

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE STUDIES

Minutes of the November 20, 2008 meeting

In attendance: N. Klentrou (Chair), A. Skandalis, C. Skorobohacz, K. Jaipal-Jamini, T. Dunk, M. Barnard, M. Rose, D. Cho, J. Liu, M. Grove, M. Bletz, T. Boak, J. Sivell.

Regrets: C. Daigle.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the October 29, 2008 meeting

- It was **MOVED** (Cho/Rose) that the minutes of the October 29, 2008 meeting be approved.

CARRIED

2. Business Arising from the Minutes/Chair's Report

- N. Klentrou reported that J. Miller had responded to the committee's request for additional information re: space on campus. Following discussion it was determined that it would be best if J. Miller attended an upcoming SGSC where the issues could be discussed and reported in the meeting minutes.
- A. Skandalis noted that he would appreciate seeing on paper a summary that outlines how space is allotted, determined, what the process is and guidelines used.
- T. Dunk requested that we inquire if whether a specific formula is used re: space.
- N. Klentrou also reported that an email had been sent to Prof. Sternin in response to his FHB regulation inquiry.
- Dean Rose noted that she has asked all Associate Deans to put into writing the requests they have for exceptional permissions regarding Master's level defences, with respect to FHB Section 14.7 Graduate Supervision, Exit Requirements and Thesis Defences. A mechanism for program exceptions does exist.

3. Dean of Graduate Studies Report

OCCGS

- Consultants for the Popular Culture program will be on campus December 1 & 2.
- Consultants for the Accounting program will most likely come to campus in March.

- The consultants for Chemistry have been selected and will probably be on campus in February or March.
- The request for additional information re: the Mathematics & Statistics report has been submitted.
- The Critical Sociology review is on track for an approval prior to Christmas and the program set for a Fall 09 start.
- The following programs are required to submit reports to OCGS for July 15/09: English, Psychology, Child & Youth Studies, Biological Sciences.
- The Philosophy program has been given an extension to January 15, 2010 because of an ongoing department review.

BUFA/University Committee on the Role of the GPD

- The committee consists of: C. Daigle, M. Plyley, J. Mercier, M. Rose, S. Rothstein, H. McGarrell.
- The committee is currently outlining the mandate of the committee. Key questions include: What is a GPD?, What is the work a GPD should do?
- The committee may need to explore nomenclature, eligibility to serve, term length, reporting structures, responsibilities and remuneration.

4. Proposed Faculty Handbook Entries

- It was **MOVED** (Dunk/Skandalis) that the proposed Faculty Handbook entry Examinations be approved and forwarded to Senate.

CARRIED

- It was **MOVED** (Skandalis/Dunk) that the proposed Faculty Handbook entry Withdrawals be approved and forwarded to Senate following SGSC email approval of the final wording.

CARRIED

5. Student Grading System (0-2-5-8)

- M. Rose reported that the consensus of opinion thus far appears to be to use the full range of percentages and the reporting of median grades on the transcript.
- A preliminary discussion of the concepts being considered by the Senate Teaching, Learning and Policy committee were discussed at the last meeting of Senate.
- Some of the issues of concern are the use of 45-49% range and how to capture an accurate course median.
- The SGSC will discuss the graduate pass/fail rule when reviewing the proposed revised FHB entry – Evaluation.
- T. Boak noted that he thinks this development is moving in the wrong direction and that it would be better to work with Stanine scores of 1-9.

6. Report from the Sub-Committee on Interdisciplinary Issues

- M. Rose reported that the committee has begun to meet and at its first meeting discussed its concern that the new workload standards development forms do not remind departments to consider the needs of the University's interdisciplinary programs. The Sub-Committee is therefore seeking assistance from the SGSC to get the word out.
- The Sub-Committee is also concerned that interdisciplinary issues and needs be considered and discussed at various University committees engaged in Budget model development.
- It was therefore **MOVED** (Dunk/Rose) that the SGSC request that departments engaged in Workplan Standards development be reminded of the importance of including consideration of the needs of the University's interdisciplinary programs (undergraduate and graduate) particularly with regard to graduate TA assignments and faculty teaching as they engage in this important work. The SGSC also requests that University committees engaged in budget model development, revenue generation and cost containment be reminded of the need to consider interdisciplinary program issues as they develop funding formulas and other such distribution methodologies.

CARRIED

7. Other Business

- M. Rose inquired if the SGSC meeting minutes were being circulated to Graduate Council members? G. Pepper will check and ensure that they are.
- M. Rose asked committee members to forward her any comments/feedback they have regarding the role of the GPD.

The meeting was adjourned.