

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE (GSC)

**Minutes of the Public Session of the February 24, 2026 Meeting
via Videoconference
9:02 a.m. - 9:31 a.m.**

Graduate Studies Committee Agenda & Materials 2025-2026

Present:

Pejman Mirza-Babaei, Chair	Leigh Harkins Shahram Heydari	Diana Petrarca Faisal Qureshi
Jennifer Abbass Dick	Mehdi Hossein-Nejad	Ghaus Rizvi
JoAnne Arcand	Sayyed Ali Hosseini	Andrea Slane
Akramul Azim	Dima Jawad	Lennaert van Veen
Krystina Clarke	Karolina Krystyniak	Nick Wattie
Amanda Cooper	Holly MacPherson	Ken Wilson
Nicola Crow	Olga Marques	Adam Wingate
Catherine Davidson	Kimberley McCartney	

Regrets:

Dario Bonetta	Hossam Kishawy (on leave)	Scott Nokleby
Carla Cesaroni	Xianke Lin	Carol Rodgers
Franco Gaspari	Lori Livingston	Peter Stoett
Les Jacobs	Carolyn McGregor	Akira Tokuhito

Staff and Guests:

Sandra Grouette (Secretary)

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

The Chair called the Public Session of the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) Meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and provided their personal Land Acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

Upon a motion duly made by J. Arcand and seconded by N. Wattie, the GSC Agenda was approved as presented, including approving and receiving the Consent Agenda and its contents.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair provided updates on a wide range of graduate initiatives, including the Graduate Excellence Awards' call for nominations, upcoming events such as the Postdoc Fireside Chat on March 11 and the 3MT Showcase on March 18 & 19; as well as the ongoing work on the Banner student system. They further advised that the memo outlining new central graduate funding for 2026-2027 has been released and expressed appreciation for the continued support provided centrally to support graduate students. They also noted strong applicant interest in the CIRT program. The

Chair also took the opportunity to acknowledge Dean Peter Stoett as he steps down as Dean of the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities and begins a research leave.

As part of the Chair's update on the Banner student system, the Chair reminded Members about using this system to support accurate reporting. The importance of a system that provides clear, consistent, and easily accessible information for deans, associate deans, and program directors, was noted by some Members and discussed. The Chair also noted an increase in late requests for student status changes, reminding Members that delays affect Ministry reporting and emphasized the importance of adhering to published deadlines.

4. Minor Program Adjustments (Decision)

4.1 Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Electrical and Computer Engineering, MASc/MEng/PhD* (M)

A. Azim noted that the proposed courses have previously been offered multiple times as special topics within the Faculty. In accordance with Faculty policy, he advised that graduate courses demonstrating strong enrollment through repeated special-topics offerings are advanced for permanent course status. As such, these courses are now being formalized with dedicated course codes for regular inclusion in the curriculum.

Upon a motion duly made by A. Azim and seconded by D. Jawad, the GSC hereby approves the Minor Program Adjustment to add three new courses in the Electrical and Computer Engineering MASc, MEng, and PhD graduate programs.

4.2 Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Nuclear Design Engineering, Graduate Diploma* (M)

In the absence of A. Tokuhito, the Committee did not have any questions regarding this proposal.

Upon a motion duly made by J. Arcand and seconded by D. Jawad, the GSC hereby approves the Minor Program Adjustment to the Nuclear Design Engineering, Graduate Diploma program to adjust core courses.

4.3 Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Software Engineering, MASc and MEng* (M)

A. Azim noted that the course, AI-Enabled Smart Grid, recently added to the Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) program, has also attracted interest from Software Engineering students. As Software Engineering is a separate program, he advised a minor program adjustment is required to formally include this course in its curriculum. A. Azim shared that the proposed change serves only to extend the course option to Software Engineering students.

Upon a motion duly made by A. Azim and seconded by G. Rizvi, the GSC hereby approves the Minor Program Adjustment to add ENGR 5675G AI-Enabled Smart Grid Systems Engineering to the graduate course listings in the Software Engineering MASc and MEng graduate programs.

5. Cyclical Program Review (Approval)

5.1 18 Month Follow-Up Report: Modelling and Computational Science, MSc and PhD* (M)

K. McCartney noted that following each cyclical program review, the program and Dean prepare a response and the Dean develops an action plan. The 18-month follow-up presented is the Dean's progress report on that plan. No administrative concerns were identified. Several items are appropriately marked as ongoing, and one item remains on hold with a clear rationale provided.

Upon a motion duly made by O. Marques and seconded by F. Qureshi, the GSC hereby approves the 18-Month Follow-Up Report from the Master of Science (MSc) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Modelling and Computational Science Cyclical Program Review, as presented

6. Consent Agenda* (M)

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

6.1 Public Minutes of the January 27, 2026 Meeting* (M)

6.2 Memoranda: (I)

- i) Faculty of Social Science and Humanities - [Course prefix for Master of Social Media Communication in Online Creators](#)
- ii) Faculty of Health Sciences - [MHSc Admission Changes](#)

6.3 Minor Curricular Changes: (I)

Course Change:

[ENGR 5590G](#)

6.4 Associate Graduate Faculty Appointments (I)

- Computer Science, Jennifer Abbass Dick, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Computer Science, Winnie Sun, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Denise Connelly, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Susan Bookey-Bassett, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Nursing, Susan Bookey-Bassett, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Nursing, Ann Mary Celestini, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Nursing, Beryl Cable-Williams, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Nursing, Cyndi Gilmer, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Nursing, Ellen Buck-McFadyen, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Nursing, Kimberly Ritchie, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Nursing, Kirsten Woodend, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Nursing, Victoria Reid-de Jong, Faculty of Health Sciences

6.5 Graduate Faculty Appointments (I)

- Education, Karla Dhungana Sainju, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities
- Education, Peter Lewis, Faculty of Business and Information Technology
- Education, Igor Kotlyar, Faculty of Business and Information Technology
- Social Practice and Innovation, Joelle Rodway, Frazer Faculty of Education

7. Termination

There being no other business, and upon a motion to terminate by A. Azim, the GSC Meeting terminated at 9:31 a.m.

Sandra Grouette, Assistant University Secretary