & summer U-pass, and activity & wellness centre fees. The new Graduate Student Residence is being built, and will be ready for students by September 2010.

### **d) Other Business**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.