

Psychology Graduate Student Council
Meeting Minutes
April 29, 2020

Opening: 3:08pm, opened by Liz Williams

Present: Liz, Chrissy, Lauren, Alex, Helia, Connor, Ryan, Breanna

Agenda:

1. Discuss feedback for Handbook

General questions/comments from the group on Handbook

- Difficult to read in detail - hard to parse and follow every
- Should not be only way policies are communicated to students
- Is there a more user friendly presentation
- Separate orientation document
- Correct lens for presentation
- Multipronged approach to the document
- We like the addition for the supervisor responsibility section
- How do we keep faculty responsible for their end of the bargain?
- Tentative language in supervisor section
 - Who is responsible? More clarity in language - where do they go if need isn't being met.
 - Checks and balances?
 - Reminders that don't come from us about certain things -- is there someone that can keep track of some of the important steps and forms
 - More accounting --- who is checking the annual reports?
 - Calendar for thesis deadlines?
 - Communication of deadlines and paperwork
- More formal ways in which these conversations are checked in upon. -- formal checklist?
- paperwork/updates centralized
- More central communication on the website.
- Info session for supervisors, how to keep them up to date on the handbook
- Not communicated well on the website
- Posting previous versions of handbook online?
 - Trouble finding it online (like the clinical one does)
 - Make current and past versions easy to find
- Position of credits/program requirements - move to the end as an appendix
- Harassment potentially deserves more prominence
- Missing?
 - Strategic priorities - more discussion of sustainable futures and reconciliation
 - Role of advocacy

- Where the graduate students are included in that, or the opportunity for other graduate students to be a part of that
 - Issues section; if this, do that, course extension procedures and policies etc.
 - Student roles in department - we will contribute to some of this
- Integrating other students or ombuddies in advocacy roles in terms of issues arising
- Ask about funding allocation, how going to sustain funding for current students, knowing issues with recruiting students
- Plan to improve funding? Curious what has/is happening there
- Structures in place to allocate funding
- Transparency about authorship (3.3.6)
 - Some more clarification here about authorship
 - Support for students having issues with authorship
 - Faculty are allowed one-month vacation but doesn't specify when e.g., per year? Or
- Protective language for students to be included on papers if it is their project
- Uvic fellowships language is vague around who gets this money and how much - how are decision amounts decided? Language about being a new student for phd
 - Clarify when you are getting these fellowships, are they guaranteed, who is considered a new student
- Clarify transition from masters to phd
- What are the circumstances where a student would not be recommended to move forward to phd
- Supervisor responsibilities - great we like it
- WANTED: Department responsibilities section - how will department support students and supervisors? E.g., posting syllabi for courses
 - Research side vs. course requirements side
 - Separate document for course requirements?
- Courses not described consistently or posted about so that students know what they can take or what is available
- Clarifying language about university administration and senate etc.
 - Define or get rid of?
 - Definition section at the beginning for shorthand and university procedures
- Include this in manual
 - https://www.uvic.ca/assets2012/docs/pdfs/UVic_Org_Chart.pdf
 - <https://www.uvic.ca/president/about/governance/index.php>
- Gender inclusive pronouns - 'the student' rather than he/her
- HOw do you think students use this document and how would you like students to use this in the future
 - E.g., when something goes wrong, or when being introduced to the program
 - Simple language
- Student involvement in 3 year updates of handbook

- Appendix D: beefed up and revised “Prevention and Response Plan for discrimination etc”
 - Resources, flow charts, phone number

Sections we like:

Adapt to the flow of academic life

Supervisor responsibilities

Considered student perspective