COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

MINUTES

Three Hundred-and-Forty-first Meeting
Wednesday, 19 October 2005
ST 147 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Chair: W. L. Veale, Interim Dean
Recording Secretary: Gillian Robinson

Attendance:

Members
Azaiez, J.
Bertazzon, S.
Boyce, J.
Collins, J.
Day, R.
Dickin, J.
Edwards, M.
Habib, A.
Haines, V.
Hodgins, D.
Johns, C.
Keeley, J.
Kertzer, A.
Knudsen, K.
Lucas, A.
McGhee, J.
Mladenova, O.
Murray, R.
Peers, D.
Perron, D.
Pexman, P.
Pounder, A.
Rohleder, T.
Ross, T.
Sesay, A.
Sicotte, P.
Stebbins, R.
Stell, W.
Storey, D.
Thompson, R.
Thuridine, K.
Van der Hoorn, F.
Walde, D. (for
Oetelaar, G.)
Warren, D.
Westwick, D.
Wieser, H.
Williams, M.

Regrets
Beck, P.
Bond, R.B.
Brennan, P.
Brown, C.
Carreiro, L.
Chen, W.
Cook, F.
Duncan, N.
Elfoison, W.
Estle, D.
Evans, S.
Goddard, T.
Greenberg, S.
Hawkes, R.
Hebert, M.
Herzog, W.
Jordan, W.
Landry, E.

Faculty of Graduate Studies
Officers
Abernethy, L.
Croft, N.
Fisk, M.
Stroud, M.

341.1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA
The Chair called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the agenda with the addition of item 6.1, a report from Trudy Ross, representing the Senate.

MOTION: PEERS/ KERTZER
That Council approve the amended agenda for the Faculty of Graduate Studies Council Meeting #341 of 19 October 2005

CARRIED

341.2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: DICKIN/ KEELEY
That Council approve the minutes of the Faculty of Graduate Studies Council Meeting #340 held 18 May 2005

CARRIED

341.3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
There were no matters arising.

341.4 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR
The Chair introduced the GSA representatives and Associate Deans and staff members attending from the Faculty of Graduate Studies. He thanked Lori Abernethy for her five years of service to the Faculty as the Manager of Graduate Awards and wished her well in her move to a new position outside the University. The Chair outlined the review process that is underway for his position as Interim Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. [Dr. Veale was confirmed as Dean of the Faculty to 2007].

The Chair explained the process of the Faculty of Graduate Studies review that will take place and noted that the review committee will be chaired by Dr. Doyle Hatt.

The Faculty of Graduate Studies currently has a student population of 5,264 (cf. U of A ~6,000) this comprises 18.8% of the total student number. The number of doctoral students has increased by about 100 and is approximately 22% of all graduate students. There are 5 main sources of funding for graduate
students:
GRS 10%
GAT/GTF 20%
Trust Funds 30%
Internal Scholarships 10%
External Scholarships 30%

In April 2004 FGS issued Guidelines for Graduate Funding which emphasised three major points:

- Supervision of graduate students is a serious responsibility
- The need for clarity on stipend commitments
- Payment guidelines of $12,000 + fees, with funding priority going first to new PhD students, then current PhD students and all students

From April 1 2003 to March 31 2005 funding to students increased from $5.3m to $6.4m a total of $11.7m over the two years and a 40% increase. Approximately $4m came from the University of Calgary with the balance leveraged from other sectors e.g the Tri-Council – this year has seen an increase of $1.2m in external scholarships. A Faculty survey shows that a year ago 44% of PhD students received a stipend of $15,000+, today 81% receive this level of support.

Constant political lobbying is taking place. CAGS has made a proposal for increased funding to the Federal Government and Alberta universities are working together at the provincial level.

The Chair noted that the Faculty Progress Report for 2004 – 2005 and the Graduate Scholarship Report had been circulated. He noted that GAT funding was showing an increase of $33,091 while the previous year had seen an increase of $1.7m, this may be a result of the 5% cut that all Departments had to implement. However the amount of total support from all sources was raised by $6,398,833.

The Convocation list was circulated for information.

341.5 REPORTS FROM ASSOCIATE DEANS

Mr van der Hoorn reported that a new postdoctoral coordinator is in place, Dr. Marilyn Mooibroek, who can be reached at postdoc@ucalgary.ca. She has organised a series of Alternate Career Awareness Seminars, Tri-Council presentations to postdocs and a regular Career and Research Management seminar series.

The Division of Health Sciences, Veterinary Medicine, Social Work, Nursing, Kinesiology and Medicine, has proposed an interdisciplinary PhD program in clinical research. An ACCESS proposal has been developed and the program can only proceed if funding is received. Many thanks to Eugene Jantzen, Margaret Williams, Diane Tapp and Brian MacIntosh for their assistance.

Mr Wieser reported that a workshop on “Academic Integrity” had been held as part of the series sponsored by the Faculty and the GSA. A panel of faculty members and a student facilitated an excellent discussion and the program was well received however attendance was low. The next scheduled event will look at the Ethics Review Process

Ms Haines had no issues to report.

Ms Kertzer reported that discussion with the GSA on the collective agreement will begin next week.

Mr Sesay reported an overall increase in doctoral enrolment of 12% in the Schulich School of Engineering. ENME had a gain of 40% and ENGO of 37%. Scholarships are helpful to recruitment and $18,000 is the minimum stipend offered to all supported students.

341.6 QUESTION PERIOD

Mr Love noted that DES awards are currently awarded for the entering year only and asked whether these could be renewable for a two-year commitment of that funding. The Chair commented that a DES is $6,000 over one year while the University of Alberta offers approximately $3,500 per year for two years as a comparable award.

Mr Storey asked whether GAT units are tied to undergraduate enrolment, resulting in less of an increase while the enrolment is static. The Chair agreed that they could be related and noted that there was a loss of about one hundred GAT units in the past year.
341.6.1 SENATE REPORT: Trudy Ross
Ms Ross explained the role of the Senate as a legislated body, intended to act as a bridge to the community. The Mission statement includes the requirement to promote and recognize excellence. The Senate is responsible for Honorary degree and Order of the University of Calgary nominations and is actively seeking nominations of graduate students. Nominees should have a record of exceptional service to the university; the deadline is January 20, 2006. Information about the Senate, including the nomination form, is available on the web at www.senate.ucalgary.ca. As part of the drive to recognize excellent work on campus Senate members have offered to serve on award committees at both the Faculty and Program level.

341.7 MOTION: KERTZER/PEERS
That the Handbook of Supervision and Examination be revised according to the changes suggested in Attachment 341.7.1
CARRIED

Ms Kertzer explained the background to the policy and the number of exceptions currently being requested. She clarified that the intention was not to encourage the use of external examiners but to allow for the possibility. Mr Thurbide asked whether consideration of an examiner who did not meet all the criteria would still be given on a case by case basis. Ms Kertzer confirmed that it would.

341.8 GRADUATE STUDENT SUPPORT POLICY - SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS
Ms Haines explained the “non-stacking” or equitable distribution policy that is in place for scholarship monies controlled by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and explained that this item is brought for discussion. She clarified that the $15,000 does not have to be one award but can be a combination of several. Mr Thompson asked whether the policy included GRS units. Ms Haines stated that GRS, GAT, DREA and DES awards are all exempt. Ms Johns asked whether this limit is communicated to students. Ms Haines noted that it was being made explicit on the website and that with the deadline change to May 15 for Special Awards less time would be spent on ineligible applications. Mr Walde asked whether external award holders should be forwarded to the Open Competition. The Chair noted that doctoral applicants could be eligible to receive an honorary Killam Scholarship and that the program’s success rates affected the quota for subsequent years. Mr Hodgins clarified that the program was expected to put the best students forward and the Chair confirmed this.

341.9 ACADEMIC PROGRAM COMMITTEE
341.9.1 The Interdisciplinary Specialization in Performance Studies has been approved by the Faculty of Graduate Studies Academic Program Committee and was presented for information.

341.9.2 MOTION: van der HOORN/WEBBER
That the Specialization in Second Language Teaching in the Graduate Division of Educational Research be approved as detailed in Attachment 341.9.2
CARRIED

341.10 SCHOLARSHIPS
The Terms of Reference for new awards were presented for information by Ms Abernethy. There were no questions.

341.11 OTHER BUSINESS
The Chair explained the change in meeting frequency to the minimum required and noted that an extraordinary meeting would be called if necessary. There are two meetings scheduled in the Spring of 2006.

341.12 ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 5.00 pm.