



Academic Council Graduate Studies Committee
Tuesday, January 28, 2025
9:01 a.m. - 9:28 a.m.
Via Google Meet

PUBLIC SESSION

[Graduate Studies Committee Agendas, Materials and Minutes 2024-2025](#)

MINUTES

- Present:** C. Cesaroni (Chair), J. Abbas Dick, J. Arcand, A. Azim, R. Bailey, D. Bonetta, K. Clarke, A. Cooper, C. Davidson, F. Gaspari, L. Harkins, S. Jackson, L. Jacobs, O. Marques, S. Marsh, C. McGregor, P. Mirza-Babaei, D. Papke, F. Quereshi, A. Slane, J. Stokes, A. Tokuhiko, R. Van Oostveen, N. Wattie, K. Wilson, A. Wingate
- Staff & Guests:** K. Ayotte (Secretary), N. Crow, M. Heslip, A. Kassaris, K. McCartney, J. Pereira, B. Tranter
- Regrets:** A. Kiani, L. Livingston, L. VanVeen,

C. Cesaroni called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. and read aloud the Land Acknowledgement.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Upon a motion duly made by O. Marques and seconded by N. Wattie, the Public Session of the January 28, 2025, GSC agenda was approved as presented.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 26, 2024*

Upon a motion duly made by F. Gaspari and seconded by R. Van Oostveen, the November 26, 2024, Minutes were approved as presented.

4 Abstentions noted.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

4. Comments from the Chair

The Chair highlighted the Winter Orientation that was held on January 7, 2025, noting an unexpectedly high student turnout. This event provided an opportunity to introduce students to University services and resources following a successful Fall Orientation.

She also outlined several upcoming events:

- **Postdoctoral Fellows Coffee with the Deans** on February 4 (10–11:30 AM) at the Dixon/Alger Fireside Reading Room, providing a networking opportunity.
- **National Community of Practice on Graduate Supervision** inaugural meeting on January 31 (11–12:30 PM), focusing on best practices and professional connections.
- **3MT (Three-Minute Thesis) Competition** registration is open until January 31, with heats on March 19 and finals on March 20. Faculty are encouraged to promote student participation.

Additionally, she noted that the Graduate Professional Skills program is undergoing a revamp to offer expanded personal development opportunities throughout students' academic journeys.

5. Minor Program Adjustments (Approval)

a) Faculty of Health Sciences: Master of Science in Nursing (MScN)* (M)

N. Wattie noted that the MScN program's shift to a capstone model eliminates the need for supervisors, leading to the removal of independent courses requiring supervision.

J. Abbass Dick added that students can take courses from their faculty or the Mitch and Leslie Frazer Faculty of Education (FEEd), including online options, to provide more flexibility since project course students will not have a supervisor.

In response to a question about opportunities for international students, N. Wattie confirmed that Capstone students are unfunded and considered non-research. While opening the program to international students has been discussed, concerns persist regarding its alignment with Canadian nursing practice and the ability to provide sufficient support. The idea is being considered but requires further evaluation.

J. Abbass Dick explained that the program has shifted to a course-based project model, overseen by a course instructor rather than requiring direct faculty supervision. She clarified that this change ensures students still receive supervision, with the elective course taken before the project course. She also confirmed that the change is not due to a lack of faculty resources.

Upon a motion duly made by A. Tokuhiko and seconded by N. Wattie, GSC hereby approves the Minor Program Adjustment to the Master of Science in Nursing (MScN) program.

b) Faculty of Social Science and Humanities: Forensic Psychology Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy – Direct Entry* (M)

L. Harkins noted that the program is reducing the requirement from three reference letters to two, as two has become more common.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Harkins and seconded by O. Marques, GSC hereby approves the Minor Program Adjustment to the Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy (including Direct Entry option) in Forensic Psychology to adjust admissions requirements.

6. Major Program Modifications (Recommendation)

- a) Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Master of Engineering (MEng) Nuclear Engineering* (M)

A. Tokuhiro explained that aligning the MEng in Nuclear Engineering with other engineering programs standardizes courses like Project Management and Advanced Engineering Mathematics to improve enrollment and consistency. While industry partners were likely consulted indirectly through the advisory board, the changes were not directly influenced by industry input. He highlighted that these core courses remain relevant despite the evolving nuclear industry.

Upon a motion duly made by A. Azim and seconded by A. Tokuhiro, GSC hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the Major Program Modification to the Master of Engineering (MEng), Nuclear Engineering program.

- b) Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Master of Engineering (MEng) Software Engineering* (M)

A. Azim noted that the program is being aligned with other engineering programs to include common core courses and move existing ones to electives, offering students a wider range of course choices.

In response to a question, A. Azim explained that students in the course-based Master's program must take ten courses, or eight with a project. Core courses for MEng in Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) and Software Engineering will be aligned, but each program retains distinct electives. He confirmed that there is some overlap, Software Engineering has unique courses that are not shared with other MEng programs.

Upon a motion duly made by A. Azim and seconded by P. Mirza-Babaei, GSC hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the Major Program Modification to the Master of Engineering (MEng) Software Engineering program to adjust course requirements.

- c) Faculty of Social Science and Humanities: Master of Arts in Social Practice and Innovation* (M)

A. Slane noted that the program is introducing a part-time option, allowing students to

complete the degree in seven terms instead of four, while maintaining the full-time cohort size. This change aims to support professionals better who are balancing work and studies.

Upon a motion duly made by A. Slane and seconded by L. Harkins, GSC hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the Major Program Modification to the Master of Arts in Social Practice and Innovation program to establish a part-time option for the program.

One (1) Abstention.

7. For Information

a) **Minor Curricular Changes**

Course Change –[HLSC - 5305G](#)

New Course - [INFR - 7000G, INFR - 7100G, INFR - 7200G](#)

b) **Faculty Reports – Nothing reported.**

It was requested that reminders are sent to support submission of these Reports.

- i. Faculty Reports
- ii. Graduate Student Report
- iii. Research Report
- iv. Library Report

c) **Graduate, Associate Graduate, and Emeriti Faculty: Appointments**

i. **Associate Graduate Faculty**

- Electrical and Computer Engineering, Mehran Ebrahimi, Faculty of Science
- Electrical and Computer Engineering, Moustafa El-Gindy, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
- Electrical and Computer Engineering, Martin Agelin-Chaab, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
- Electrical and Computer Engineering, Farhan Ghaffar, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
- Electrical and Computer Engineering, Alaa Khamis, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
- Education, Ann LeSage, Mitch and Leslie Frazer Faculty of Education
- Education, Jozef Colpaert, Mitch and Leslie Frazer Faculty of Education
- Health Sciences, Amer Burhan, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Dale Button, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Andrea Tricco, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Eva Skillgate, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Jennifer Copeland, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Jennifer Crawford, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Jessica Wong, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Joel Cort, Faculty of Health Sciences

- Health Sciences, Kelly Kay, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Louis Rachid Salmi, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Judith Andersen, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Michael Williams-Bell, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Marco Zaccagnini, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Shirley Quach, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Vincy Chan, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Sheilah Hogg-Johnson, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Stefano Negrini, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Mary L'Abbe, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Taryn Eickmeier, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Sara Guilcher, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Denina Simmons, Faculty of Science

ii. Graduate Faculty

- Health Sciences, Michelle Solomon, Faculty of Health Sciences

8. Adjournment

There being no other business, upon a motion duly made by L. Jacobs the January 28, 2025, public meeting was adjourned.

Kirstie Ayotte, Assistant University Secretary