

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

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**Minutes of the Public Session of the December 18, 2025 Meeting  
via Videoconference  
9:03 a.m. - 9:34 a.m.**

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

**Present:**

Pejman Mirza-Babaei,  
Chair  
Jennifer Abbass Dick  
JoAnne Arcand  
Akramul Azim  
Carla Cesaroni  
Nicola Crow  
Catherine Davidson  
Leigh Harkins

Shahram Heydari  
Sayyed Ali Hosseini  
Amirkianoosh Kiani  
Karolina Krystyniak  
Xianke Lin  
Olga Marques  
Kimberley McCartney  
Carolyn McGregor  
Diana Petrarca

Faisal Qureshi  
Andrea Slane  
Akira Tokuhiko  
Lennaert van Veen  
Nick Wattie  
Ken Wilson  
Adam Wingate

**Regrets:**

Dario Bonetta  
Krystina Clarke  
Amanda Cooper  
Franco Gaspari

Les Jacobs  
Hossam Kishawy  
Lori Livingston  
Holly MacPherson

Carol Rodgers  
Peter Stoett

**Staff:**

Kirstie Ayotte (Secretary)  
Dima Jawad  
Atef Mohany

**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 N. Crow provided their personal Land Acknowledgement.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

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

### 3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair reflected briefly on the first six months in the role, expressing appreciation to Members and staff. He highlighted recent initiatives including the successful SGPS poster and student art showcase and the inaugural SGPS Summit, both aimed at strengthening community and engagement. An update was also provided on ongoing work to review funding and scholarship models, with further discussion planned in an upcoming colleague exchange.

### 4. Major Program Modifications (Recommendation)

#### 4.1 Faculty of Business and IT: PhD – Cybersecurity\* (M)

S. Heydari outlined proposed changes to the PhD in Cybersecurity to align it with other PhD programs, including adding a formal part-time option without changing academic requirements and clarifying seminar expectations. The seminar requirement would shift to the standard two seminars, addressing previous confusion for students and administration.

*Upon a motion duly made by S. Heydari and seconded by A. Tokuhiko, the GSC hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the Major Program Modification to the Cybersecurity PhD program to add a part-time option and to modify the scheduling of the seminar component.*

#### 4.2 Frazer Faculty of Education: Master of Education\* (M)

D. Petrarca explained that the proposal formalizes required graduate courses as prerequisites so they are taken at the start of a program. This change is intended to ensure students develop a strong foundation in research and learning principles before progressing to other coursework, addressing issues caused when these courses are taken later in the program.

*Upon a motion duly made by D. Petrarca and seconded by O. Marques, the GSC hereby recommends to Academic Council the Major Program Modification to the Master of Education program to update all Masters level courses in the program to include EDUC 5001G and EDUC 5002G as prerequisites with concurrency for all courses to ensure students take these courses at the beginning of the program.*

### 5. Minor Program Adjustments (Approval)

#### 5.1 Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Engineering Management, MEngM\* (M)

A. Kiani, along with guests A. Mohany and D. Jawad, outlined proposed changes to the MEng in Engineering Management which were aimed at improving flexibility and program quality by adding three entrepreneurship courses and streamlining the course structure. The revisions simplify course group requirements, expand student choice, and reduce confusion and the need for course substitutions

*Upon a motion duly made by A. Tokuhiko and seconded by A. Kiani, the GSC hereby approves the Minor Program Adjustment to the Engineering Management, MEngM program.*

In response to a question from a Member, N. Crow confirmed that minor program adjustments come to GSC for approval before being shared with Academic Council for information.

**5.2 Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Mechatronics Engineering, MASc\* (M)**

X. Lin advised that this is a correction to remove an incorrectly listed course, Engineering Communication Ethics, from the Master of Applied Science in Methods Engineering, ensuring alignment with other program listings.

A question about the relevance of a communication and ethics course was clarified, with X. Lin noting that it's intended for course-based programs only, and its listing for the Master of Applied Science was an error.

*Upon a motion duly made by A. Tokuhiro and seconded by S. Ali Hosseini, the GSC hereby approves the Minor Program Adjustment to the MASc Mechatronics Engineering program to remove ENGR 5201G Engineering Communication and Ethics course as a course listing.*

**6. New Program Proposal (Recommendation)**

**6.1 Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Graduate Diploma in Railway Engineering\* (M)**

A. Kiani introduced a new diploma in railway engineering in response to industry interest. He advised that the program uses existing faculty and resources, offers four dedicated courses, and positions the University uniquely to meet growing demand in the field, especially with the emergence of high-speed rail.

*Upon a motion duly made by A. Tokuhiro and seconded by A. Kiani, the GSC hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the Graduate Diploma in Railway Engineering program and the subsequent recommendation of the program to the Board.*

**7. Academic Policy Instruments**

**7.1 Registration and Course Selection Policy Amendments\* (M)**

A. Wingate explained that the policy amendments clarify the distinction between flat-fee and fee-per-credit programs regarding continuous enrollment, accommodating structured breaks in professional course-based masters' programs, and, reducing administrative requirements for students, particularly international students. Minor editorial updates were also made without changing the policy's intent.

*Upon a motion duly made by D. Petrarca and seconded by J. Arcand, the GSC hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the amended Registration and Course Selection Policy.*

**8. Consent Agenda\* (M)**

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

**8.1 Public Minutes of the Meeting of November 25, 2025 \* (M)**

**8.2 Associate Graduate Faculty (I)**

- Health Sciences, Manon Lemonde, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Catherine Inibhunu, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Kelly Picard, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Samuel Howarth, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Materials Science, Brian MacLean, Faculty of Science
- Modelling and Computational Science, Yan Fossat, Faculty of Science

**8.3 Emeritus Graduate Faculty (I)**

- Mechanical Engineering, Ebrahim Esmailzadeh, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science

**8.4 Course change: [APBS 6090G](#)**

**9. Termination**

There being no other business, and upon a motion to terminate by A. Kiani, the GSC Meeting terminated at 9:34 a.m.

Nicola Crow, University Secretary