

York Graduate Students in Education (YGSE)

Meeting: Wednesday May 1, 2024 at 4.00am via Zoom

ATTENDING:

Sheetal Prasad (Co-Chair), Esther Martinez (Co-chair), Lisa Smith, Aurra Startup, Shayna Brissett-Foster, Helen Liu, Marika Kunnas, Sakina Panju, Melissa Somer, Chloe Jones-Westgarth, Mercedes Veselka, Ryan Collis, Sonia Martin, Stella Kim, Jessica D'Andrea

Apologies: Chunlei Liu, Emina Gladstone, Suad Ahmed, Ellie VanBerkel, Jenna D'Andrea, Rick Powless

MINUTES OF MEETING

1. Call to Order at 4.05pm
2. Land Acknowledgement read by Sheetal Prasad
3. Roll Call.
4. Vote on the agenda. Approved by unanimous consent.
Request to move agenda items from Section 10 after the Chair's Remarks approved
5. Approval of previous minutes. Approved by unanimous consent.
6. Chair's remarks
 - **a) Congratulations to Sakina, (Community & Professional Development Coordinator)!**
 - **b) Grad Assembly (March 26)**
 - i) Labour Disruptions
 - [FGS Council statement](#) on graduate courses and academic integrity (This was passed with some minor amendments) See [here](#)
 - Senate policy on labour disruption remediation and assessed grades option for students. Remediation relates to in person / on campus work
 - [Faculty Council Meeting Agenda March 14](#)
 - Questions surrounding how this may affect grading → Concerns on additional labour
 - Faculty suggested that the Office should send out a statement to students on remediation protocols from Senate - A 'What to Expect' email to Grad students
 - Oral Exams
 - In the past, in-person defences were completed off-campus
 - There is no policy on off-campus defence.
 - Defences are continuing
 - Graduate courses in the summer semester
 - Courses will begin in beginning of May for now (registration opened on April 1)
 - Two courses for Lang & Lit were cancelled without notifying GradProgram Office because they typically go to Unit 2 (Course Directors) but there is a hiring freeze, so Dean's Office cancelled those courses

- ii) Supervisory issues/best practices:
 - FGS introducing mandatory annual reports/reviews for PhDs to assess milestones and degree completion timelines
 - Making it mandatory will force the program to be proactive to year 6 students
 - iii) Presentation from Wes Moir and Cheryl van Daalen-Smith on the Faculty of Graduate Studies' development of a Supervisory Support Hub
 - Envisioning a graduate supervisory support hub to help new faculty navigate supervision practices
 - Similar to UofT's model of supervisory relationships
 - Giving students skills to become "supervisable" and giving skills to supervisors to become effective supervisors
 - Discussed potential expectations during the meeting and asked for feedback
- **c) Grad Exec Meeting (April 30)**
 - i) Rebecca Bealune-Staubig will be holding a SSHRC workshop for her decolonizing course. We can reach out to Gabby if we have any suggestions
 - ii) **Grad Program Director update:**
 - MLCE cyclical review
 - Will be sending our survey to current students and faculty on their opinions of the program
 - The current thinking is that it seems very disorganized. The Dean would like to close down the course. Faculty would actually like to revamp it, to make it really useful to administrators as a professional degree.
 - Remediation following the CUPE 3903 Labour disruption:
 - Will be sending our survey to current students and faculty on their opinions of the program
 - [Course completion options for graduate courses](#) were outlined by the Faculty of Graduate Studies in their document released April 10, 2024.
 - FGS has also created [a standalone website](#) to help faculty and students navigate the post-labour disruption options.
 - Degree milestones and graduation deadlines: While there is increased flexibility for graduate students with course related deadlines and petition deadlines no changes are being made to degree completion deadlines, graduation deadlines or grade submission deadlines. See [FGS's Important Dates and Deadlines](#) page:
 - Summer graduate courses
 - The two courses that were cancelled because they were CUPE 2, will remain cancelled
 - Summer C1 courses are running as scheduled
 - iii) **Motions to change course codes (course variants) -- see Appendix**
 - For efficiency's sake, registrar can't add courses that have a letter variant into the catalogue (i.e., EDUC 2500A) → approve
 - Motion to add JWST to EDUC 5925 3.0 Reading the Holocaust and Memory → approved (cross listed course)
 - iv) **Changes to SSHRC scholarships for grad students: discontinuation of the Vanier award**

- Increase of the Tri-Council awards of \$5000 more but discontinues the Vanier award
 - Have not heard back from this year's competition (**post meeting note: an email with some award results has been published this morning**)
- v) **Admissions progress:**
- Masters Intake: 2024-2025 = 44 acceptances by FT domestic applicants (out of a total 59 spots); Offers went out to 23 PT MEd students last week (target of 24 admissions)
 - Still ongoing adjudications
 - Low Masters and PhD admission applicants
- vi) **A Spare \$400**
- The Grad Program office has \$400 remaining that they can use to cover an expense for us - we need to give an answer ASAP with what we would like.
- Ideas include supplies, lounge food/snacks, subscriptions to journals/magazines. (**Post meeting note: an email has been circulated, please reply back with choices as soon as possible**)
7. Announcements
- i) May Newsletter sent out on today (Friday May 3)
- ii) YGSE Committee Reports: (**Action by everyone, produce a summary of key events/documents/responsibilities/training, etc that you have been involved in as part of your YGSE Role. Please submit them to either the Co-Chairs or the Secretary. Reports can be submitted as soon as your role has finished for the year, and by August 15 latest**)
8. By-elections
- i) The following positions have been acclaimed for next academic year: PhD Chair, Secretary, Faculty Council Rep (x 1), Graduate Mentorship Program Rep,
- ii) Acclaimed for this academic year: Community & Professional Development Coordinator
- iii) The following positions are still open: MEd Chair, Chief Returning Officer/ Elections Officer, Treasurer, Equity & Communications Coordinators (x2), Faculty Council Rep (1 x PhD), C&P (x1)
- iv) Post meeting note: Sheetal has updated the YGSE elections page
9. Reports from Officers
- a) Executive
 - **i) Secretary**
 - A reminder to complete the [Constitution Agreement Form](#) for those who may have forgotten.
 - Send back your YGSE reports by August 15th, or preferably sooner!
 - **ii) Treasurer's Report**
 - See Budget Changes
 - **iii) Equity & Communications Coordinators**
 - Event planned relating to Red Sheet Story. Date tbc and flyer will be sent out for circulation.

- **iv) Community & Professional Development Coordinators**
 - Demystifying Events planned for late May (21st?) awaiting conformation from speaker
- b) Associates
- **i) Chief Returning Officer**
 - Congratulations to Sakina!
 - See information about by-elections
- **ii) Urban Indigenous Cohort Representative**
 - ISAY Gala took place last Friday.
 - The pow wow for this year has been cancelled
 - Another event has been planned, details tbc.
- **iii) Graduate Conference Coordinators**
 - Preparations are stepping up, ready for action next week.
 - Call for Moderators - particularly on Wednesday
 - Interest in a potential in person post conference event in the lounge (would be good for building cohesion in the student community)
- **iv) Journal Managing Editor**
 - Conference issues of the journal underway
- **v) Graduate Lounge/Kitchen Manager**
 - All good, inventory check and visit planned shortly
- **vi) YUGSA Representatives**
 - Nothing reported
- **vii) CUPE 3903 Steward(s)**
 - The Chemistry department has been sending out threatening emails, nothing so far from our Faculty
 - People who have been on strike should get 90% of their money relating to hours before the strike, but 10% is dependant on completion of the [Remediated Hours Form](#). The conditions seem vague about how to get the additional 10%.
 - Further information can be found [here](#)
 - Keep track and log everything that you do!
 - TA contracts for next year: There is no reason why contracts for next academic year should be late (should have been out on May 1st)
- **viii) MEd and PhD Representative**
 - MEd Rep: No updates
 - PhD Rep: May be able to do a town hall in coordination with the MEd Rep and Gabby to get feedback about the MEd/MA structure and the MLCA ready for the summer retreat. May be worth the Co-Chairs attending the Summer Retreat.
- **xi) Graduate Mentorship Program Reps.**
 - No updates
- c) Committee Representatives
- **i) Faculty Council Representatives**

- Nothing to report.
- **ii) CFRAG Representative**
 - The committee has continued to assess and adjudicate certain research and teaching awards
 - Celebration Day: With the AD Research there are plans for a celebration day for faculty and students, The date has been changed again as the Dean could not attend. Now scheduled for June 3rd or June 7th. This would include students who have won awards, prizes and scholarships and also those defending their MRP/ Thesis/Dissertation.
 - The CFRAG rep will be in touch with various members of the YGSE Committee about either whether slides or presentations might be possible.
- **iii) Admissions Committee Representative**
 - No updates
- **iv) Hiring (TSAC) Representative**
 - Two out of three positions have collapsed (failed search) without being given a reason why. A short list has been sent for position #3
- **v) Tenure & Promotions Committee Representative**
 - The Dean has rejected some of the shortlists.
 - An alternative member of the Faculty has now joined the committee, so it is now at full strength.
- **vi) C & P Representative**
 - No updates
- **vii) Anti-Black Racism Committee Representative.**
 - Formal change of name for the committee. Now Justice, Equity and Redress of Anti-Black Racism Committee (JERA).
 - Thirteen members have been confirmed, a new mandate has been developed and a new website is underway

10. Old Business

- Constitution Changes see [here](#)
 - *Changes are to voted on electronically, via email.
 - *Motion put forward by Chloe, seconded by Mercedes. Motion carried.
- Budget changes see [here](#)
 - *The changes included \$500 for public appreciation event, \$500 for other events, \$1500 for Indigenous Community Support Fund (options include contributions to an event in consultation with ISAY and money towards 'signage/resources/ materials')
 - *Additional funding received for the Conference included \$2250 (in total) from the Dean's office, \$1000 from Faculty of Grad Studies (including seed grant), \$1000 from YGSE
 - *\$1000 from Global & Community Engagement Event/Outreach
 - *\$400 (one off) from Grad Office towards snacks, ink, paper, etc. This might be in the form of providing a 'shopping list', rather than having the money to spend.
 - *Motion put forward by Marika, seconded by Aurra. Motion carried.

11. Meeting ended without adjournment at 5.54pm.