

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

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**Minutes of the Public Session of the January 27, 2026 Meeting  
via Videoconference  
9:00 a.m. - 9:22 a.m.**

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

**Present:**

Pejman Mirza-Babaei,  
Chair  
Sayyed Ali Hosseini  
JoAnne Arcand  
Akramul Azim  
Krystina Clarke  
Amanda Cooper  
Nicola Crow  
Dario Bonetta  
Catherine Davidson

Franco Gaspari  
Leigh Harkins  
Shahram Heydari  
Mehdi Hossein-Nejad  
Dima Jawad  
Les Jacobs  
Karolina Krystyniak  
Xianke Lin  
Olga Marques  
Holly MacPherson

Kimberley McCartney  
Carolyn McGregor  
Diana Petrarca  
Faisal Qureshi  
Ghaus Rizvi  
Andrea Slane  
Nick Wattie  
Ken Wilson  
Adam Wingate

**Regrets:**

Jennifer Abbass Dick  
Carla Cesaroni  
Hossam Kishawy (on leave)  
Lori Livingston  
Scott Nokleby

Carol Rodgers  
Peter Stoett  
Akira Tokuhiro  
Lennaert van Veen

**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 9:00 a.m. and provided their personal Land Acknowledgement.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

*Upon a motion duly made by N. Wattie and seconded by F. Qureshi, the GSC Agenda was approved as amended, including approving and receiving the Consent Agenda and its contents.*

**3. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair welcomed S. Grouette as the new Assistant University Secretary; M. Hossein-Nejad as the Associate Dean of the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (SGPS); S. Nokleby

as Interim Dean of the Faculty of Engineering & Applied Science; G. Rizvi Acting GPD from the Faculty of Engineering & Applied Science (Mech and Mfg.); and D. Jawad from the Faculty of Engineering & Applied Science (Master of Engineering in Engineering Management (MEngM).

The Chair shared that Members should have received emails regarding the Canada Impact Research Training Awards (CIRTA). The Chair encouraged nominations for the two doctoral and two postdoctoral student opportunities.

L. Jacobs provided an overview of the CIRTA including the associated available funding. He advised CIRTA has three categories: the high-level senior chair positions that have significant funding; emerging researchers with tier 2-level funding; and training awards for doctoral students and postdoctoral students. He noted the University's highest likelihood of success is in the training awards. He emphasized that the nomination period is very tight for the whole university sector. L. Jacobs further explained that each senior chair brings roughly \$5 million in Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) funding, which may support salaries for emerging researchers. Faculty was encouraged to identify strong candidates quickly.

A Member requested clarification regarding the three year doctoral award funding, and whether the University Research funding would be used to cover year four for a doctoral period of study. The Chair suggested that the Member email this question so that this can be verified with CIRTA.

The Chair highlighted two internal awards: the Award of Excellence in Graduate Supervision with nominations opening February 2 and closing February 27, 2026; and the Student Leadership Award nomination which closes January 28, 2026. They advised that more information will be circulated by email.

#### **4. Major Program Modifications (Recommendation)**

##### **4.1 Faculty of Business and IT: Master of Business Analytics and Artificial Intelligence\* (M)**

N. Crow shared that as previously communicated to the Committee, there was an amendment to the materials for this item relating to the omission of a minor curricular change (course change) for the course MBAI 5600G. She advised that the course change was approved at Faculty Council, and that it is for information/reference purposes only with no amendment required per se to the proposal being presented for approval to GSC.

K. Krystyniak reported that in response to industry demand, the Major Program Modification proposes to add three new fields to the Master of Business Analytics and Artificial Intelligence: AI Governance, Supply Chain, and Entrepreneurship. She confirmed there was consultation with faculty which determined that these fields would be successful. She further advised that the proposal does not require a substantive structural change, with each new field adding two new courses as electives, and the program changing from eight to six core courses. It was noted that this proposal aligns with the University's Differentiated Growth Strategy, the increased focus on responsible AI, and the newly established School of Ethical Artificial Intelligence.

A Member enquired about the timing of the rollout of the three new fields and the resources required. Both K. Krystyniak and C. McGregor confirmed the resource status including that across the Faculty there are existing faculty who can support some of the fields, such as governance and sustainable supply chain, with recruitment underway for a Network and IT Security teaching faculty.

*Upon a motion duly made by F. Gaspari and seconded by J. Arcand, GSC hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the Major Program Modification to the Master of Business Analytics and Artificial Intelligence program to establish three new fields in AI Governance, Supply Chain, and Entrepreneurship.*

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

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

### **5.1 Public Minutes of the December 18, 2025 Meeting\* (M)**

### **5.2 2026-2027 Graduate Academic Schedule\* (I)**

### **5.3 Course Changes:**

[HLSC 5020G](#), [HLSC 5030G](#), [HLSC 5118G](#), [HLSC 6123G](#), [MFDA 5600G](#), [MFDA 5700G](#),  
[NURS 5118G](#), [NURS 5123G](#)

### **5.4 Associate Graduate Faculty (I)**

- Business Analytics and AI, Amin Ibrahim, Faculty of Business and Information Technology
- Business Analytics and AI, Theresa Miedema, Faculty of Business and Information Technology
- Business Analytics and AI, Amanda McEachern Gaudet, Faculty of Business and Information Technology
- Business Analytics and AI, Amirmohsen Golmohammadi, Faculty of Business and Information Technology
- Computer Science, Dhavide Aruliah, Faculty of Science
- Cybersecurity, Tosan Atele-Williams, Faculty of Business and Information Technology
- Cybersecurity, Lazaro Bustio Martinez, Faculty of Business and Information Technology
- Cybersecurity, Jorge Gonzalez Ordiano, Faculty of Business and Information Technology
- Education, Brenda Jacobs, Frazer Faculty of Education
- Health Sciences, Daniela Malta, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Health Sciences, Ron Wald, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Information Technology Security, Ahmed Shiekh, Faculty of Business and Information Technology
- Information Technology Security, Tosan Atele-Williams, Faculty of Business and Information Technology

- Financial Data Analytics, Amirmohsen Golmohammadi, Faculty of Business and Information Technology

#### **5.5 Emeritus Graduate Faculty (I)**

- Automotive Engineering, Ebrahim Esmailzadeh, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
- Mechatronics Engineering, Ebrahim Esmailzadeh, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science

#### **6. Termination**

There being no other business, and upon a motion to terminate by A. Slane, the GSC Meeting terminated at 9:22 a.m.

Sandra Grouette, Assistant University Secretary