Summary of a Meeting of the
COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH
Held in the Council Chamber, University Hall Wednesday,
November 17, 2011, 2:00 pm

Attendance
Ex officio
M Shirvani, Dean & Chair R Poliquin, Vice-Dean
J Harrington, Assoc Dean G Pavlich, Office of the VP Research
L Rose, FGSR Council Secretary

Department Representatives
N. Lovell (for Andie Palmer), Anthropology R Brown, Law
S Harris, Art and Design M Mackey, Library Info Studies
D Stuart, Biochemistry T Nearey, Linguistics
H McDermid, Biological Sciences S Hughes, Medical Genetics
J White, Business MBA D Burshtyn, Med Micro & Immunology
T Simmen, Cell Biology A Nahachewsky, MLCS
K Cadien, Chem Mat Eng H Bashaw, Music
M McDermott, Chemistry C Andersen, Native Studies
D Chan, Civil & Environmental Engineering K Moore, Nursing
E Posse de Chaves, Pharmacology S Persad, Pediatrics
J Sander, Comp Sci A El-Kadi, Pharm, Pharm Sci
C Flores Mir, Dentistry S Peterson, Physical Education
T Chacko, Earth Atmospheric Sci L Kline, Physiology
T Ono, East Asian Studies L Thorlakson, Political Sci
B Humphreys, Economics T Checknita, Psychiatry
D Chovanec, Ed Pol Sci N Galambos, Psychology
R McKay, Educational Studies J Volden, Rehab Sci
A Kirova, Elementary Education G Thomas, Secondary Ed
C Harol, English and Film Studies K Hughes, Sociology
G Armstrong, Renewable Resources

Graduate Program Administrator Representatives
J Forslund, AFNS

Graduate Student Representatives
N Yousefi, GSA VP Academic
T Korassa, GSA VP Labour
A Abdelmoneim, Pharmaceutical Sci
S Gilady, Medicine
F Mani, Chem and Mat Eng
J Meston, Educ Policy Studies
A Schlacht, Cell Biology
F Shariff, Secondary Education
J Stolar, Renewable Resources

Guests/Observers
M Airmet, Neuroscience L Harder, Arts
J Anderson, FGSR T Krukoff, FoMD
C Hanrahan, FGSR J Maclean, Graduate Ombudsperson
1 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
   Approval of the September 2011 minutes was deferred. “Presentation from the Dean” was added as Item 9. The agenda was approved with changes.

2 SUMMARY OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
   To allow adequate time for consideration of the content, approval of the September 21, 2011 summary minutes was deferred until the next meeting of Council.

3 Matters arising from the minutes
   Program Fees
   A memo providing information questions with answers on thesis-based program fees was presented. [See meeting package.] The Dean briefly reviewed the content with Council and noted that fees tables were not attached but would be sent to Council members before the next meeting. He invited members to submit additional questions to him for inclusion on the memo that programs may send to students.

4 Comments from the Chair
   A presentation was added to the agenda as item 9 on the agenda. See item 9 for comments from the Chair.

ACTION ITEMS

5 New Combined Degree: MBA/Pharmacy
   J. White provided a brief summary of the proposal. She noted that the combined degree is MBA and BSc, Pharmacy and explained that the Pharmacy degree has been offered in its current format for the past 5 years. The combination of the degrees increases diversity in studies for the MBA program and provides business education for students in the Pharmacy program.

   The following questions were raised:
   Q. Does reduced credits reduce eligibility for graduates of the combined degree to enter a doctoral program?
   A. No limitations for PhD eligibility are known.
   Q. What is the success of other combined programs?
   A. 1) MD/MBA launched in June 2011 with 2 students
       2) JD/MBA has typically 4-6 students registered per year

   The motion to approve the proposal was PUT and CARRIED, 46 – 0, 3 abstentions.

6. New Master of Coaching Degree
   S. Peterson provided a brief summary of the proposal. He explained that the degree is intended to replace the existing option in the course-based MA program that has been offered for at least 10 years. He noted that the current program has been very successful in recruiting strong students who have been successful in the program and subsequently obtained good jobs in athletics. He noted that the change to a named degree will improve the marketability of the program and the graduates in their career development.

   Questions were raised regarding the impact on the current MA program. S. Peterson explained that the current MA program remains successful and would continue as such without the option of coaching.

   It was noted that there were only 2 other similar programs in Canada: MEd with a Specialization in Coaching Studies, at the University of Victoria and a Master of Coaching at the University of Ottawa.

   It was questioned whether a master of Physical Education or Kinesiology could more readily meet other potential, program development in the Faculty of Physical Education in the future. S. Peterson responded that the MA currently serves that purpose.

   It was confirmed that there would be no specializations within the degree.
   S. Peterson noted that Coaching is a field of study but also a profession. The focus for this degree is to develop coaches. This would be more challenging in a program with a more general focus and the addition of a specialization.

   It was noted that CAQC is currently working towards the classification of degrees as professional versus research. This may pose a risk that the existing MA could be classified as professional. It is anticipated that the MA will remain classified as a research degree

   The motion was PUT and CARRIED, 38 – 3, 7 abstentions.

INFORMATION ITEMS

7. Supervisors and Termination Presentation (See presentation slides in Council Package).
   J Harrington presented a brief review of sections 7.13 and 8.5 of the FGSR Graduate Program Manual. Key points highlighted included:
   - A supervisor cannot terminate a student’s program of studies. It is the Chair or Graduate Coordinator who decides whether to submit a written recommendation for termination. Supervisors and Administrators may submit requests to the Chair or Graduate Coordinator.
   - A Guidance Note on termination was presented and can be found at:
     http://www.gradstudies.ualberta.ca/facstaff/resourcesgradcoords.htm
   - J Harrington referred Council to a list of “Resources on campus to assist graduate students” found at:
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M Shirvani reported on the current status of Scholarships and Awards competitions in FGSR.

**Vanier Scholarship**
69 applications were received for the Vanier Scholarship. He noted that nationally, 40% of the quota was left unfilled. The results of the Vanier competition are expected in March 2012. He added that the national competition was formerly managed with a 2-step process but is now handled in 3 steps with a focus on leadership.

**Queen Elizabeth II Awards**
The allocation of QEII awards is mostly filled for this year.

**Letters of Financial Support**
General Legal Council for the University has agreed to look at Department templates and provide feedback. It was noted that legal advice would not include policy advice regarding the terms under which funding would be offered.

**China Scholarship Council (CSC)**
M Shirvani reported that the UA continues to participate in the CSC partnership to recruit quality students from China. UA remains a popular exhibitor at the CSC recruitment fair in China. The latest fair was held in October 2011. 2 UA representatives attended the fair: 1 representative for Undergraduate and 1 representative for Graduate Studies. 141 completed applications have already been received from students who attended the fair. Science and Engineering remain the most popular programs for participants at the CSC fair. FGSR will forward the application packages to the applicable departments. The Chair noted that most students have to go through their home university before applying for CSC funding. “CSC admissions to UA are subject to receipt of CSC scholarship,” can be stipulated as a condition of admission. FGSR is working to find some domestic tuition support for CSC students.

**Doctoral Recruitment Scholarship**
The Scholarship Committee will be assessing the Doctoral Recruitment scholarship. A brief activity report may be useful for review of unsuccessful offers of admission. The applicant information is already in the system. The Chair noted that it will be helpful if Departments can provide information on why a student did not accept the offer.

The Chair reported that the yield weight for admission offers to registrations is ~75%. He noted that departments had spent ~80% of the recruitment scholarship dollars allocated to them.

The Chair explained the financial challenges that transpired last year for recruitment scholarships.

$3.2 M was budgeted. However $4.2M was spent. There is currently $2.45 M committed. It is anticipated that the deficit for these awards should be recovered by 2014. Given that department allocations remain unspent in some areas, there is some concern that FGSR will not be permitted to maintain the deficit over 3 years. This matter will be discussed with the Provost before the December 2011 Council meeting and the Chair should be able to report on next steps at that time.

10. J. Harrington explained that the Policy Committee is reviewing the question of whether or not Graduate Students should be permitted to take Undergraduate courses as part of their program and asked Council for input on this matter. A policy will be brought forward to the next meeting for consideration.

It was noted that in accordance with S.204.1.1 of the Calendar course-based masters students must take Graduate courses but the section is silent on the matter for thesis-based programs. A member commented that students take Undergraduate courses to raise their GPA and the courses should therefore, be considered as extra to program.

A member commented that in some cases it is more difficult to obtain passing grades in Undergraduate courses. It was suggested that thesis-based students should be allowed to take Undergraduate courses as they may need additional introductory background in specialized areas, i.e. languages. Several members suggested that this should be up to the Programs’ discretion and should not be regulated by the FGSR. A member suggested that the policy could indicate the “normally” Undergraduate courses are not permitted in a Graduate Program.

A member commented that if a student required additional course work beyond the program requirements then it should be considered extra to program.

**ADJOURNMENT**
The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.