

Date: March 8, 2013

To: Senate
c/o Christopher Eaton, Associate Registrar & Director, Senate & Curriculum Services

From: David H. Farrar



Provost and Vice-President Academic

Re: Change of Name request from the Faculty of Graduate Studies to the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

Recommendation:

I recommend that Senate approve the change of name from the Faculty of Graduate Studies to the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, effective July 1, 2013.

Rationale:

The new name reflects the established inclusion of the Postdoctoral Fellows Office within the Faculty of Graduate Studies. It helps to identify the Faculty as the central support unit for postdoctoral fellows, and acknowledges their importance to the university and their differentiation from graduate students. Most graduate faculties/schools in Canada that support postdoctoral fellows have likewise changed their name.

The proposed change was supported by the Ad hoc Committee on Graduate Studies convened in 2012, was approved unanimously by Graduate Council in February, 2013, and is supported by the UBC Postdoctoral Association (PDA). Further information is enclosed.



Memorandum

Date March 2, 2013

To Dr. David Farrar, Provost and Vice President, Academic

From Susan Porter, Dean *pro tem*, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Subject Change of the name of the Faculty of Graduate Studies to *Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies*

Postdoctoral fellows (PDFs) have been referred to as the “invisible university”, in recognition of the fact that they provide critical contributions to the research and educational enterprise of the institution while often receiving little formal recognition or support. To address these needs for the more than 800 PDFs at UBC, a Postdoctoral Fellows Office was instituted within the Faculty of Graduate Studies in 2010. Its functions have included the provision of information and advice (including biannual orientation events and a PDF handbook), a professional development program, travel and prize funding, networking opportunities, and advocacy for PDFs within and beyond the university. The PDFO works closely with Faculty Relations, HR, and the UBC Postdoc Association, and was instrumental with these bodies in establishing benefit packages for PDFs funded by external awards.

Following the November 2011 review of and subsequent consultation about the Faculty of Graduate Studies, it was determined that the PDFO would remain within the dean’s office of the Faculty. To help identify the Faculty as the central support unit for PDFs and to recognize the importance of PDFs and their differentiation from graduate students, it was also agreed to change the name of the Faculty to “Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies”. This is consistent with the practice at many Canadian universities. At least 13 provide some level of support for PDFs through their central Graduate Studies unit, and of these, at least 7 have incorporated the word “postdoctoral” in the name of their unit (see table, below).

A motion to recommend this name change was passed unanimously at Graduate Council on Feb. 8th, 2013, and feedback from the university community on the suggestion has only been positive to date. The UBC Postdoc Association has also endorsed the change (see associated memo). We are therefore hopeful that the Senate will approve this change to highlight and make “visible” this important learning and contributing community.

Memorandum (continued)

University	Name	Support for PDFs (from website)
McGill	Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies	✓
Montreal	Faculté des études Supérieures et Postdoctorales	✓
Western	School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies	✓
Carleton	Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs	✓
Ottawa	Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies	✓
Wilfrid Laurier	Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies	✓
Laval	Faculté des études Supérieures et Postdoctorales	✓
Toronto	School of Graduate Studies	✓
McMaster	School of Graduate Studies	✓
Dalhousie	Faculty of Graduate Studies	✓
Concordia	School of Graduate Studies	✓
SFU	Graduate Studies	✓
Waterloo	Graduate Studies	✓

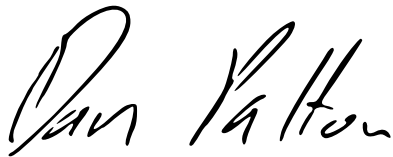
UBC-PDA Executive Committee
2350 Health Sciences Mall
Vancouver

28th February 2013

To whom it may concern;

I am writing in support of the change of the name of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, to reflect that it covers both graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. The faculty currently encompasses the Postdoctoral Fellows Office, and we feel that this office deserves and needs a greater prominence within the faculty. We are certain that this is a positive step in recognising the critical involvement of postdoctoral fellows in the life and research at UBC.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Patton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dan" and last name "Patton" clearly distinguishable.

Dan Patton

UBC-PDA President, on behalf of the UBC-PDA Executive Committee