

Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 10:00 a.m.  
Meeting #90

Zoom

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**Voting Members**

Tara Beattie, Co-Chair  
Qiao Sun, Academic Co-Chair – arrived during Item 3  
Getachew Assefa – arrived during Item 1.3  
Jessalynn Keller  
Kimberly Lenters  
Justin MacCallum – arrived during Item 2  
Elizabeth Oddone Paolucci  
Oleksiy Osiyevskyy  
Alexandria Poppendorf

**Meeting Secretary**

Michelle Speta

**Scribe**

Vanessa Kozielec

**Regrets**

Amy Dambrowitz

**Non-Voting Members**

Christine Johns – arrived during Item 8  
Catherine McLeod  
Louise Wells  
Michael Wright

**Resource Personnel & Observers**

Elizabeth Pando Burciaga, Program Innovation Partner  
Kelly Hoglund, Senior Specialist, Academic Initiatives  
Kimberley McLeod, Associate Registrar & Director, Systems and Policy  
Janelle Morris, Program Innovation Partner  
Kelly Kay Spurlock, Analyst, Planning and Reviews

**Guests**

Barry Wylant, Graduate Program Director, School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape  
– present for Items 3-4  
Siu Ming Kwok, Academic Director, School of Public Policy  
– present for Item 5  
Anne-Marie McLaughlin, Associate Dean (Graduate), Faculty of Social Work  
– present for Item 6  
Meadow Schroeder, Graduate Program Director, Werklund School of Education  
– present for Item 7

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*Secretary's Note: In accordance with the General Faculties Council (GFC) Bylaws Section 8.2, the motion box and "Carried" denotation serves as the entry in the minutes that the Chair of the meeting declared the motion carried.*

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and confirmed quorum.

## 1. Meeting Opening

### 1.1. Approval of the Agenda

#### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Agenda for the February 12, 2025 Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee meeting be approved.

**Carried**

### 1.2. Traditional Land Acknowledgement

The Co-Chair provided a Traditional Land Acknowledgement.

### 1.3. Remarks of the Co-Chair

The Co-Chair provided an update on the “Faculty of Science Additional 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Graduate Program Calendar Revisions” item that was brought forward to the January 22, 2025 meeting. The Committee had directed that the non-standard courses and their pre-requisites be reviewed with the Registrar’s Office as soon as possible to ensure that the courses can be systematized. The Co-Chair confirmed that the Faculty of Science has completed consultation with the Registrar's Office.

*Secretary’s Note: The result of the consultation with the Registrar’s Office was confirmed following the meeting and QUAC 601 will be added as a co-requisite to QUAC 605 and 607.*

## 2. Approval of the January 22, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

An amendment was reported for the Faculty of Graduate Studies’ (FGS’) Artificial Intelligence Guidelines information item to clarify that the FGS guidelines were developed based on a report, not recommendations, and from the Western Canadian Deans of Graduate Studies, not the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies.

#### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Minutes of the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee meeting held on January 22, 2025 be approved with the reported amendment.

**Carried**

## 3. Recommendation of the Master of Environmental Design (MEDes) Program Changes: Degree Name Change and Specialization Terminations

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Barry Wylant, Graduate Program Director, School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an overview of the proposed changes to the Master of Environmental Design (MEDes) program in the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape (SAPL). The changes include renaming the MEDes degree as the Master of Design Research (MDR), renaming the associated specialization in Environmental Design as the specialization in Design Research, and terminating the legacy MEDes specializations in Environmental Science, Industrial Design, Urban Design, and Planning.
- The rationale for these changes is that the term “environmental design” is considered outdated in its association with architecture, planning, and landscape architecture and other design research activities, and no longer aligns with post-professional degrees or employers' expectations.
- The proposed name change from MEDes to MDR aims to improve program visibility and attract more applicants by aligning with their interest in post-professional design research. It will also enhance industry recognition by distinguishing the program as a research degree, distinct from the professional programs in architecture, planning, and landscape architecture.
- The MEDes currently has one active specialization, Environmental Design, which is proposed to be renamed the specialization in Design Research in alignment with the change in degree name. The other four MEDes specializations are proposed to be terminated.
- The specializations in Environmental Science, Industrial Design, Urban Design, and Planning have not been used since the MEDes changed to a thesis-based program. There have been no admissions into the four legacy specializations since 2010, with the last graduates in 2016-2017.
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
  - The term “environmental” in the MEDes’ name caused confusion, as it seemed to associate the program with earth sciences rather than design research. Removing the term “environmental” will clarify the program’s focus on the built environment. Including the term “research” helps to distinguish the degree from other design fields (e.g., graphic design).
  - The new name is broad enough to apply across all of SAPL’s professional disciplines and create opportunity for transdisciplinarity.
  - Consultation with students, alumni, and industry partners showed strong agreement with the proposed name change. Alumni noted that the new name better reflects their expertise and would be seen as a valuable credential by employers.
  - As this is a post-professional program, students entering the MDR will already have a professional degree (i.e., Master of Architecture, Master of Planning, or Master of Landscape Architecture). The research skills gained in the MDR will complement their professional qualifications and enable them to conduct original research in their fields.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the name change for the ‘Master of Environmental Design’ degree, to the ‘Master of Design Research’ degree, and the name change for the ‘Specialization in Environmental Design’ to the ‘Specialization in Design Research’, in the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, effective July 1, 2025, as set out in the documents provided.

**Carried**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the termination of the Master of Environmental Design degree's specializations in Environmental Science, Industrial Design, Urban Design, and Planning, effective July 1, 2025, as set out in the documents provided.

**Carried****4. Approval of the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape 2025-2026 Graduate Program Calendar Revisions**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Barry Wylant, Graduate Program Director, School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, presented this item.

**Highlights:**

- The presenter provided an overview of the proposed Calendar revisions for graduate programs in the SAPL, which are basic housekeeping changes to better align Calendar information with SAPL's current regulations and practices.
- Changes include updates to the Doctor of Design (DDes) Overview section to align with current DDes candidacy regulations, as well as minor adjustments to the Master of Architecture (MArch) program details to clarify the selection of special topics courses and electives.
- In response to questions, it was explained that the funding plan for the DDes was removed as it is an executive degree, where students continue working full-time in their professional careers. The DDes program is not included in SAPL's Funding Policy or FGS Graduate Student Funding Operating Standards. The nature of the program is clearly outlined in promotional materials.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) approve the proposed Calendar revisions for graduate programs in the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape (SAPL), effective for the 2025-2026 Calendar, as recommended by the GAPS Calendar Working Group, and as set out in the documents provided.

**Carried**

*Secretary's Note: Item 9 was presented before Item 5.*

**5. Approval of the School of Public Policy 2025-2026 Graduate Program Calendar Revisions**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Siu Ming Kwok, Academic Director, School of Public Policy, presented this item.

**Highlights:**

- The presenter provided an overview of the proposed Calendar revisions for the Master of Public Policy (MPP) graduate program in the School of Public Policy.

- The changes are being made to rectify missing or incorrect information for admission requirements and related documentation. Specifically:
  - The requirement for two academic references, which was missing from the MPP admissions section, has been added.
  - Removal of the paper-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score, as this format of the test has not been offered since 2021. It was noted that scores from the paper version of the TOEFL will continue to be accepted until this change is published in the 2025-2026 Calendar at which point, the School will only accept the Internet-based TOEFL (iBT) score.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) approve the proposed Calendar revisions for the Master of Public Policy program in the School of Public Policy, effective for the 2025-2026 Calendar, as recommended by the GAPS Calendar Working Group, and as set out in the documents provided.

**Carried****6. Approval of the Faculty of Social Work 2025-2026 Graduate Program Calendar Revisions**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Anne-Marie McLaughlin, Associate Dean (Graduate), Faculty of Social Work, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an overview of the proposed Calendar revisions for graduate programs in the Faculty of Social Work.
- Significant changes include:
  - The regulations regarding transfer from the thesis-based Master of Social Work (MSW) to the course-based MSW have been updated to allow students to transfer after completing the research courses, or later in cases of extenuating circumstances.
  - The deadline for thesis-based MSW students to select their permanent supervisor was changed to December 1 of their first year, which is earlier than previously stated, to ensure timely academic support.
  - The timeline for declaring the MSW student's examining committee has been adjusted from one month to six weeks before the oral exam, providing additional time for approval from examiners that are external to the Faculty of Social Work, and to maintain the integrity of the examination timeline.
  - Twenty-nine courses from the former MSW program that are no longer being taught are being deleted from the Calendar.
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
  - Language regarding the ladder pathway is repeated across each certificate as well as the course-based MSW entries to ensure students can find the information regardless of which credential in the pathway they look-up in the Calendar. This format is consistent across all ladder credentials.
  - MSW course-based students are required to complete 500 hours of advanced practicum (SOWK 660) alongside an integrative seminar course (SOWK 662), which also includes a research component. These

courses are completed at the end of the program and have been branded as “FIRE” (Field Practicum, Integrative Seminar, Research Applications, and Exit Requirement).

- There are currently no students following the old MSW program curriculum.
- The Committee requested the following amendment:
  - Part c) of the MSW course-based Program/Course Requirements should be revised to clarify that the "research applications and exit requirement" are part of the integrative seminar course. Specifically, it should indicate which courses comprise the 12 units of the FIRE component.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) approve the proposed Calendar revisions for graduate programs in the Faculty of Social Work, effective for the 2025-2026 Calendar, as recommended by the GAPS Calendar Working Group, and as set out in the documents provided, with the requested amendment.

**Carried**

*Secretary's Note: Items 8 and 10 were presented before Item 7.*

**7. Approval of the Werklund School of Education 2025-2026 Graduate Program Calendar Revisions**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Meadow Schroeder, Graduate Program Director, Werklund School of Education, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an overview of the proposed Calendar revisions for the graduate programs in the Werklund School of Education. The revisions include general updates to program descriptions and course modifications.
- Specific course changes include:
  - Removing A/B multi-term courses and replacing them with two separate courses, in response to direction from the Faculty of Graduate Studies and the Office of the Registrar. For example, EDPS 640 is now split into EDPY 6XX Practicum in Counselling Psychology II and EDPY 6XX Practicum in Counselling Psychology III.
  - A change in the practicum format, moving from weekly divisions (e.g., 3-hour lecture; 15-hour lab) to a total hour count for the term.
- In response to questions, it was clarified that the program delivery descriptions indicating a distance delivery format with some face-to-face/on-campus meetings at the University of Calgary's main campus reflect a clarification of existing practices, rather than a change in delivery format.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) approve the proposed Calendar revisions for graduate programs in the Werklund School of Education, effective for the 2025-2026 Calendar, as recommended by the GAPS Calendar Working Group, and as set out in the documents provided.

**Carried**

## **8. Recommendation of the Termination of the University of Calgary in Qatar (UCQ) Graduate Programs (Master of Nursing)**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Tara Beattie, Dean and Vice-Provost (Graduate Studies), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an overview of the proposed termination of the Master of Nursing (MN) graduate program at the University of Calgary in Qatar (UCQ).
- The presenter explained that the UCQ was opened in 2008, initially offering a Bachelor of Nursing degree and then expanding to offer a two-year MN degree starting in 2012.
- A comprehensive 10-year review of the UCQ was conducted in 2016, followed by a renewed agreement in 2018 for an additional five years with the goal of transitioning nursing programming to local delivery and close the UCQ.
- The termination of all academic programs is now proceeding through University governance alongside the closure of the UCQ, which will be effective August 31, 2025.
- There are no current students enrolled in the MN program at UCQ, as all students graduated in May 2024.
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
  - There are no staffing implications for the Faculty of Nursing in Calgary.
  - The closure of UCQ is viewed as a success, as the original objective of supporting the State of Qatar in developing its own independent nursing program has been achieved.

### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the termination of the University of Calgary in Qatar Master of Nursing program, effective August 31, 2025, as set out in the documents provided.

**Carried**

Tara Beattie abstained.

## **9. Approval of the Schulich School of Engineering Additional 2025-2026 Graduate Program Calendar Revisions**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Louise Wells, Lead, Graduate Calendar, Policy and Program Development, presented this item on behalf of Jeffrey Priest, Associate Dean (Graduate Studies and MEng Program), Schulich School of Engineering.

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an overview of the proposed Calendar revisions for the graduate programs in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering within the Schulich School of Engineering (SSE).

- For the Master of Science (MSc), Thesis-based in Electrical and Computer Engineering, an error in the Calendar stating the program's expected completion time as 20 months is being corrected. The correct expected completion time is 24 months (two years).
- The Internship option is also being added for the Software Engineering specialization in the Master of Engineering (MEng) program, following the approval of the change to allow the program to be completed as a regular two-year MEng at the November 6, 2024 GAPS meeting.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) approve the proposed additional Calendar revisions for graduate programs in the Schulich School of Engineering, effective for the 2025-2026 Calendar, as recommended by the GAPS Calendar Working Group, and as set out in the documents provided.

**Carried****10. Approval of the Additional Revisions to the Calendar Entry for the Graduate Certificate in Transdisciplinary Studies I**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Louise Wells, Lead (Graduate Calendar), Policy and Program Development, presented this item on behalf of Jenny Godley, Associate Dean (Transdisciplinary Scholarship), Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an overview of the proposed additional revisions to the Calendar entry for the Graduate Certificate in Transdisciplinary Studies I.
- At the January 22, 2025 meeting, the GAPS directed that consultation with the Sociology Graduate Program be undertaken regarding the work experience requirement for admission to the Social Research Methods specialization to ensure this is not a barrier for applicants. Following consultation, the proposed revision is to remove the minimum of two years of experience, and to clarify that both work and volunteer experience will be accepted towards this requirement.
- This change is proposed effective immediately for the 2024-2025 Calendar so that it applies for the current admission cycle.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) approve the proposed additional revisions to the Calendar entry for the Graduate Certificate in Transdisciplinary Studies I in the Faculty of Graduate Studies, effective for the 2024-2025 Calendar, as set out in the documents provided.

**Carried****11. Program Approvals Status Report**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda for information only. Questions can be directed to the Program Innovation Hub.



**12. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**13. Adjournment**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee adjourn the February 12, 2025 meeting.

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

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Michelle Speta  
Associate Secretary