



**ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Graduate Studies Committee**

**AGENDA**

**Date: November 25, 2025**

**Time: 9:00 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.**

[Zoom Videoconference Link \(registration required\)](#)

**GSC Meeting Schedule and Materials 2025-2026**

No.		Topic	Lead	Suggested Start Time
<b>PUBLIC SESSION</b>				
1.		<b>Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement</b>	Chair	9:00 a.m.
2.		<b>Agenda (M)</b>		
3.		<b>Chair's Remarks</b>		
4.		<b>Major Program Modification (Recommendation)</b>		
	4.1	Faculty of Social Science and Humanities: Master of Arts in Social Practice and Innovation* (M)	A. Slane	9:10 a.m.
5.		<b>Consent Agenda: (M)</b>	Chair	9:15 a.m.
	5.1	Public Minutes of the Meeting of September 23, 2025* (M)		
	5.2	Minor Curricular Changes: Reinstate a Closed Course: <a href="#"><u>SSCI – 5080G</u></a>		
	5.3	<b>Associate Graduate Faculty</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Automotive Engineering, Samuel Yousefi, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science</li> <li>Business Analytics and AI, Karthik Sankaranarayanan, Faculty of Business and Information Technology</li> <li>Computer Science, Zahra Atf, Faculty of Business and Information Technology</li> </ul>		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computer Science, Ian Garrett, Faculty of Business and Information Technology</li> <li>• Computer Science, Karthik Sankaranarayanan, Faculty of Business and Information Technology</li> <li>• Education, Anna Rodrigues, Frazer Faculty of Education</li> <li>• Electrical and Computer Engineering, Praveen Jain, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science</li> <li>• Financial Data Analytics, Karthik Sankaranarayanan, Faculty of Business and Information Technology</li> <li>• Forensic Psychology, Michael Seto, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities</li> <li>• Mechanical Engineering, Samuel Yousefi, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science</li> <li>• Mechatronics Engineering, Samuel Yousefi, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science</li> <li>• Modelling and Computational Science, Christopher Collins, Faculty of Science</li> <li>• Applied Bioscience, Jonathan Midwood, Faculty of Science</li> <li>• Computer Science, Amit Maraj, Faculty of Business and Information Technology</li> <li>• Cybersecurity, Amit Maraj, Faculty of Business and Information Technology</li> <li>• Cybersecurity, Ruba Alomari, Faculty of Business and Information Technology</li> <li>• Education, Tyler Frederick, Frazer Faculty of Education</li> <li>• Electrical and Computer Engineering, Langis Roy, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science</li> <li>• Engineering Management, Dima Jawad, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science</li> <li>• Health Sciences, Tyler Frederick, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities</li> <li>• Health Sciences, Imran Khan Niazi, Faculty of Health Sciences</li> <li>• Information Technology Security, Ruba Alomari, Faculty of Business and Information Technology</li> <li>• Materials Science, Hossam Gaber, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science</li> <li>• Nursing, Shirley Quach, Faculty of Health Sciences</li> <li>• Nursing, Reshma Prashad, Faculty of Health Sciences</li> </ul> <p><b>Graduate Faculty</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computer Science, Muhammad Usman, Faculty of Science</li> <li>• Applied Bioscience, Ken Wilson, Faculty of Science</li> <li>• Information Technology Security, Peter Lewis, Faculty of Business and Information Technology</li> </ul>		
6.		<b>Other Business</b>	Chair	9:20 a.m.

<b>7.</b>		<b>Adjournment (M)</b>	Chair	9:25 a.m.
<b>NON-PUBLIC SESSION</b> (material not publicly available)				
<b>8.</b>		<b>Call to Order</b>	Chair	9:30 a.m.
<b>9.</b>		<b>Consent Agenda: (M)</b>	Chair	9:35 a.m.
	9.1	Non-Public Minutes of the Meeting of September 23, 2025* (M)		
<b>10.</b>		<b>Termination (M)</b>	Chair	9:40 a.m.

Kirstie Ayotte, Assistant University Secretary

## GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE REPORT

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### ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation ☒  
Decision ☐  
Discussion/Direction ☐  
Information ☐

DATE: 25 November 2025

FROM: Faculty of Social Science and Humanities

SUBJECT: Major Program Modification – Master of Arts in Social Practice and Innovation

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### COMMITTEE MANDATE:

In accordance with Section III, part c) of the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) Terms of Reference, GSC has the responsibility to “examine proposals for new graduate degree and diploma programs, major changes to existing programs and to recommend their approval, as appropriate, to Academic Council”.

### MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:

That 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 defined program maps for part-time and full-time accelerated students, to permit undergraduate enrollment in targeted MSPI courses, and to update course descriptions.

### BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The Masters of Social Practice and Innovation (MSPI) was created 2022 with the first cohort entering for the 2023/24 academic year. The program established a part-time option of the program in the 2024-2025 academic year and is now in a position to make some further refinements to the program including:

- establishing a defined program map for part-time students including two new courses that allow for the Major Research project (MPP) to be completed over a longer duration.
- Establishing an accelerated one-year program map for students wishing to complete the program in a 12-month/three consecutive semester period, including an option for high-achieving 4<sup>th</sup>-year undergraduate students to complete specific MSPI courses prior to registration in the MSPI program.
- Update course descriptions to reflect how the courses have been taught in practice over the last two years.

### RESOURCES REQUIRED:

No additional resources are required.

### **TRANSITION AND COMMUNICATION PLAN:**

The proposed changes do not affect students currently in the program, since students already have a means to convert to part-time according to existing University policy. We have created an option for new students to complete the entire program part time.

The accelerated option will only affect new students since it is a process that begins in their first semester.

MSPI has a very small cohort each year (typically 5-6 students) so there is ample opportunity to communicate with them personally and directly. We will include the new options for part-time and accelerated timelines in our recruitment materials. Students will also be advised through our website, graduate program staff and faculty events.

### **CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:**

- ✓ Graduate Curriculum Committee: 6 October 2025
- ✓ Faculty Council: 29 October 2025
- Graduate Studies Committee (for recommendation): 25 November 2025
- Academic Council (for approval): 13 January 2026

We have discussed the proposed changes with current and alumni students in both the MSPI Graduate Studies Committee (there is a graduate student representative on this committee) and in informal conversations with students. SGPS was consulted on both the part-time and accelerated options.

### **NEXT STEPS:**

Pending the recommendation of GSC, this change will be presented for approval to Academic Council. Once approved, it will be included in the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar.

### **SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:**

- [Major Program Adjustment Proposal](#)
- 'THREE PROGRAM MAP OPTIONS FOR MSPI Fall 2025.docx' is available for download in the 'Files' section of the program proposal above.
- New Course Proposals: [MSPI - 5101G](#), [MSPI - 5102G](#)
- Course Change Proposals: [MSPI 5001G](#), [MSPI 5002G](#), [MSPI 5010G](#), [MSPI 5020G](#), [MSPI 5030G](#), [MSPI 5040G](#), [MSPI 5050G](#), [MSPI 5060G](#), [MSPI 5070G](#), [MSPI 5080G](#)

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL**  
**GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE (GSC)**

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**Minutes of the Public Session of the September 23, 2025 Meeting  
via Videoconference  
9:03 a.m. – 9:31 a.m.**

**Graduate Studies Committee Agenda & Materials 2025-2026**

**Present:**

Pejman Mirza-Babaei  
(Chair)  
Jennifer Abbass Dick  
JoAnne Arcand  
Akramul Azim  
Dario Bonetta  
Carla Cesaroni  
Krystina Clarke  
Nicola Crow

Catherine Davidson  
Franco Gaspari  
Leigh Harkins  
Shahram Heydari  
Sayyed Ali Hosseini  
Les Jacobs  
Amirkianoosh Kiani  
Karolina Krystyniak  
Xianke Lin

Holly MacPherson  
Olga Marques  
Kimberley McCartney  
Faisal Qureshi  
Andrea Slane  
Akira Tokuhiko  
Nick Wattie  
Ken Wilson  
Adam Wingate

**Regrets:**

Amanda Cooper  
Hossam Kishawy  
Lori Livingston  
Carolyn McGregor  
Diana Petrarca  
Carol Rodgers  
Peter Stoett

**Staff and Guests:**

Kirstie Ayotte (Secretary), Joelle Rodway, Becky Tranter

**1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement**

The Chair called the Public session of the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and C. Davidson provided their personal Land Acknowledgement.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

*Upon a motion duly made by A. Slane and seconded by O. Marques, the GSC Agenda was approved as presented, including approving and receiving the Consent Agenda and its contents.*

**3. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming returning and new members, expressing gratitude for the support received during the leadership transition, and recognizing the contributions of the Interim Dean. He noted ongoing restructuring in the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (SGPS), acknowledged the staffing changes and reaffirmed the commitment to work through

these transitions with everyone's support. He highlighted recent progress with the hiring of an Executive Assistant and the search for a new Associate Dean.

He also highlighted that Graduate enrollment reached a record 1,407 students, reflecting collective efforts across faculties, the Registrar's Office, and SGPS. Orientation activities were described as the most successful to date, with extensive pre-orientation graduate student engagement, the largest in-person orientation, and the inclusion of Postdoctoral Fellows for the first time. SGPS was also involved in organizing a student visit to Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, showcasing cross-faculty collaboration with external partners.

Looking ahead, the Committee learned that the research poster showcase will return on November 26, 2025 featuring separate categories for Master's, PhD, and Postdoctoral participants, along with a new competition highlighting research through art. An internal recruitment event for undergraduate students is also scheduled for October 28, 2025 with faculty encouraged to support and promote participation.

In response to a question, H. MacPherson confirmed that with earlier marketing, and a change in location, they hope that the internal undergraduate event will have better attendance than the previous year.

### **3.1 GSC Terms of Reference Review\* (I)**

The Chair reviewed the GSC Terms of Reference, noting its role within Academic Council governance, its membership composition and associated voting rights, and its primary responsibility for approved program and course changes related to Graduate Studies.

The Chair acknowledged a member's request for possible revisions to the Terms of Reference, and recognized the challenges of recent transitions within SGPS, noting areas of uncertainty, and emphasized the commitment to clarifying roles and improving processes collaboratively so that GSC's purview was clear.

In response to concern regarding limited admission windows for international students, the Chair highlighted that alongside GSC's governance role, a new forum modeled after the former Colleagues Exchange will provide space for broader discussions regarding policies and ideas for improvement before they move through the formal governance pathways. More information will be provided to Graduate Program Directors.

## **4. 2025-2026 GSC Workplan Review\* (I)**

K. Ayotte presented the 2025-2026 GSC Workplan noting that it is an annual workplan designed to guide the Committee's work throughout the year. It supports responsibilities and highlights important dates, including target deadlines for curriculum and policy submissions. It also outlines when reports and reviews are scheduled, helping to, plan, and ensure work aligns with key timelines.

## **5. Consent Agenda\* (M)**

The Chair confirmed that contents of the Consent Agenda were approved and received under Agenda Item # 2.

### **5.1 Minutes of the Meeting of June 24, 2025\* (M)**

### **5.2 2025-2026 Graduate Academic Schedule Revision\* (I)**

### **5.3 Course change: [NUCL 5250G](#) (I)**

### **5.4 Associate Graduate Faculty Appointments**

- Computer Science, Paul Kennedy, Faculty of Business and Information Technology
- Computer Science, Muhammad Usman, Faculty of Science
- Criminology, Lindsay Malloy, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities
- Criminology, Sara Thompson, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities
- Criminology, Rebecca Lazarenko, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities
- Criminology, Vivian Stamatopoulos, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities
- Criminology, Amir Mostaghim, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities
- Cybersecurity, Tanner Mirrlees, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities
- Education, Kenneth Gyamerah, Frazer Faculty of Education
- Education, Susan Forbes, Frazer Faculty of Education
- Education, Mark Peterson, Frazer Faculty of Education
- Forensic Psychology, Brian Cutler, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities
- Forensic Psychology, Sonja Brubacher, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities
- Forensic Psychology, Ainslie Heasman, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities
- Forensic Psychology, Rebecca Lazarenko, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities
- Forensic Psychology, Krystle Martin, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities
- Health Sciences, Wendy Barber, Frazer Faculty of Education
- Health Sciences, Juveria Zaheer, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Greg Hardy, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Laura Banks, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Peter Lewis, Faculty of Business and Information Technology
- Health Sciences, Myuri Sivanthan, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Laura Istanboulian, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Amanda Sheppard, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Modelling and Computational Science, Luciano Buono, Faculty of Science
- Social Practice and Innovation, Rebecca Lazarenko, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities
- Software Engineering, Walid Morsi Ibrahim, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science

### **Graduate Faculty Appointments**

- Education, Amanda Cooper, Frazer Faculty of Education
- Mechatronics Engineering, Mitchell Rushton, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science

## **6. Adjournment (M)**

There being no other business, and upon a motion duly made by F. Qureshi, the Public session of the GSC meeting adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

Kirstie Ayotte, Assistant University Secretary