



ACADEMIC COUNCIL
GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE (GSC)

**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