



General Faculties Council
Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee
Approved Minutes

Wednesday, March 5, 2025, 10:00 a.m.
Meeting #91

Zoom

Voting Members

Tara Beattie, Co-Chair
Qiao Sun, Academic Co-Chair
Getachew Assefa*
Amy Dambrowitz – arrived during Item 1.2
Jessalynn Keller
Kimberly Lenters
Justin MacCallum
Elizabeth Oddone Paolucci*
Oleksiy Osiyevskyy* – arrived after Item 3

University Secretary

Courtney McVie

Meeting Secretary

Michelle Speta

Scribe

Vanessa Kozielec

Regrets

Alexandria Poppendorf

Non-Voting Members

Christine Johns
Catherine McLeod
Louise Wells
Michael Wright

Resource Personnel & Observers

Saaka Sulemana Saaka*, President, Graduate Students Association
Kelly Hoglund, Senior Specialist, Academic Initiatives
Kelly Kay Spurlock*, Analyst, Planning and Reviews

Guests

Dan McGrath, Associate Dean, Research & Scholarships, Faculty of Graduate Studies – present for Item 3
Erin Coburn, Team Lead, Graduate Scholarship Office, Faculty of Graduate Studies – present for Item 3
Lisa Hughes, Associate Dean, Graduate, Faculty of Arts – present for Item 7
Aoife Mac Namara, Dean, Faculty of Arts – present for Item 7
Erin Gibbs Van Brunschot, Vice Dean, Faculty of Arts – present for Item 7

**Attended virtually*

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 10:01 a.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Meeting Opening

1.1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the March 5, 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 course codes for the Social Innovation courses in the Graduate Certificate in Transdisciplinary Studies I. At the January 23, 2025 GAPS meeting, the Committee directed that the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) consult with the Registrar's Office to confirm the proposed course codes for the Calendar entries. After consultation, it was determined that only the course code "SOIN" will be used for the Social Innovation courses.
- Saaka Sulemana Saaka, Graduate Students Association (GSA), was welcomed as an observer.

2. Approval of the February 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee meeting held on February 12, 2025 be approved.

Carried

3. Recommendation of the Revision to Calendar Section *Faculty of Graduate Studies Scholarships and Awards*

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. From the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Dan McGrath, Associate Dean, Research & Scholarships, and Erin Coburn, Team Lead, Graduate Scholarships Office, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an overview of the proposed Calendar revisions for *Faculty of Graduate Studies Scholarships and Awards*, subsection of Q.2 *Awards and Financial Assistance for Graduate Students*.
- The rationale behind the change to increase the maximum amounts that students can hold for competitive awards is to keep pace with Tri-agency scholarship values, which were significantly increased in Summer 2024 to \$27,000 for Master's students and \$40,000 for Doctoral students. This adjustment ensures that the fair distribution policy is in line with the current financial landscape.

- The fair distribution amounts have not been updated in approximately 15 years. Currently, the fair distribution policy for Master's students is set at \$20,500, and \$26,000 for doctoral students, based on outdated Tri-agency award amounts. The adjustment would bring the fair distribution values to \$32,000 for Master's students and \$45,000 for Doctoral students.
- In response to questions, it was explained that although the Tri-council has indicated that more awards will be made available, at this stage, there is no expectation of significant changes in Tri-agency award competition outcomes.

Moved/Seconded

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the revision to Calendar Section *Faculty of Graduate Studies Scholarships and Awards*, effective for the 2025-2026 Calendar, as recommended by the GAPS Calendar Working Group and as set out in the documents provided.

Carried

4. Recommendation of the Revisions to Calendar Section *Credentials and Nomenclature* for Transdisciplinary Graduate Programs

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Oleks Osiyevskyy, Associate Dean (Policy and Program Development), FGS, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an overview of the proposed revisions to the *Graduate Studies Summary of Degree Programs* and *Graduate Interdisciplinary Degree and Specializations* subsections of the *Credentials and Nomenclature* Calendar section. With the upcoming launch of Transdisciplinary credentials, the Calendar requires updates to ensure students are informed about available graduate credentials.
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - The Master in Transdisciplinary Studies (MTST) program has been approved by the Ministry of Advanced Education but is not yet live and is expected to launch in 2026. The Transdisciplinary Graduate Programs website mentions the MTST degree in a general manner, but it does not have a Calendar entry, and an application for admission is not yet setup.
 - The MTST is part of a ladder pathway with the two Graduate Certificates. Students must complete Graduate Certificate I before proceeding to Graduate Certificate II, then to the MTST. Graduate Certificate II and the MTST have not yet been launched as no students have completed Graduate Certificate I.
 - Institutes cannot offer academic programs; only Faculties can. While the Institutes for Transdisciplinary Scholarship are involved with the transdisciplinary programs, the programs themselves must be housed within the FGS.
- The Committee discussed the language surrounding the MTST program and how it should be represented in the Calendar given its future launch date. The discussion included that:
 - The Calendar is not intended as a promotional tool. However, it is important for students to see upcoming program offerings with a clear indication of their availability date.

- If the MTST were listed in the Calendar before its official launch, there would not be any administrative support to handle inquiries or applications. However, if students are unaware of the MTST option, they might assume the program is unavailable and seek alternatives.
- The Committee requested the following amendments:
 - Remove the MTST from the bulleted list in *Graduate Studies Summary of Degree Programs*.
 - Remove the bulleted list in the new "Transdisciplinary Credentials" section of *Graduate Interdisciplinary Degree and Specializations*. Instead, revise the wording to state that the FGS offers transdisciplinary credentials at the certificate, Master's, and PhD levels, and additional details can be found on the FGS website, with a hyperlink to the website. The revised language should also indicate that students in the course-based Transdisciplinary Studies programs will be able to ladder into the MTST starting in 2026.
- Once the program is ready for launch, the proposal to add MTST to the Calendar will be brought forward to a future GAPS meeting as part of a bundled submission updating all relevant the Calendar sections.

Moved/Seconded

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the proposed revisions to Calendar Section *Credentials and Nomenclature*, 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 amendments.

Carried**5. Recommendation of the Revisions to Graduate Regulations G.A.3 Graduate Admission Categories**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Oleks Osiyevskyy, Associate Dean (Policy and Program Development), FGS, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an overview of the proposed Calendar revisions for Graduate Regulations section G.A.3 *Graduate Admission Categories*.
- The presenter clarified that the information related to interdisciplinary students is being removed, as interdisciplinary students are not considered a specific admission category. Information on interdisciplinary program offerings is appropriately placed in another section of the Calendar (*Credentials and Nomenclature*).
- Updates are also being made to the section on Visiting Students to better reflect current practices for admission. The revised wording will state that all prospective visiting students must contact the graduate program in which they are interested before submitting their online application, and that prospective visiting student researchers (VSRs) are required to include a Confirmation of Interest letter from their prospective supervisor with their application for admission.
- It was noted that changes to the Qualifying Students and Western Deans' Agreement admission categories are currently under discussion with the FGS Policy Committee.

Moved/Seconded

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the proposed revisions to Calendar Section G.A.3 *Graduate Admission Categories*, effective for the 2025-2026 Calendar, as recommended by the GAPS Calendar Working Group and as set out in the documents provided.

Carried

6. Recommendation of the Revisions to Calendar Section P.2.5 Graduate Student General Fees

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Oleks Osiyevskyy, Associate Dean (Policy and Program Development), FGS, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an overview of the proposed Calendar revisions for the distance delivery programs paragraph in Section P.2.5 *Graduate Student General Fees* to ensure the list of programs offered as distance delivery is accurate and current.
- The presenter explained that distance delivery programs are designed to be completely remote but may include a short on-campus residency.
- Students in distance delivery programs are not charged on-campus general fees (Campus Recreation, Athletics, UPass) or health and dental insurance. Students in course-based, on-campus programs who are enrolled only in online courses for a given term are not charged on-campus general fees for that term, but are assessed annual fees for health and dental insurance.
- The Precision Health Medicine programs have been offered online since their launch during the COVID-19 pandemic. Current Precision Health Medicine students have had their general fees manually adjusted by the FGS to remove all on-campus general fees except health and dental insurance, unless students opt-out themselves. Adding the Precision Health Medicine programs as a distance delivery program would automatically exempt Precision Health students from all on-campus general fees, including health and dental insurance, although students can opt-in to health and dental insurance if desired.
- The Lethbridge location for the Faculty of Social Work's Master's and doctoral programs is being removed because graduate programs have not been offered at the Lethbridge site since 2021-2022.
- The Committee's discussion included:
 - Precision Health was not approved as a distance delivery program but became functionally online due to COVID-19. Before it can be added to the list of distance delivery programs in the fees section of the Calendar, the program's modality must be changed within its own Calendar entry.
- The Committee requested the following amendments:
 - Remove the Precision Health Medicine programs from the list of distance delivery programs.
 - Replace "campus" with "site" when referring to the Faculty of Social Work's Edmonton location to align with other references within the Calendar.

Moved/Seconded

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee (GAPS) recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the proposed revisions to Calendar Section P.2.5 *Graduate Student General Fees*, 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 amendments.

Carried

7. Approval of the Suspension of Graduate Programs, Faculty of Arts

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. From the Faculty of Arts, Lisa Hughes, Associate Dean, Graduate, Aoife Mac Namara, Dean, and Erin Gibbs van Brunschot, Vice Dean, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the proposal for the suspension of the Master of Arts (MA) in Music, the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Music, and Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Art degree programs, as well as the specializations in Composition, Conducting, Sonic Arts and Music Education within the Master of Music (MMus) and the specializations in Design/Technical, Directing, Playwriting, and Theatre Studies within the MFA in Drama.
- These suspensions respond to the Faculty's unit review in Fall 2024 and past curriculum reviews in the School of Creative and Performing Arts and the Department of Art and Art History. The unit review recommendations suggested termination of low enrolment programs, but the Faculty of Arts is instead proposing that the low enrolment programs be suspended to allow time to undergo the curriculum renewal process.
- The proposed suspensions are for two years (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027). Students currently enrolled will still be supported in completing their degrees, and courses will continue to be offered.
- The FGS Council Executive Committee recommended suspending the specializations and the degree program suspensions were recommended by FGS Council. The Faculty of Arts Council voted against four of the five proposed suspensions; however, all five were supported by the Faculty of Arts Executive Committee and the Faculty of Arts Curriculum and Academic Review Committee – Graduate. In accordance with the governance structure at the University, the proposal can proceed to the GAPS without the Faculty Council's recommendation.
- It was noted that the grievance filed by the University of Calgary Faculty Association (TUCFA) related to the suspension process is a parallel but separate matter. The Committee's role is to review the proposal to suspend the graduate programs and to consider the rationale from an academic and student experience perspective. Grievances are addressed through a separate avenue.
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - Courses will continue to be offered, and the Faculty is reviewing cross-listed courses to ensure sufficient offerings remain available for interdisciplinary programs.
 - Feedback from the consultation process has been incorporated. However, defining what constitutes meaningful consultation remains a challenge, and the Faculty recognizes the need to develop frameworks for this at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Efforts are underway to support units in establishing structured consultation processes.

- Student engagement efforts included surveys and in-person meetings, but participation rates were low. Those who did engage provided valuable insights. The Faculty is committed to continuing student consultation efforts and ensuring concerns are addressed.
- In consultation with the theatre community, some concerns were raised that the proposal lacked sufficient information. In response, the Faculty sent a letter to donors and the broader community, directing them to the Arts Curriculum Renewal website, which outlines the proposal stages. This work has resulted in the reinforcing of existing and building of new partnerships with the creative industry, which has shown great support for the curriculum renewal work.

Moved/Seconded

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee approve the suspension of the: Master of Arts in Music; Doctor of Philosophy in Music; Master of Fine Arts in Art; Specializations in Composition, Conducting, Sonic Arts, and Music Education within the Master of Music; and Specializations in Design/Technical, Directing, Playwriting, and Theatre Studies within the Master of Fine Arts in Drama in the Faculty of Arts, effective July 1, 2025, as set out in the documents provided.

Carried**8. Approval of the Faculty of Science Additional 2025-2026 Graduate Program Calendar Revisions**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Justin MacCallum, Associate Dean, Graduate and Post-Doctoral Scholars, Faculty of Science, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an overview of the revisions to the ASCS, BIST, MTST, and STAT 602 and 604 courses, as well as the Program/Course Requirements section for the Master's and PhD in Mathematics and Statistics.
- The presenter explained that the Faculty of Science's package of 2025-2026 Calendar revisions was approved by GAPS at the December 11, 2024 meeting. However, the approved package contained an error in the number of units for some of the new 602 and 604 courses proposed to replace 600A/B multi-term courses.
- The courses were previously a full-year course worth 1.5 units, which was then erroneously split into two 1.5-unit courses. The correction of making each of the two new courses worth 0.75 units ensures that the total number of course units remain unchanged. For example, since STAT 600A/B was 1.5 units, each of the new STAT 602 and STAT 604 courses need to be 0.75 units.
- The MTST Graduate Seminar Courses list is being updated to reflect the inclusion of the new 602/604 courses.

Moved/Seconded

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee approve the proposed additional Calendar revisions for graduate programs in the Faculty of Science, effective for the 2025-2026 Calendar, as set out in the documents provided.

Carried

9. Approval of the Werklund School of Education 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 Meadow Schroeder, Acting Associate Dean, Graduate Programs, Werklund School of Education.

Highlights:

- The presenter noted that the Werklund School of Education's 2025-2026 Calendar revisions were approved by the GAPS at the February 12, 2025 meeting. However, two courses were erroneously deleted in the submission. The GAPS is now being asked to restore these courses: Educational Psychology (EDPS) 696: Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Assessment and Intervention, and EDPS 685: Child and Adolescent Counselling Psychology.
- These courses were mistakenly listed as outdated and set for removal, but they are active courses that will be offered this year. In addition, a revision to the course entry for EDPS 696 is required to remove an incorrect co-requisite.

Moved/Seconded

That the Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee approve the proposed additional Calendar revisions for graduate programs in the Werklund School of Education, effective for the 2025-2026 Calendar, as set out in the documents provided.

Carried**10. Updated Tuition and General Fees for the 2025-2026 Academic Calendar**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Amy Dambrowitz, University Registrar, presented this item for information.

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an overview of Calendar Section P. *Tuition and General Fees*. The new tuition rates have been approved by the Board of Governors and the updated Calendar entry is being presented to the GAPS for information and proofreading.
- The presenter emphasized that this update is primarily for awareness, allowing members to review the tuition rates and see how they are presented in the Calendar.
- There were no significant changes to the wording or format in the 2025-2026 Calendar. The only updates are the revised tuition values, as approved by the Board of Governors, and the removal of retained tuition groups that no longer have enrolled students.
- In response to questions, the presenter clarified that the Registrar's Office does not control the timelines for when third-party fees are confirmed. Once confirmed, the fees will be updated as an administrative change. When inquiries are made, the Registrar's Office refers to the previous year's fee rates.

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 March 5, 2025 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Michelle Speta
Associate Secretary