342.1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chair called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the agenda.

MOTION: KERTZER/KEELEY
That Council approve the agenda for the Faculty of Graduate Studies Council Meeting #342 of 15 March 2006  
CARRIED

342.2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: HODGINS/TAPP
That Council approve the minutes of the Faculty of Graduate Studies Council Meeting #341 held 19 October 2005  
CARRIED

342.3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

342.4 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair thanked the Council members for their hard work on behalf of graduate students and the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Special thanks were given to those who serve on the many other committees in addition to Council, such as the Academic Program Committee, Graduate Scholarship Committee and Appeals Committee. Thank you as well to the Graduate Coordinators and Administrators.

The Chair appeared before the Budget Committee on January 11, 2006, and requested more funding for the support of graduate students. He anticipates hearing news about the level of support within 2-3 weeks. The University of Calgary currently has 5300 graduate students, 25% of whom are PhD students and 20% international. That number represents 4% of all Canadian graduate students, placing us 7th in Canada and 3rd in the West after the University of British Columbia and University of Alberta. Although registration...
has increased since 2002 by 17.5% in Master’s programs and 33.4% in doctoral programs, our graduate numbers are still below a replacement level for anticipated needs.

The Chair underwent full review as Interim Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and has been appointed as Dean until 30 June 2007.

The Faculty of Graduate Studies is currently under full review. The chair of the internal review committee is Doyle Hatt and the two external reviewers are Louis Maheu, recently retired from the Deanship of the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the Université de Montréal and Jonathan Driver, currently Dean of Graduate Studies at Simon Fraser University. Their report is expected in April or May.

Dr Alan Harrison has been appointed Provost and Vice-President (Academic) for the University of Calgary, effective 1 July 2006. Dr Harrison is currently the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) at Carleton University.

The Chair reported that Dr. Stell passed along a summary of a formal policy that was recently put in place at Stanford University regarding special accommodations made to women graduate students around the time of childbirth. The Faculty of Graduate Studies Policy Committee will examine this matter and their recommendations will be brought to Council for discussion.

Open Scholarship applications are currently being ranked and the results from the NSERC, SSHRC and CHIR competitions should be posted shortly.

342.5 REPORTS FROM ASSOCIATE DEANS

Mr van der Hoorn reported that a series of workshops have been put together for postdoctoral fellows, covering topics such as contract and salary negotiations, project management, careers and industry. Marilyn Mooibroek, the Postdoctoral Program Coordinator, is also forwarding funding and job opportunities and articles of interest to postdoctoral students on a weekly basis. The postdoctoral students were surveyed about a change in income tax deductions due to the PeopleSoft implementation and indicated they do not want to have income tax withheld at source.

Faculty, students and past students from the Leaders in Medicine combined degree program were surveyed and indicated they would like to have more flexibility with regard to the funding they receive from the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research. Currently there are restrictions as to when this funding must be used within their program. A report will be presented to the Board of the AHFMR.

Mr van der Hoorn also thanked Nikki Croft, Director, Graduate Recruitment and Marketing, for featuring Advancing Health and Wellness in the current issue of Eye on Ideas.

Ms Haines had no issues to report.

Ms Kertzer had no issues to report.

342.6 QUESTION PERIOD

In answer to a question about the return of the international fee differential tuition revenue to graduate programs, the Chair noted that this has been written into the budget process for the foreseeable future.

342.7 PEOPLESOFT STUDENT SYSTEM: Karen Bennett

Ms Bennett reported that the first phase of the Student Administration System, involving the gathering of business process information from the system users, is complete. The second phase, the integration and design work, is underway. The new system will have better reporting and statistics capabilities for graduate programs, and includes more ability to track communication with students. The new system, after the initial implementation, is expected to have very positive benefits for graduate programs.

The admissions and timetabling modules of the system will go live November 2006, and the rest of the system will go live February 2007. This is when students will notice a difference.

Mr van Hoorn asked if it would be possible to see a student’s full funding information with the new system. Ms Bennett responded that it would be possible.

342.8.1 MOTION: KERTZER/JOHNS

That the Agreement between the Governors of the University of Calgary and the Graduate Students Association be approved as detailed in Attachment 342.8.1

CARRIED

342.8.2 MOTION: KERTZER/JOHNS

That the Guidelines for Graduate Funding For appointments not covered by the Agreement Between The Governors of the University of Calgary and The Graduate Students’ Association [Graduate Assistantships (Teaching/Non-teaching)] be approved as detailed in Attachment 342.8.2

CARRIED
Ms Christine Johns, President of the Graduate Students’ Association and Mr Ian Graham, Vice-President - Finance & Operations made a presentation explaining the implications of the revisions to the Agreement. The presentation is attached.

342.9.1 MOTION: VAN DER HOORN/MITCHELL
That the Communication & Culture: Graduate Program in Culture and Society be approved as detailed in Attachment 342.9.1

CARRIED

Ms Joldersma expressed concern that the proposal contained no indication of support from the Faculties of Social Sciences, Fine Arts or Humanities.

342.9.2 MOTION: VAN DER HOORN/MITCHELL
That the changes to the course-based Master of Arts Program in English (including changes to the exit requirement) be approved as detailed in Attachment 342.9.2

CARRIED

342.10 SCHOLARSHIPS
Ms Robinson presented terms of Reference for new awards for information. There were no questions. Ms Trudy Ross expressed appreciation on behalf of the Senate that a scholarship had been established in Grant Mossop’s name.

342.11 OTHER BUSINESS
On behalf of Mr Michael Quinn, Faculty of Environmental Design, Mr Stuart Walker extended an invitation to Council members to attend a meeting regarding the submission of an application to join a Cooperative Ecological Systems Unit to collaborate on research and funding issues.

342.12 ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 5.00 pm.