FACULTY OF
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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	Senate	**DATE**	January 14, 2026
FROM	Mary O'Brien, Chair of Senate Graduate Studies Committee		
RE:	2025 Annual Report of SGSC		

I am pleased to submit the 2025 Senate Graduate Studies Committee Annual Report.

The Senate Graduate Studies Committee is charged by Senate with the following terms of reference:

1. *To maintain the academic standards established by Senate.*
2. *To review and make recommendations to Senate concerning new graduate programs.*
3. *To review and make recommendations to Senate concerning major changes to graduate programs.*
4. *To review and approve all proposed new graduate courses, course deletions, and minor changes to programs. These changes shall be reported to Senate in summary form.*
5. *To administer, review and make recommendations to Senate concerning Graduate General Regulations.*
6. *To consider matters concerning Faculty of Graduate Studies referred to the Committee, and to make recommendations to the appropriate bodies.*
7. *To consider and decide on policy recommendations concerning graduate course registration, course and program withdrawal procedures, and on the administration of graduate records.*

This report covers the period of January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025, during which SGSC held 11 meetings and one SGSC Retreat.

SGSC Appeal subcommittee (Unsatisfactory Progress under GGR 1.8.2)
There were four completed appeals in 2025. One additional appeal was received and will be considered by an SGSC Appeal Subcommittee in 2026.

SGSC Individualized Interdisciplinary Studies Steering Committee
In 2025, three applications were reviewed, three students were offered admission and three accepted. A total of eight INS students graduated in 2025, and as of the end of 2025, there are 30 active INS students.

Discussions on Graduate Education

The SGSC discussed a range of important matters, including Provincial Attestation Letters (PALs), BASS funding and the requirement for Indigenous consultation in new program proposals. The committee also reviewed guidelines for students and instructional staff in the event of a labour dispute, updates to the funding portal, Graduate Progress Report (GPR) as well as laddered pathways. Additional discussions focused on minimum funding implementation and future plans, admissions challenges, learning and teaching AI guidelines and the development of an AI transparency template. Other topics included Tri-Council Awards, part time students in thesis-based programs, stigma among students with accessibility needs, graduate supervisor policies, and the delineation of Master's programs.

SGSC reviewed, recommended, approved, and submitted to Senate curriculum changes related to the addition, deletion, and modification of programs and courses.

Revisions to Policies and Programs

a) Graduate General Regulations:
- GGR 1.2 Administration of the Faculty of Graduate Studies
- GGR 1.3 Admissions
- GGR 1.4 Enrollment
- GGR 1.6 Supervision
- GGR 1.7 Program Requirements
- GGR 1.9 Preparation for Examinations
- GGR 1.10 Examinations
- GGR 1.11 Publication of Thesis
- GGR 1.12 Time Limit for Program Completion

b) BUS: MSc Finance, EMBA, Management of Technology MBA, Graduate Certificate in Digital Transformation and Business Analytics, Graduate Certificate in Accounting with Digital Analytics

c) EDUC: Educational Practice MEd, Secondary Mathematics Education MEd, Secondary Mathematics Education MSc

d) FAS: SEE PhD, SEE MEng

e) FASS: Applied Legal Studies MA, English MA, International Studies MA, Master of Public Policy, Philosophy MA, Psychology MA, Psychology PhD

f) FCAT: Contemporary Arts MA, Master of Digital Media, Master of Fine Arts

g) FENV: Environmental Science PhD, Geography MA, Geography MSc, Resource Management MRM, Resource Management MRM (Planning)

h) SCI: Master of Environmental Toxicology, Actuarial Science MA

New Programs Approved and Recommended (including NOI)

FAS: Big Data Graduate Diploma FPP
FAS: Cybersecurity Graduate Diploma FPP
FAS: Visual Computing Graduate Diploma FPP
FASS: Indigenous Studies MA NOI
FASS: Indigenous Studies MSc NOI
FASS: Public and International Affairs MPIA NOI
EDUC: Education PhD NOI

Curriculum Changes Approved

Program Changes	Program Terminations	New Courses	Course Changes	Courses Reinstated	Courses Temporarily Withdrawn*	Courses Deleted*
31	1	32	91	1	178	132

*Please note that the Temporary and Permanent Withdrawal of Courses process was run twice in 2025 as it was not run for the past couple of years. Therefore, the numbers for Courses Temporarily Withdrawn and Courses Deleted appear much larger. The process is now back on the regular schedule and next year, it will follow its usual timing.

Graduate Admissions, Enrolments and Credentials Awarded

Table 1: Graduate Admissions

Graduate Admissions	22/23	23/24	24/25
Applications	10431	10513	8419
International	7657	7618	5484
Domestic	2774	2895	2935
Offers	2642	2907	3113
International	1240	1473	1513
Domestic	1402	1434	1600
Accepted offers	2029	2179	2234
International	860	960	901
Domestic	1169	1219	1333
New Enrollments	1788	1707	1785
International	729	625	579
Domestic	1059	1082	1206

In 2024/25, the overall number of applications dropped sharply by 19.9% compared to the previous academic year, falling from 10,513 to 8,419. This decline was driven primarily by a 28% decrease in international applicants (from 7,618 to 5,484), while domestic applications saw a modest 1.4% increase (from 2,895 to 2,935). The overall number of applications is approximately 4% below the three-year average.

From 2023/24 to 2024/25, the number of offers extended increased by 7.1%, rising from 2,907 to 3,113. International offers grew slightly by 2.7% (from 1,473 to 1,513), while domestic offers increased by 11.6% (from 1,434 to 1,600). The number of accepted offers rose marginally by 2.5%, from 2,179 to 2,234, with domestic acceptances increasing by 9.3% and international acceptances declining by 6.1%.

New enrollments rebounded slightly, increasing by 4.6% to 1,785, compared to 1,707 in the previous year. Domestic enrollments grew by 11.5%, while international enrollments continued to decline, dropping by 7.4%.

Table 2: Enrollments

Enrollments	22/23	23/24	24/25
Total*	4255	4041	3951
International		1515	1408
Domestic		2526	2543
Degree**	3786	3679	3644
International		1478	1383
Domestic		2201	2261

* Total headcount of all graduate students (degree, certificate, diploma, exchange and qualifying)
** Total headcount of master's and doctoral students

Total graduate enrollment headcount decreased by 2.2%, from 4,041 to 3,951, continuing the downward trend in 2024/25. Master's and Doctoral degree students also declined by 0.9%, from 3,679 to 3,644.

Table 3: Credentials Awarded

Credentials Awarded	2023	2024	2025
Master's (M)	1242	1302	1136
International		502	473
Domestic		800	663
Doctoral (D)	197	170	191
International		58	71
Domestic		112	120
Total (including certificates and diplomas)	1753	1681	1506

There was a 10.4% decrease in the total number of credentials awarded (including certificates and diplomas), falling from 1,681 in 2024 to 1,506 in 2025. Master's degrees awarded dropped by 12.7%, from 1,302 to 1,136, reversing the previous year's growth. Doctoral degrees, however, saw an increase of 12.4%, rising from 170 to 191.

SGSC members during 2025 were:

- M. O'Brien, Chair, Vice-Provost and Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies
- P. Stern, E. Chenier, M. Kennett, Associate Dean(s), Faculty of Graduate Studies
- C. Copeland, Chair FGSC, Applied Sciences
- K. Slaney, Chair FGSC, Arts and Social Sciences
- S. Gupta, Chair FGSC, Business
- A. Eigenfeldt, Chair FGSC, Communication, Art and Technology

- E. Gebre, Associate Dean (Jan 1 – Sep 30, 2025), M. Fettes, Associate Dean, Academic and Faculty Development (Oct 1 – Dec 31, 2025), Education
- C. Giovas, Chair FGSC, Environment
- L. McCandless, Director of Graduate Programs (Jan 1 – Sep 30, 2025), F. Lee, Delegate (Oct 1 – Dec 31, 2025), Health Sciences
- V. Williams, Chair FGSC, Science
- D. Reid, GSS Executive Representative
- M. Grahame, Associate Director, Graduate Admissions, Records & Registration
- N. White, University Librarian designate
- J. Sutherland, J. Chapman, UCIL designate
- S. Ali, M. Traversa, R. Jahandideh, Graduate Students
- Z. Ahmed, Manager, Graduate Curriculum & Policy (non-voting)
- S. Juriga, S. Doherty, J. Musgrave, S. Xu, Recording Secretary (non-voting)