The University of Alberta
Faculty of Education

GRADUATE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

October 2, 2017

PRESENT: Cathy Adams, Christina Borys, Trudy Cardinal, Domenique Gadsden, Lynn McGarvey, Remonia Morrison, Jacqueline Pei, Nathalie Reid, Ali Shiri, Veronica Smith, Jorge Sousa, Bonnie Stelmach, Remonia Stoddart-Morrison, Greg Thomas, Annette Wentworth, Elaine Simmt (Chair), Betty Jo Werthmann (Administrator)

Regrets: Doug Gleddie, Gaylene Schreiber

1. Approval of Agenda

MOVED TO APPROVE the agenda as circulated.
C Adams / D Gadsden / CARRIED

2. Introductions

Introductions were made.

3. Approval of Minutes

Following the April GAAC meeting, an e-vote was held for the following notices of motion:
- EDSE 620 Advanced Research Seminar in Secondary Education II
- EDSE 900 Directed Research Project

The calendar changes were approved and forwarded to GFC.

MOVED TO APPROVE the minutes of April 3, 2007 as presented.
A Shiri / J Pei / CARRIED

4. For Information

The following documents were reviewed for information:
- membership
- terms of reference
- meeting schedule
- U of A calendar change approval flowchart
- Calendar submission information
- GAAC summary for 2016-17
  - At the October 3, 2016 meeting at motion was made to strike a working group to look at technology and integration across graduate work. L McGarvey will provide an update at a future GAAC.
5. **Notice of Motion**

Educational Policy Studies is requesting a program name change from *Theoretical, Cultural and International Studies in Education* to *Social Justice and International Studies in Education*. This name change will
- better reflect the work of the associated faculty members
- adjust to the shifting academic terrain/nomenclatures in the social sciences and education since the title was first adopted in 2001, and
- translate better for the public served by the specialization.

Students currently enrolled in the program will have the choice as to which title they would like on their transcripts and diploma.

In order to meet timelines for calendar submission, if no substantial feedback is received in the next week, E Simmt requested an e-vote be held. It was noted that the process as outlined in the GAAC terms of reference does not speak to how an e-vote motion is made and seconded. In the past, an email has been sent to committee members simply asking them to vote. A process will be worked out for electronic votes in the future.

6. **Chair’s Report**

Exit Survey
- The Exit Survey was sent prior to spring convocation. E Simmt will report on the findings once they are compiled.

Oral Committee Chairs
- At a spring FGSR Council meeting it was proposed that Chairs of final oral examinations no longer be one of the committee members. This will be voted on at a fall FGSR Council meeting to be effective July 2018.
- Committees would then require five examiners plus a Chair.
- FGSR indicated a number of reasons including: a conflict of interest, a student not feeling safe or that the process is fair.
- Concern was expressed that it is already difficult to find members for examining committee without having to find an extra person to chair.
- Questions were posed: Should we have a pool of individuals who are interested in chairing oral committees? Would they be required to have prior experience? Or would we provide training sessions to ensure they have full understanding of rules and regulations?
- Comments were made: This would be an educational opportunity for all academics; The role of a chair is not trivial and may be considered differently at FEC.
- It was noted that departments can request an exception.
- C Adams reported that Secondary Education strongly encourages non-members to chair orals.
- The Chair could read the questions submitted by the external reader.
- E Simmt polled the students at the table and it was agreed this would be in the students’ best interest. An individual trained in the role of the chair would keep the exam on track, and provides a neutral person.
Misc

- There is a possibility that we may be required to list all compulsory courses in the department calendar information sections. E Simmt will discuss with the graduate coordinators.

- E Simmt will speak to D Larsen, Associate Dean, Research about a qualitative analysis program for graduate students.

Motion to adjourn.
G Thomas