ACADEMIC COUNCIL
GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE (GSC)

Minutes of the Public Session of the June 23, 2026 Meeting
via Videoconference
9:00 a.m. - 9:35 a.m.

Graduate Studies Committee Agenda & Materials 2025-2026

Present:

Pejman Mirza-Babaei, Chair
JoAnne Arcand
Akramul Azim
Carla Cesaroni
Krystina Clarke
Nicola Crow
Catherine Davidson
Jennifer Abbass Dick
Leigh Harkins
Shahram Heydari
Sayyed Ali Hosseini
Mehdi Hossein-Nejad
Dima Jawad
Karolina Krystyniak
Holly MacPherson
Olga Marques
Kimberley McCartney
Carolyn McGregor
Thomas McMorrow
Diana Petrarca
Faisal Qureshi
Ghaus Rizvi
Andrea Slane
Nick Wattie
Ken Wilson
Adam Wingate

Regrets:

Dario Bonetta
Amanda Cooper
Franco Gaspari
Les Jacobs
Hossam Kishawy
Xianke Lin
Lori Livingston
Carol Rodgers
Akira Tokuhiro
Lennaert van Veen

Staff and Guests:

Sandra Grouette (Secretary)
Atef Mohany

1. **Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement**
   The Chair called the Public Session of the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and A. Slane provided their personal Land Acknowledgement.

2. **Approval of Agenda**
   Upon a motion duly made by S. Hosseini and seconded by D. Petrarca, the GSC Agenda was approved as presented, including approving and receiving the Consent Agenda and its contents.

3. **Chair's Remarks**
   The Chair reflected on the Committee's work over the past academic year, recognizing Members and staff for their contributions to advancing graduate education. They highlighted progress on graduate policies, processes, scholarships, and program development, as well as a continued

commitment to enhancing the graduate student experience through ongoing collaboration and improvement initiatives.

4. Minor Program Adjustment (Approval)

A. Mohany joined the meeting

4.1 Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering, PhD in Mechanical Engineering, and PhD in Nuclear Engineering* (M)

K. McCartney shared that the program modification is to support student progression from Master of Applied Science programs to PhD studies by recognizing select graduate-level coursework completed during the master's program. The change is intended to enhance academic pathways and improve the student experience.

The Committee discussed the proposed pathway for Master of Applied Science students transferring into PhD studies, including eligibility, course credit recognition, and alignment with current University policies and practices across Faculties. Members noted the importance of consistency across graduate programs, and it was confirmed that broader policy work is underway to support a more consistent institutional approach to graduate transfer pathways.

Upon a motion duly made by N. Wattie and seconded by D. Jawad, that GSC hereby approves the Minor Program Adjustment for PhD programs to reduce the number of courses required for MASc to PhD transfer students from nine courses to seven courses.

5. New Program Proposal (Recommendation)

5.1 Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Engineering Graduate Diplomas* (M)

5.1.1 Advanced Automotive Engineering
5.1.2 Advanced Robotics
5.1.3 AI Engineering
5.1.4 Digital Transformation in Advanced Manufacturing
5.1.5 Energy Systems Engineering
5.1.6 Smart Grid Engineering

N. Crow advised of a minor typographical error in the AI Engineering materials that had been corrected so that a reference to "railway engineering" was changed to "AI engineering".

K. McCartney shared an overview of the proposed industry-focused graduate diplomas designed to respond to emerging workforce and industry needs by leveraging existing master's level courses.

The Committee discussed the initiative's alignment with market demand and the efficient use of existing academic resources. The structure and admission requirements, including program flexibility, academic standards, and alignment with institutional and professional requirements were also reviewed. Members were satisfied that the proposed program framework supports the

intended learner audience while maintaining academic quality and consistency with graduate education objectives.

Upon a motion duly made by G. Rizvi and seconded by J. Arcand, that GSC hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the following new Graduate Diploma (Type 3) programs in the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science and the subsequent recommendation of the programs to the Board:

- *Advanced Automotive Engineering*
- *Advanced Robotics*
- *AI Engineering*
- *Digital Transformation in Advanced Manufacturing*
- *Energy Systems Engineering*
- *Smart Grid Engineering*

A. Mohany left the meeting.

6. Academic Policy Instruments

6.1 Cotutelle Policy and Procedures Amendments* (M)

M. Hossein-Nejad summarized the proposed revisions to the Cotutelle Policy and related Procedures, including expanded eligibility for thesis-based master's students and the introduction of institutional-level agreements to streamline processes with partner institutions. The proposed changes are intended to support research collaboration, reduce administrative burden, and improve clarity in the policy's implementation. M. Hossein-Nejad acknowledged the support of the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science within the policy review and updating process.

Upon a motion duly made by D. Jawad and seconded by G. Rizvi, that GSC hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the updated Cotutelle Policy.

Upon a motion duly made by N. Wattie and seconded by A. Slane, that GSC hereby approves the updated Cotutelle Procedures.

6.2 Graduate Experiential Learning Policy* (M)

M. Hossein-Nejad shared an overview of the new proposed Graduate Experiential Learning Policy designed to support the increasing integration of experiential learning opportunities within graduate programs. The policy establishes a framework for experiential learning activities and clarifies academic and administrative responsibilities to support consistent program development and delivery. M. Hossein-Nejad expressed appreciation to all those involved in the development of this Policy.

Members discussed the scope of the proposed Graduate Experiential Learning Policy, including the types of experiential learning activities it is intended to address. It was noted that the policy focuses on structured experiential learning opportunities and will be reviewed in accordance with the Policy Framework's prescribed process to ensure it continues to meet the evolving needs of graduate programs and incorporates any necessary refinements given it is a new policy.

Upon a motion duly made by F. Qureshi and seconded by J. Arcand, that GSC hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the Graduate Experiential Learning Policy.

7. Consent Agenda* (M)

The Chair confirmed that the contents of the Consent Agenda were approved and received under Agenda Item # 2.

7.1 Public Minutes of the May 26, 2026 Meeting* (M)

7.2 Minor Curricular Changes: (I)

7.2.1 New course proposals:

ENGR 5001W, ENGR 5002W

7.2.2 Course Reinstate:

HLSC 5126G

7.3 Graduate Faculty (I)

- **Education, Shawn Bullock, Frazer Faculty of Education**

8. Termination

There being no other business, and upon a motion to terminate by F. Qureshi, the GSC Meeting terminated at 9:35 a.m.

Sandra Grouette, Assistant University Secretary