

MINUTES

Graduate Education Council

Tuesday, April 10, 2018, 3:10 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Governing Council Chambers, Room 214, Simcoe Hall

The meeting was called to order 3:10 p.m.

The Acting Dean called the meeting to order and welcomed all members.

1. Approval of the Agenda of the Graduate Education (GEC) Meeting of January 30, 2018

MOTION (*duly moved by Elizabeth Smyth and seconded by Cameron Wachowich*)

THAT the agenda of the Graduate Education Council meeting of April 10, 2018, as printed and circulated, be approved.

The motion is **CARRIED**.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Graduate Education Council Meeting of January 30, 2018

The Acting Dean noted that the minutes of the January 30, 2018 meeting were distributed with the agenda.

MOTION (*duly moved by Elizabeth Smyth and seconded by Jan Mahrt Smith*)

THAT the minutes of the Graduate Education Council meeting of January 30, 2018 be approved.

The motion is **CARRIED**.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Dean's Remarks

The Acting Dean summarized recent SGS initiatives in the PowerPoint presentation appended to the minutes.

- **Redefining the SGS Decanal Team** – Professor Joshua Barker, Dean of Graduate Studies and Vice-Provost Graduate Research and Education, will be on parental, then administrative, leave from April 16, 2018 to December 31, 2018. During this period, Professor Luc De Nil, currently Vice-Dean, Students, will assume the role of Acting Dean and Acting Vice-Provost. Professor Charmaine Williams, from the Factor Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, has agreed to take on the role of Acting Vice-Dean, Students from May 7, 2018 to December 3, 2018. At the last meeting, Dean Barker announced that a search was underway, in light of the fact that Professor Elizabeth Smyth's term as Vice-Dean Programs would be ending after nine years. On July 1, 2018, SGS will welcome Professor Gretchen Kerr from the Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education to the reconfigured position of Vice-Dean, Programs and Innovation.

- **Vice-Dean, Programs End of Term Reception** - A reception for Professor Smyth will be held in June; details will follow. The Acting Dean congratulated Liz on the end of her term and thanked her for her tireless work on behalf of graduate education at the University of Toronto.
- **SGS Strategic Plan 2018-19** – The SGS leadership team met on March 20th to identify priorities and projects for each office within SGS for 2018-19. The leadership team is in the process of distilling the comprehensive list of priorities and projects to identify short term and long term strategic priorities for SGS and ultimately, the Vice-Provostial strategic goals document. The SGS Strategic Plan will be presented at the fall meeting of GEC. **Action**
- **Graduate Wellness Portal** - The review of the SGS website continues. During meetings with the Dean, UTGSU representatives suggested that a project be initiated to serve a key student need: having a central online location where graduate students could find wellness resources that span mental health and medical concerns as well as other issues related to life-academic work balance. The portal content and its organization were developed with input from graduate students, graduate administrators, and representatives from the Graduate Conflict Resolution Centre and GradLife. The Directory will be searchable by key terms rather than using the drop-down menus. Suggestions for content are welcome and should be sent to sgs.communications@utoronto.ca. It is expected that the Portal will go live before the end of April.
- **Increasing Accessibility to Programs and Services** –In addition to launching a Wellness Portal, SGS is looking broadly at the issue of how we can make graduate school more accessible and service oriented. In partnership with the Office of Student Life, some strategies being considered are exploring: the feasibility of extending hours for SGS Wellness Counsellors; alternate timing of SGS offerings (workshops, orientation, Coffee with the Dean, meetings with student groups); initiatives for under-represented groups such as Indigenous and First-in-Family graduate students. SGS is working with Accessibility Services to have a full-time embedded Accessibility Advisor for graduate students, at SGS, beginning this fall.
- **Graduate Student Advisory Committee (GSAC)** – SGS has an overwhelming response from the call for members featured in the February gradschool e-news: nearly 30 excellent applications from graduate students with broad representation of disciplines and program stages. Chaired by the Dean of SGS, the committee will meet 4-5 times during the 2018-19 year to discuss issues and provide advice and feedback on SGS new initiatives being developed, policies, procedures and regulations.
- **Graduate Centre for Academic Communication (GCAC) Strategic Planning** – Professors Luc De Nil and Jane Freeman, Director of the Graduate Centre for Academic Communication (GCAC) have been meeting with members of the graduate community to receive feedback on the mandate of the GCAC; to conduct an environmental scan of writing and communication support for graduate students at UofT; to examine how GCAC can respond to the growing demand for its offerings; to examine the need for administrative/structural changes and to identify core space needs. The aim is to have this plan completed when the new Vice-Dean, Programs and Innovation, Professor Gretchen Kerr, begins July 1, 2018.
- **International Graduate Student Recruitment** – The School of Graduate Studies is working closely with Professor Ted Sargent's team in the Office of the Vice-President International on international recruitment strategies. UofT has joined the [CALDO Consortium](#), a consortium of Canada's leading universities working together to promote and recruit students from Latin America. Dean Barker is currently in Mexico City with a

joined a delegation from UofT. The SGS Manager of Recruitment and Admissions, Hasmik Sargsyan, will be travelling to the [CONACyT](#) Recruitment Fair, also in Mexico, to represent UofT and the School of Graduate Studies.

- **Association of American Universities (AAU)/Association of Graduate Schools (AGS) Annual Meeting** –The University of Toronto will be hosting the AAU/AGS annual meeting in late September/early October of this year. The meeting will take place over three days with one day of meetings here on campus.

5. Student Academic Services

Ms. Josie Lalonde, Director of Student Academic Services, presented the SGS Admissions and Registration Statistics Annual Report, as appended to the minutes. She noted that this is a snapshot of application, offer, and registration counts as of November 1, 2017. Applications received for Summer and Fall 2017 and Winter 2018 were up 10.9% as compared to the same period the previous year. A member asked how that compared to previous years. A. Kenzie was asked to prepare a chart for inclusion with the minutes. Many thanks to Corinne Pask-Aube, Senior Planning & Budget Officer, for her contributions in preparing this report. Please contact Josie at josie.lalonde@utoronto.ca if you have questions.

6. Update from the Graduate Centre for Academic Communication (GCAC)

Dr. Jane Freeman, Director of the Graduate Centre for Academic Communication, provided information on the increasing growth and demand for courses, workshops and numbers of students participating in Writing Centre activities. The demand for course offerings has increased, as do the waiting lists. The ORBIS registration systems allows for tracking of demographics, as shown in the attached presentation. Questions can be directed to Jane at jane.freeman@utoronto.ca.

GCAC allowed International Visiting Graduate Students (IVGS) to participate in course offerings this year as part of a pilot project. IVGS students typically spend one year, sometimes longer, working with University of Toronto research groups while receiving a degree from their home institution. They do not pay tuition, are not allowed to take courses, and most importantly, they do not have to take an English language proficiency test as an admissions requirements. The lack of English Language Proficiency of some of these students presents many challenges, as their needs are very different from those of registered graduate students. Professor De Nil asked members whether they felt the GCAC should be providing services to these students since they are not the core population of students pursuing degrees at the University of Toronto.

7. Motions

MOTION (*duly moved by Elizabeth Smyth and seconded by Hugh Segal*)

THAT Graduate Education Council approve the proposal to change the regulations in the SGS calendar with the new subsection that addresses the EdD thesis (Dissertation in Practice). These changes will become effective July 1, 2018.

One of the functions of GEC is to document changes in nomenclature throughout the School of Graduate Studies. Professor Doug McDougall, Vice-Dean Graduate at OISE, explained that this change in language was in line with OISE's work as part of the Carnegie Network of Graduate Schools of Education developing Ed D programs, and labelling of the EdD thesis as a *Dissertation in Practice*. It was noted that all SGS regulations pertaining to theses would remain in force. Over the past two years, OISE has undergone extensive consultations with Chairs, faculty, students, graduate administrators, the School of

Graduate Studies and the Vice-Provost Academic Programs. The regulation change has been appraised by the SGS Deans Leadership Group on April 3, 2018, as well as the Council of Graduate Deans on March 27, 2018. At GEC, SGS is asking for approval *In Principle* as the regulatory change is moving through OISE Governance, with final approval at OISE Faculty Council on April 11th.

A member asked if there was dissention at OISE around the change. Professor McDougall conveyed student enthusiasm and noted that it was approved in by OISE Programs Committee. A student member voiced discomfort with the *Dissertation in Practice* terminology. L. Smyth recommended that these concerns be raised at OISE Faculty Council on April 11, 2018.

Two members abstained from voting.

The motion was CARRIED.

8. Other Business

- Two statistical reports were distributed for information: 1. Non-standard Admissions and Program Cases from September 1, 2016 – August 31, 2017, and 2. the report of the Admissions and Programs Committee for 2016-17. Questions may be directed to victoria.hurlihey@utoronto.ca.

9. Closing Remarks

- Professor De Nil thanked members for their advice, support and feedback on activities of the Graduate Education Council for the past year. Some member terms will be coming to an end on June 30th of this year. For those renewing, and for those who are unavailable to renew for an additional term, we thank you for your continued commitment to supporting excellence in graduate education at UofT. A call for nominations for fill vacancies for 2018-19 will go out shortly.
- Dates for the 2018-19 academic term will be confirmed later in the summer. Normally we hold a meeting each term, with an additional reserve meeting on hold (each term) in the event that business arises requiring GEC approval or consultation.
- If no further discussion or questions, the Acting Dean thanked Council member for their participation and moved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.



Appendix to the Minutes
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO - GRADUATE EDUCATION COUNCIL
Record of Attendance – April 10, 2018

Present (Voting & Non-Voting Members)

Audet, Julie
Benjamin, Dwayne
Berry-Crossfield, Brieanne (*ex-officio*)
Brummell, Alice
Buck, Leslie
Cote, Stephane
Cresswell, Jess
Dalrymple-Fraser, Charles
De Nil, Luc (Chair)
Hu, Jim
Katz, Chaim
Koga, Midori
Mahrt-Smith, Jan
Markovic, Melanie
McDougall, Doug
McInroy, Lauren
Packer, Jeremy
Pietropaolo, Nelly
Pirvulescu, Mihela
Ratto, Matt
Sabzalieva, Emma
Segal, Hugh
Simpson, Andre*
Skira, Jerry (*ex-officio*)
Smyth, Liz (*ex-officio*)
Somigli, Luca
Steeves, Craig
Stevenson, Siobhan
Strong, Kimberly
Versace, Carmela
Wachowich, Cameron

In Attendance (Guests & SGS Staff)

Freeman, Jane
Heximer, Dianne (*Secretary to Council*)
Hurlihey, Victoria
Kenzie, Alison
Kerr, Gretchen
Lalonde, Josie
Williams, Charmaine

Absent

Alford, Larry (*ex-officio*)
Aqrabawi, Afif
Barker, Joshua
Bascia, Nina
Brooks, Dina
Danieri, Amrita
Dubber, Markus
Gertler, Meric (*ex-officio*)
Goel, Vivek
Gough, William
Johnson, Linda
Kaplan, Allan
Lee, Chi-Guhn
Locke, Marius
Mabury, Scott
Nelson, Sioban
Qudrat, Anam
Quinonez, Carlos
Rice, Keren
Schuman, Boaz
Silcox, Mary
Regehr, Cheryl
Zhang, Jonny

* Member joined via teleconference