



ACADEMIC COUNCIL
GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE (GSC)

**Minutes of the Public Session of the November 25, 2025 Meeting
via Videoconference
9:00 a.m. - 9:18 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
Amanda Cooper
Nicola Crow

Catherine Davidson
Leigh Harkins
Shahram Heydari
Sayyed Ali Hosseini
Amirkianoosh Kiani
Karolina Krystyniak
Xianke Lin
Holly MacPherson
Olga Marques

Kimberley McCartney
Carolyn McGregor
Diana Petrarca
Andrea Slane
Nick Wattie
Ken Wilson
Adam Wingate

Regrets:

Franco Gaspari
Les Jacobs
Hossam Kishawy
Lori Livingston
Faisal Qureshi

Carol Rodgers
Peter Stoett
Akira Tokuhiko
Lennaert van Veen

Staff:

Kirstie Ayotte (Secretary)

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

The Chair called the Public session of the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and K. Wilson provided their personal Land Acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

Upon a motion duly made by S. Heydari 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 opened the meeting by reminding Members that volunteers were still needed to present the Land Acknowledgement at future meetings. He provided staffing updates, confirming that SGPS has completed several recent searches. Samantha Stahlke has joined as Executive Assistant, Mehdi Hossein-

Nejad will begin as Associate Dean on January 1, 2026, and Andrea Kassaris will join on December 1, 2025 in a limited term role supporting program development, academic affairs, and thesis exam processes.

The Chair also highlighted that the December GSC meeting has been rescheduled to December 18, 2025 and emphasized the importance of attendance.

Additional updates noted the strong turnout at this year's internal recruitment events and ongoing work to support domestic recruitment and potential admission pathways for current students. The Chair reminded Members of the upcoming Graduate Showcase events and he provided a brief overview of the SGPS Summit on December 11, 2025.

4. Major Program Modification (Recommendation)

4.1 Faculty of Social Science and Humanities: Master of Arts in Social Practice and Innovation* (M)

A. Slane noted that the program started this September with their third cohort of students and that it is aiming to stay flexible by offering options for working students, and those seeking a one year route instead of a 16 month structure. She advised that requirements remain unchanged, and the proposed updates are minor refinements based on two cycles of course delivery. She also advised that the part-time option was approved last year, and these changes enable its implementation.

Upon a motion duly made by O. Marques and seconded by J. Arcand, the GSC hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the Major Program Modification to the Master of Arts in Social Practice and Innovation program to establish defined program maps for part-time and full-time accelerated students, to permit undergraduate enrollment in targeted MSPI courses, and to update course descriptions.

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 Meeting of September 23, 2025 * (M)

5.2 Minor Curricular Changes:

Reinstate a Closed Course: [SSCI – 5080G](#)

5.3 Associate Graduate Faculty

- Automotive Engineering, Samuel Yousefi, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
- Business Analytics and AI, Karthik Sankaranarayanan, Faculty of Business and Information Technology
- Computer Science, Zahra Atf, Faculty of Business and Information Technology
- Computer Science, Ian Garrett, Faculty of Business and Information Technology
- Computer Science, Karthik Sankaranarayanan, Faculty of Business and Information Technology

- Education, Anna Rodrigues, Frazer Faculty of Education
- Electrical and Computer Engineering, Praveen Jain, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
- Financial Data Analytics, Karthik Sankaranarayanan, Faculty of Business and Information Technology
- Forensic Psychology, Michael Seto, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities
- Mechanical Engineering, Samuel Yousefi, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
- Mechatronics Engineering, Samuel Yousefi, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
- Modelling and Computational Science, Christopher Collins, Faculty of Science
- Applied Bioscience, Jonathan Midwood, Faculty of Science
- Computer Science, Amit Maraj, Faculty of Business and Information Technology
- Cybersecurity, Amit Maraj, Faculty of Business and Information Technology
- Cybersecurity, Ruba Alomari, Faculty of Business and Information Technology
- Education, Tyler Frederick, Frazer Faculty of Education
- Electrical and Computer Engineering, Langis Roy, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
- Engineering Management, Dima Jawad, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
- Health Sciences, Tyler Frederick, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities
- Health Sciences, Imran Khan Niazi, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Information Technology Security, Ruba Alomari, Faculty of Business and Information Technology
- Materials Science, Hossam Gaber, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
- Nursing, Shirley Quach, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Nursing, Reshma Prashad, Faculty of Health Sciences

Graduate Faculty

- Computer Science, Muhammad Usman, Faculty of Science
- Applied Bioscience, Ken Wilson, Faculty of Science
- Information Technology Security, Peter Lewis, Faculty of Business and Information Technology

6. Other Business

None Noted.

7. Adjournment (M)

There being no other business, and upon a motion duly made by A. Slane, the Public session of the GSC Meeting adjourned at 9:18 a.m.

Kirstie Ayotte, Assistant University Secretary

