



**Academic Council Graduate Studies Committee**  
**Tuesday, November 26, 2024**  
**9:05 a.m. – 9:41 a.m.**

Via Google Meet

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

**MINUTES**

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

P. Mirza Babaei called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

C. Davidson provided the Land Acknowledgement and honoured the late Honourable Murray Sinclair's legacy.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

*Upon a motion duly made by R. Bailey and seconded by F. Quereshi, the November 26, 2024 GSC agenda was approved as presented.*

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of October 22, 2024**

*Upon a motion duly made by O. Marques and seconded by J. Arcand, the October 22, 2024 Minutes were approved as presented.*

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

None.

**4. Comments from the Chair**

The Chair announced Gail Fuller's retirement and invited attendees to her celebration on December 16 at 12:30 PM at SIRC 1350. He also highlighted the SGPS Research Poster Showcase on November 27, 2024 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Charles Hall, featuring over 50 students and supported by internal and industry partners.

He noted that discussions between SGPS Associate Deans and Graduate Program Directors (GPDs) regarding graduate student recruitment are focusing on domestic students due to challenges with international recruitment under new Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) guidelines and advised a report summarizing these discussions will be shared in the New Year.

The Chair also provided updates from the recent Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) conference, particularly on generative AI's impact on graduate studies, noting that this is a topic for today's Colleague Exchange; the advantages of Individual Development Plans (IDPs) over traditional progress reports; and the growing trend towards holistic admission processes. Challenges with international student recruitment were noted as a concern across all Canadian universities.

J. Stokes advised that the provincial government has not yet received the federal allocation for the graduate student cap, which could delay compliance until mid-to-late January. He highlighted that this may affect graduate programs with deadlines in late January or February, and that extensions could be considered. He also mentioned that faculty would be consulted regarding any potential adjustments.

In response to a question, J. Stokes explained that if the University's allocation for international students is low, the quota system may prevent the acceptance of international students, even if funding is available. He noted that tightened visa approvals by IRCC are causing delays and denials. To address this, the University is collaborating with Border Pass, an immigration service that ensures students' applications are complete and assists with filing appeals for denied visas. Border Pass operates similarly to an immigration lawyer but at a lower cost. He cautioned that delays in the appeal process could push students to later terms, so affecting graduate programs.

## **5. Cyclical Program Review (Approval)**

### **5.1 Final Assessment Report and Program Learning Outcomes\* (M)**

D. Papke presented MSc and PhD in Modelling and Computational Science Final Assessment Report and Program Learning Outcomes . He highlighted that Faculty Council, and the Academic Resource Committee have reviewed the implementation plan and following approval by GSC, the report and outcomes will be shared with Academic Council and the Board of Governors in February for information. He noted that the plan also lays the groundwork for continuous improvement, with a progress report scheduled for 18 months.

#### **Motion:**

*Upon a motion duly made by J. Arcand and seconded by J. Abbass Dick, GSC hereby approves the Final Assessment Report, Executive Summary, Implementation Plan, and the revised Program Learning Outcomes resulting from the MSc and PhD in Modelling*

*and Computational Science Cyclical Program Review, as presented.*

## 6. Reports

- i. Faculty of Business and IT
  - S. Jackson noted that winter registration for the MITS program saw an increase of approximately 60 students. He mentioned that onboarding sessions for new students went well and that the Faculty is now planning for the 2025-2026 intake, considering potential government changes and strategies to address them.
- ii. Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
  - No updates.
- iii. Mitch and Leslie Frazer Faculty of Education
  - R. Van Oostveen highlighted a challenge in the FEd with the Doctor of Education (EdD) program, where intake exceeds faculty supervision capacity. A meeting on December 4 will explore alternative methods of support for EdD students. The faculty is also preparing to review applications for the September 2025 cohort, with plans for a new approach to supervision.
- iv. Faculty of Health Science
  - J. Abbass Dick noted the Master of Nursing Science program is successfully finishing its first cohort's project course this term. Alumni have been returning to present their thesis and projects, with another session scheduled for this week. Additionally, recruitment efforts are underway, with the program being promoted to undergraduates.
- v. Faculty of Science
  - F. Qureshi advised that at a recent program meeting, it was discussed that internal scholarships should be assigned at the time offer letters are sent to students rather than months later. He noted that this change aims to make offers more attractive, and streamline the process. Further discussions with SGPS will take place to determine the best approach.
  - D. Bonetta noted that the Applied Bioscience (APBS) program has submitted its self-study and is planning a visit in January, as external reviewers are unavailable in December. Additionally, a new series of forms has been implemented for committee meetings, allowing students to have a record and receive feedback from these meetings.
- vi. Faculty of Social Science and Humanities
  - Reference submitted written reports.
- vii. Graduate Student Report
  - No updates.
- viii. Library Report
  - C. Davidson encouraged graduate students to reach out to their dedicated subject librarians for research consultations and support in navigating resources. She mentioned the library's ongoing involvement in GradPro Skills

offerings, including an upcoming workshop on organizing literature. She also noted the recent addition of Mia Clarkson, who will assist with scholarly communications and related topics such as article processing charges and publication navigation. Additionally, she highlighted efforts to meet with Deans and Faculty Councils to raise awareness of these resources among faculty and students.

## **7. For Information**

### **7.1 Minor Curricular Changes**

Course Change – [HLSC 5320UG](#), [NURS 5096G](#), [MSPI 5001G](#), [MSPI 5002G](#)

### **7.2 Graduate, Associate Graduate and Emeriti faculty appointments.**

#### **Associate Graduate Faculty**

- Education, Anna Rodrigues, Mitch and Leslie Frazer Faculty of Education
- Nuclear Engineering, Alvaro Joffre Uribe Quevedo, Faculty of Business and Information Technology
- Computer Science, Michael Glueck, Faculty of Science

#### **Graduate Faculty**

- Education, Efrosini Papaconstantinou, Faculty of Health Sciences

#### **Emeritus Graduate Faculty**

- Electrical and Computer Engineering, Vijay Sood, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
- Electrical and Computer Engineering, Ramiro Liscano, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
- Software Engineering, Ramiro Liscano, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science

## **8. Other Business**

No volunteer noted for January GSC meeting. Any volunteers can contact K. Ayotte.

## **Termination**

*There being no other business, upon a motion duly made by A. Kiani the November 26, 2024, GSC meeting terminated at 9:41 a.m.*

Kirstie Ayotte, Assistant University Secretary