Health Sciences Graduate Program Annual Meeting

April 21, 2020
Webex

**Feedback:
ovdr.grad@usask.ca**

Agenda

1. Introductions
   1. Alyssa Kilgour - graduate program coordinator
      1. Filling in for Chantal Jantzen who is on parental leave
2. Additions to the agenda?
3. Program statistics
4. Program Updates
   1. COVID-19 response
   2. 2019/20 activities
   3. Budget update
   4. Spring 990 session discussion
   5. Streams update
   6. Health Sciences Graduate Scholarship call
5. Call for volunteers - program review committee
6. Adjourn

Introductions

> ## Health Sciences Graduate Program Committee 2019/2020 (TOR appended)

- David Cooper (Chair)
- John Decouteau (Pathology & Lab. Medicine)
- Steve Milosavljevic (School of Rehabilitation Sciences)
- Shelley Kirychuk (Medicine/CCHSA)
- Francisco Cayabyab (Surgery)
- Steven Machtaler (Medical Imaging)
- Camelia Adams (Psychiatry)
- Tiffany Blair (Student)
- Vedashree Meher (Student)

A special thanks to previous committee members:
- *Vivian Ramsden (Family Medicine)*
- *Cathy Arnold (School of Physical Therapy)*
- *Josh Lawson (Medicine/CCHSA)*

- **Alyssa Kilgour (Program Coordinator) – 1-year appointment during Chantal Jantzen's parental leave**

Renewal of terms and/or new appointments to be discussed in July. Please let us know if you would like to serve on the cmte.

Vital Statistics (May 2020)

- **Total HSC students: 62** *(60)*
  - **MSc: 27** *(22)*
  - **PHD: 35** *(38)*

  - **Domestic: 46** *(41)*
  - **International: 16** *(19)*

  - **Female: 38**
  - **Male: 24**

- **May 2018 - May 2019**
  - Graduated 8 *(7)*
    - MSc: 3 *(2)*
    - PhD: 5 *(5)*

  - Withdrawn 1 *(0)*
  - RTD 1 *(0)*
  - Leaves 3

  - New Students May 2019-2020
    - MSc: 9
    - PhD: 3

(2017/18)

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- ➢ Web page focused on CoM Graduate student updates

- ➢ Weekly meetings with CMGSS & Health Sciences Q&A

- ➢ Major update to CoM Grad Students April 03

- ➢ Planning update to Graduate Supervisors

- ➢ OVDR is preparing a survey regarding research impacts/needs for recovery

College of Medicine

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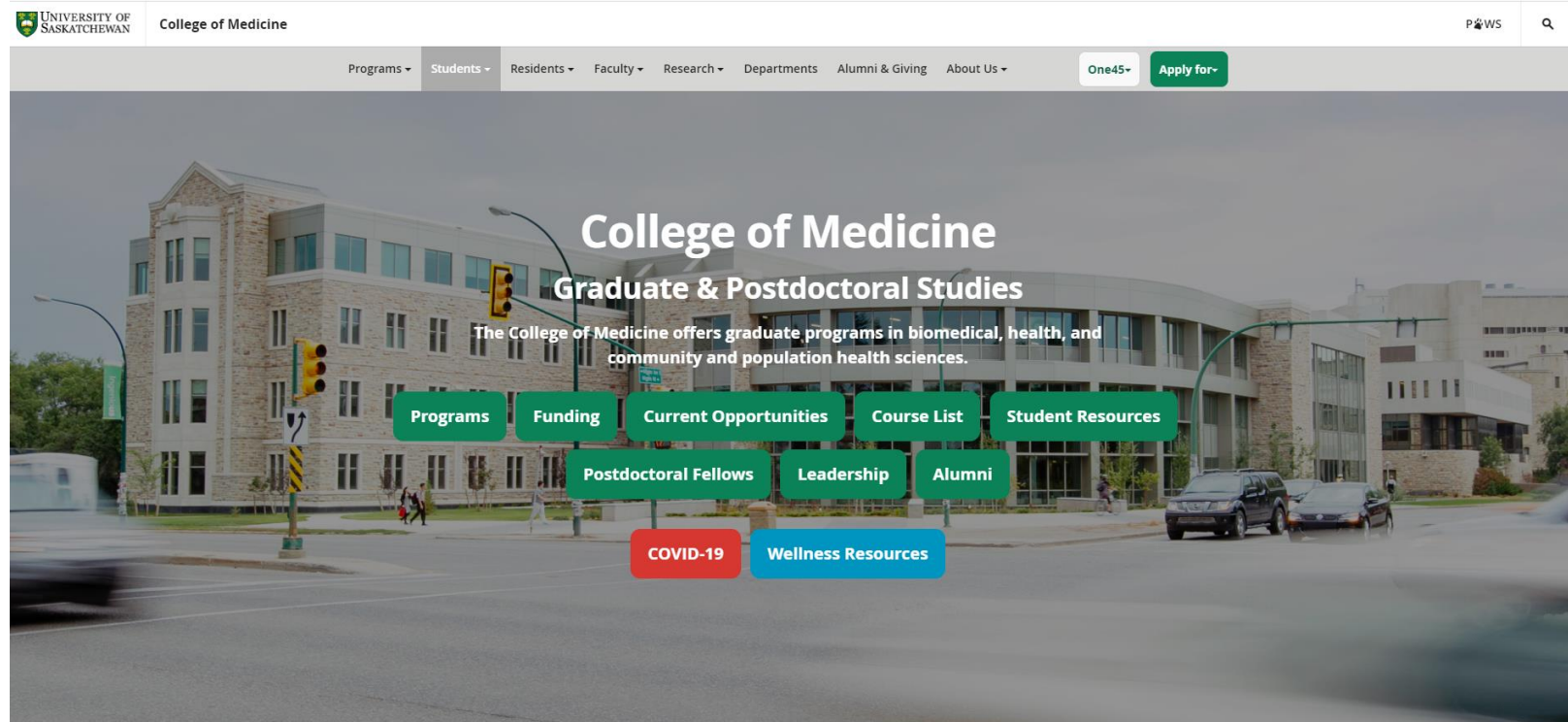
➢ We focused **on learner wellness** as a priority across all CoM graduate programs this year

  ➢ **Chantal** was a driving force behind this work

    ➢ Health Needs Assessment (Students from School of Public Health)

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A Health Needs Assessment for Health Science Graduate Students at the University of Saskatchewan

By Abukari, Aisha, and Humaira
PUBH 803
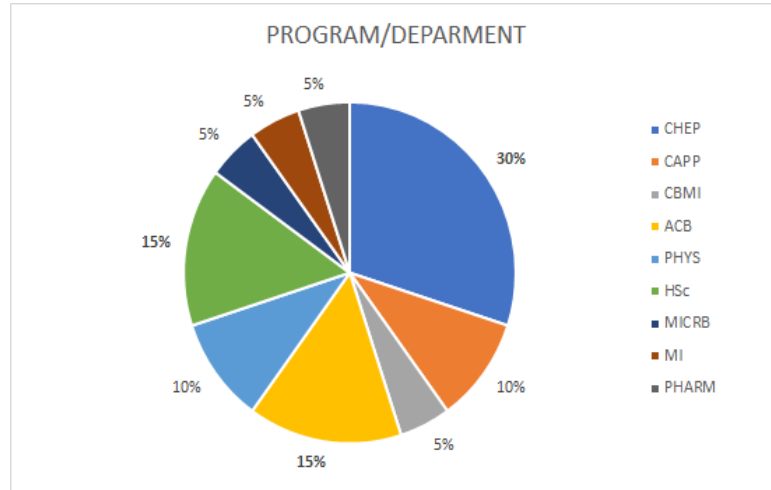Professor Amanda Forehlich Chow
December 5, 2019

Figure 3: A pie chart showing the distribution of students in each program/department. The top three commonly stated programs have been highlighted

Sample size was 20 CoM grad students (~10%)
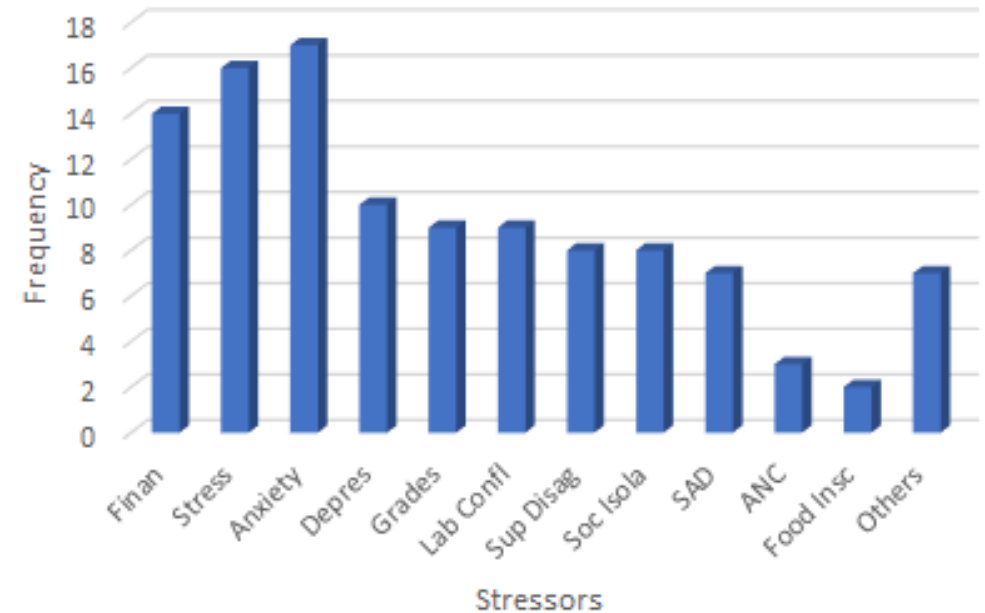**3 Health Sciences Respondents**

Figure 4: A bar showing the various mental health stressors among Graduate Students in the College of Medicine. Note: Finan = Finances, Depress = Depression, Lab Confl = Lab scheduling conflicts, Sup Disag = Supervisor disagreements, Soc Isola = Social isolation, SAD = Seasonal affective disorder, ANC = Adjusting to new culture, Food Insc = Food insecurity,

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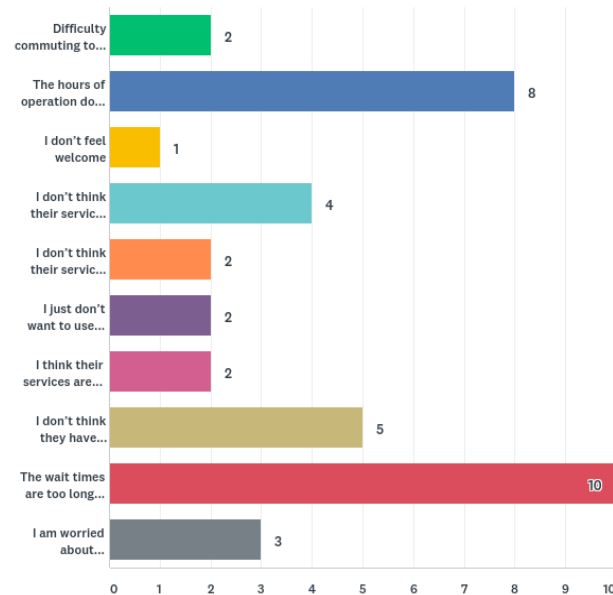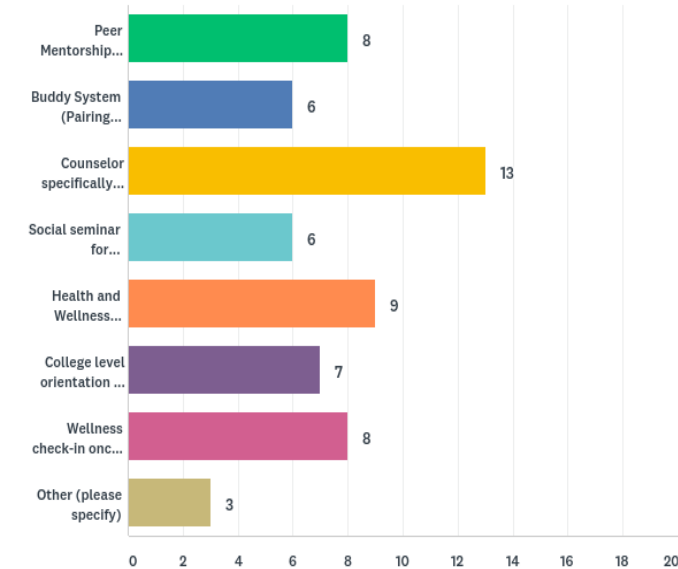
Figure 8.

Figure 9.

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Recommendations

❖ Provide mental health training for supervisors

❖ Provide students hands-on skills workshops

❖ Allow flexibility in work/school schedules

❖ Create a safe environment for communication

❖ Create collaborative programs between students, departments, and mental health professionals

❖ Conduct qualitative studies on experiences of mental health among students

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➢ Wellness Initiatives

    ➢ Student-Supervisor Agreement adoption across the CoM

    ➢ 990 Combined Seminar October 16 (*Dr. Murray Drew, from the College of Agriculture*)

    ➢ Mental Health First Aid Training *(offered to students, staff and faculty)*

    ➢ Emergency Medical/Compassionate Leave Grant

        ➢ $1000/month for up to two months

    ➢ Learner Wellness Coordinator (Mackenzie MacAuley)

        ➢ Consolidation of Web resources from across campus

        ➢ **Dedicated CoM counseling (*came online in April*)**

➢ Alumni Seminar Series *(academic & non-academic)*

    ➢ *Postponed due to pandemic*

Budget

2018/19 vs 2019/20

This Year (2019/2020)

OVDR Detail

Envelop	2018/19 (committed & new)		2019/20 (committed & new)	Variance		Percentage
CoMGRAD	$	383,000.00	$ 210,000.00	-$	173,000.00	-45%
Department Devolved	$	185,000.00	$ 120,000.00	-$	65,000.00	-35%
Travel Awards	$	50,000.00	$ 30,000.00	-$	20,000.00	-40%
PDF	$	180,000.00	$ 38,625.00	-$	141,375.00	-79%
Interdisciplinary Support	$	36,000.00	$ 24,000.00	-$	12,000.00	-33%
Core (23376) *includes rows below	$	202,000.00	$ 66,875.00	-$	135,125.00	-67%
Tuition bursary	$	25,000.00	$ 19,875.00	-$	5,125.00	-21%
Parental Leave	$	10,000.00	$ 16,000.00	$	6,000.00	60%
CGMSS	$	-	$ 5,000.00	$	5,000.00	100%
Student PD	$	-	$ 6,000.00	$	6,000.00	100%
AD Strategic Initiatives/support	$	40,000.00	$ 20,000.00	-$	20,000.00	-50%
Other	$	127,000.00	$ -	-$	127,000.00	-100%
OVDR Graduate Budget	$	**1,036,000.00**	**$ 489,500.00**			

53% reduction for next year

Next Year 2020/21 (Proposed)

Graduate Studies Budget - 2019/2020 vs. 2020/2021

Description	2019/2020	2020/2021 (Proposed)
CoMGRAD	$ 210,000.00	$ 392,008.56
Department Devolved	$ 120,000.00	$ 250,000.00
Travel Awards	$ 30,000.00	$ 65,000.00
PDF	$ 38,625.00	$ -
Interdisciplinary Support	$ 24,000.00	$ 24,000.00
Tuition Bursary	$ 19,875.00	$ -
Parental Leave	$ 16,000.00	$ 16,000.00
CGMSS	$ 5,000.00	$ 5,000.00
Student PD	$ 6,000.00	$ 6,000.00
AD Strategic Initiatives/Support	$ 20,000.00	$ 20,000.00
Student Wellness Facilitator	$ -	$ 5,000.00
Student Wellness: Emergency Leave Grant	$ -	$ 12,000.00
Matching Grant Application Funding Support- 3 PhD	$ -	$ 72,000.00
Total	$ 489,500.00	$ 867,008.56

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➢ **Scheduled for May 04 @ 1pm**
  ➢ *Webex*
  ➢ *Currently 6 speakers planned*
  ➢ *Was format already communicated?*
    ➢ *Propose conference style approach: 12 minute talk + 3 minute question period*

➢ *For Discussion:*
  ➢ *Default – hold this session as planned*
  ➢ *Spread speakers out during Friday Q&A sessions beginning in May?*

➢ Call coming this week. Applications due May 31.

➢ Replaced (non-devolved) UGS

➢ CoM Devolved funds, GRF funds, CGPS devolved funds (starting this year)
  ➢ ~$88,000 was available in 2019-2020
  ➢ 8 students funded

➢ Matching Scheme awards modeled after the CoMGRAD program
  ➢ 60% Program: 40% Supervisor

➢ Targeting those students no longer eligible for CoMGRAD and Tricouncil support
  ➢ *Early program "out of cycle" new recruits will only be considered if a surplus remains after the normal competition.*

Health Sciences Graduate Scholarship (HSGS) Program

†Students are encouraged to apply to the Dean's (entering) and CoMGRAD/Tricouncil (entering or continuing) scholarship programs during these years.

Early program "out of cycle" new recruits will only be considered if a surplus remains after the normal competition.

Time in program as of competition deadline	0-12 months	13-24 months	25-36 months	37-48 months	49-50 months
Master's Student	Not eligible to apply†	Eligible to apply for a **one year** award →	Not eligible to apply	Not eligible to apply	Not eligible to apply
PhD Student	Not eligible to apply†	Not eligible to apply†	Eligible to apply for a **one year** award →	Eligible to apply for a **one year** award →	Not eligible to apply
PhD Transfer Student* (Time refers to time in Ph.D.)	Not eligible to apply†	Not eligible to apply†	Eligible to apply for a **one year** award →	Not eligible to apply	Not eligible to apply

Streams

> ## Stream Concept

Streams within the HSGP are intended to provide focus for areas of strength represented by critical mass of faculty, graduate courses and students. Streams are not formal programs recognized by CGPS and all programming must ultimately adhere to the HSGP umbrella under which they ultimately fall. Initially a Stream should be represented by at least 3 faculty and have relevant courses available or plans in place to develop relevant courses. Streams with five or more students will be invited to nominate a representative to the HSGP Program Committee.

In Discussion: Rehab. Sciences, Mental Health, Indigenous Health

➢ Stream Benefits

Representation on the HSGP Program Committee (with five or more students)

A web page hosted and maintained within the HSGP website
- Images
- Paragraph outlining Stream area of focus
- Resources/Infrastructure/etc
- Relevant Faculty (with mini bios/Google Scholar links?)
- Relevant Courses (H.Sc. and other)
- Students (with mini bios/Google Scholar links?)
- Alumni list with thesis topics

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➢ Stream Responsibilities

Ongoing commitment to ensuring relevant courses are available
•Including development of new courses

Providing necessary materials for the website
•Initially and then at least annually to maintain accuracy

We need your help!

- **Program review committee**

  - Assess progress made since program review (2017)

  - Assess areas where we can further improve our program

  If you are interested please email Alyssa at ovdr.grad@usask.ca

➢ **Key Recommendations:**

➢ Enforce a Minimum Stipend *– done, required for non-professionally employed students*

➢ Create a part-time option *– CGPS: Not currently possible (tuition bursary was a first step)*

➢ Research days/symposia *– done*

➢ **Implement Streams** *– in progress*

➢ A more close-knit environment for students working in a given area

➢ Enhanced Community Building, Alumni Tracking, Outreach

➢ An improved way to define faculty membership

➢ A platform for curriculum development

Future

- **Opportunities:**

  - Additional Streams?

  - Better Student/Alumni Tracking (Online bio-sketch, google docs, other?)

- **Challenges:**

  - COVID-19 related disruption

  - Budget uncertainty

  - Potential tuition "reset" – University targeting median levels (tuition & Int. differentials)

Feedback:
ovdr.grad@usask.ca

Appendix: Program Committee TOR

Health Sciences Graduate Program Committee
Terms of Reference

PURPOSE: **The Health Sciences Graduate Program Committee**, will provide leadership and advocacy on matters pertaining to the Health Sciences Graduate Program within the college of Medicine.

MEMBERSHIP:

- Graduate Program Chair (Assistant Dean Graduate Studies, College of Medicine)
- Five Faculty engaged in the supervision of students (either past or present) within the Health Sciences Program
  - Distributed to include units with major contributions to student supervision
    - School of Physical Therapy
    - Significant Clinical Departments of the College of Medicine
- Graduate student representative
- Grad Program Coordinator (non-voting)
- Others invited as required (non-voting)

Appendix: Program Committee TOR

TERMS OF REFERENCE:

Develop, implement, oversee, evaluate and refine a graduate education strategy for the Health Sciences Graduate Program.

Align this strategy with the University of Saskatchewan's policies for graduate and postdoctoral studies.

Evaluate and advise regarding graduate program curricula.

Develop graduate education processes that contribute to the mandate of the College of Medicine.

Review and recommend Health Sciences Graduate Program students for admission, graduate awards and scholarships.

Develop best-practice guidelines for MSc and PhD supervision, programs of studies and research advisory committees (RACs).

Develop processes and provide oversight and support for chairing of defenses, attending PhD committee meetings, chairing qualifying and comprehensive exams, chairing 990 seminars, conflict resolution, etc.

Advise College Senior Leadership regarding the resource needs of the Health Sciences Graduate Program.

Define and track indicators, metrics, and benchmarks to monitor and evaluate the ongoing and relative success and outcomes of the graduate program.

MEETINGS:
The Committee will meet approximately six times per academic year or by call of the Chair as required. The quorum must be 50% + 1 of the voting members.

REPORTING:
The Committee shall be accountable to the Vice Dean Research and shall provide advice and recommendations.

MINUTES:
The minutes will be taken according to the rules of the University Council.

Appendix: Previous Initiatives

2017/18

- Website Overhaul
- CoMGRAD Restructuring
- Student Travel Award Changes
- CoM Tuition Bursary Program for Professional/part-time students
- Health Sciences Program Restructuring – *New Handbook*
- Program Reviews (across CoM)

2018/19

- Parental Leave Grant
- CoMGRAD Updates
- Indigenous Health Research Scholarship
- Sex And Gender Equality in Research (SAGER) Scholarship
- Continued partnership with SCPOR, added Respiratory Research Center
- Expanded CoM Donor Fund Categories
- CoM-PDF Reinstated
- Adil Nazarali Memorial Scholarship (interdisciplinary awards with Pharmacy & Nutrition)