

Summary

During the reporting period from early September to December 2025, the Vice President Academic portfolio advanced significant work across awards administration, academic events, bursary delivery, and university level committee engagement.

The Awards Committee progressed multiple award cycles, including the Citizenship Award, Inclusion Scholarship, GSA Bursary, and Professional Development Grant. Adjudication for the awards mentioned were completed and the funds for the GSA Bursary and the PDG will be disbursed in the winter. A successful Awards Information Session was held and recorded for wider student access. Implementation of the new Good Grants platform required timeline adjustments and additional configuration, with ongoing challenges related to volunteer recruitment for bursary adjudication due to high application volumes. These challenges pushed the disbursement of the GSA Bursary and PDG into the Winter.

The Academic Events Committee advanced its term activity plan, hosted volunteer orientations, and successfully engaged students during Academic Integrity Week. Planning continued for workshops and the Peer Beyond Graduate Research Conference, including securing the Collision Space at Hunter Hub for the poster session and the all-new plenary session addition. Additional initiatives included the development of the Discovery Dialogues Podcast to highlight graduate student research and entrepreneurial work, which will start this Winter term.

In student financial support, the Graduate Support and Emergency Bursary programs administered by the Office of the Registrar remained highly active. Emergency funding and support bursaries were adjudicated and disbursed, supporting hundreds of students and allocating substantial funds while maintaining a remaining balance for future needs. The period also included policy and operational discussions related to bursary adjudication capacity and process sustainability.

Committee work remained extensive. The VPA contributed to discussions at the General Faculties Council, addressing campus safety, mental health, federal research funding, tuition consultations, assessment principles, policy revisions, continuing education growth, sustainability performance, and long-term institutional planning. Engagement also continued through the Assessment Principles Working Group, Student Accommodation Working Group, Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee, Course Feedback Implementation Working Group, Experiential Learning Advisory Committee, and the VPTL Search Committee. These committees addressed topics ranging from assessment reform and accommodation policy review to digital transformation, generative AI, experiential learning, and course feedback system implementation.

Overall, the reporting period reflects sustained advocacy for graduate students, strong governance participation, continued enhancement of awards and bursary systems, and active contribution to institutional academic and policy development.

Annual Goals

Goal	Timeline	Update	Status
Review award applications and improve adjudication criteria	By November 2025 (Fall Awards) By February 2026 (Winter Awards)	All Fall Awards ToRs reviewed and approved.	Done – Fall In Progress - Winter

Develop application process videos for Fall Term grants/bursaries	By November 2025 (Fall Awards) By February 2026 (Winter Awards)	Pivoted into a recorded information session. Fall Awards covered.	Done – Fall In Progress - Winter
Advocate for the improvement of adjudication processes of the Graduate Support and Emergency Bursary transfer	By end of August 2025	Adjudication criteria improved by the Enrollment Services, Graduate Support Bursary increased from \$1000 to \$2000.	Done
Highlight graduate student's research and academic activities	By April 2026	- AEC to set criteria for selecting 12 students for a 1-season podcast. - Discover Dialogues PodCast set up and Call for participation issued.	In Progress
Develop a workshop series to serve as a preparatory lead-in to the Peer Beyond Graduate Research Conference (PBGRC)	November 2025 January 2025	- To be developed in Academic Events Committee's activity plan. - First workshop held on Abstract Writing and Poster Preparation	In progress
Increase participation in PBGRC 2026	2025 - 2026	PBGRC is set for February 18 & 19, 2026; Ongoing plans to incorporate a startup career fair and seek industry sponsors.	In Progress
Negotiate discounts for professional development courses	2025 - 2026	PMP exam discount (40%) secured; More in the pipeline.	In Progress

Meetings / Events

Key engagements during the reporting period included recurring committee meetings:

- General Faculties Council meetings
- Awards and Bursaries Information Session
- Academic Integrity Week activities
- Academic Events Committee workshops and orientations
- FGA Council meetings at Foothills Campus
- Assessment Principles Working Group meetings
- Student Accommodation Working Group planning sessions
- Graduate Academic Program Subcommittee meetings

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- Course Feedback Implementation Working Group meetings
 - VPTL Search Committee meetings

Note: Individual meeting details are not exhaustively listed due to confidentiality requirements. Activities are reflected in the summary and committee updates.

Other Business

Additional highlights included continued engagement with institutional units on sustainability and the SDGs, collaboration with the Office of Institutional Commitment, participation in campus engagement initiatives such as Café Scientifique, and follow up discussions on intellectual property, AI use in teaching, and digital learning infrastructure. Case by case student advocacy and support continued throughout the reporting period.