

## **SENATE COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE STUDIES**

### **Minutes of the October 29, 2008 meeting**

**In attendance:** N. Klentrou (Chair), C. Skorobohacz, M. Barnard, M. Rose, D. Cho, J. Liu, M. Grove.

**Regrets:** K. Jaipal-Jamini, A. Reynolds, T. Dunk, T. Boak, C. Daigle, J. Sivell, M. Bletz.

#### **1. Approval of the Minutes of the October 1, 2008 meeting**

- It was **MOVED** (Daigle/Rose) that the minutes of the October 1, 2008 meeting be approved.

**CARRIED**

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

- N. Klentrou reported that the SGSC Interdisciplinary Issues Sub-Committee has been struck and includes representatives from the SGSC and Graduate Council. The membership is: T. Dunk, M. Rose, C. Daigle, J. Helleiner, L. Boldt-Irons, G. Pepper.
- N. Klentrou reported that she had received a memo from Governance (October 3, 2008) in response to the SGSC motion: The SGSC requests that the Senate Governance Committee consider the creation of a University Senate Planning Committee with responsibility for discussing and monitoring the implications of academic growth (undergraduate and graduate) as outlined in Brock 2014 or consider and recommend the formation of a high-level university-wide planning committee residing elsewhere within the University's Governance structure, which would undertake this work.
- Governance reported that they had considered the motion and received the following information from the President "that planning at the University-wide level currently takes place via two high-level committees: the Senior Administrators Committee (SAC) and the Committee of Academic Deans (CAD). .... Thus, an effective and consultative process for long-term planning already exists within the University by committees that are dedicated to the task and which regularly communicate with Senate to seek and to integrate Senate input."
- Governance therefore concluded that it "... appreciates the concerns reflected in the motion, above, but believes that the current practice works well and provides considerable opportunity for input in long-term planning from across the University. Further, the existing practice

respects (and values) the mandated role of Senate and its committees in planning for the future of the University.”

- N. Klentrou reported that SGSC had received a request for information from Professor Sternin regarding why Physics had not received any feedback as to the concerns Physics had expressed about proposed FHB regulations re: Thesis Defences. N. Klentrou reported to SGSC the process of review that program submissions/information had received throughout the FHB regulation development at Graduate Council, SGSC and SGSC Policy Sub-Committee. All of the program proposals received had thorough review and consideration at all levels. The development of the new FHB regulations was a long and lengthy process with ongoing and extensive consultation. Since no new information has been provided by Physics, reconsideration of program submissions will not be undertaken. G. Pepper will respond to Professor Sternin and explain the process the program’s comments did receive and inform him that the SGSC will not be undertaking any further consideration of FHB 14.7 – Graduate Supervision, Exit Requirements and Thesis Defences at this time.

### **3. Dean of Graduate Studies Report**

#### **OCCS**

- The proposed MA in Critical Sociology appraisers were at Brock October 27/28 and the visit was very successful. The appraisers expect to file their report to OCCS within a couple of weeks. We’re hoping for a Fall 09 program start.
- Consultants for the MA in Popular Culture periodic appraisal will be at the University on December 1/2.
- We have received the names of the approved consultants for the Master of Accountancy periodic appraisal and expect the visit to occur in early 2009.

#### **Senate Teaching, Learning and Policy Committee**

- Dean Rose summarized the comments received from Associate Deans (Graduate Studies) and Graduate Council regarding possible changes to the student grading system (0-2-5-8) and has forwarded them to the committee for consideration.
- N. Klentrou reported that she has also received a request from the committee to provide information on behalf of SGSC.

#### **Interdisciplinary Program Issues**

- Dean Rose reported that she had sent an email to P. McCormick in Human Resources (October 1, 2008) outlining the concerns the SGSC had expressed at it’s October 1<sup>st</sup> meeting regarding the lack of identification and mechanisms for interdisciplinary program issues to be worked into department workload plans as circulated for discussion and completion. P. McCormick thanked Dean Rose for the memo and explained that they are

not sure if they will be able to work interdisciplinary program concerns into the current documents. The interdisciplinary issues are very complicated and the short time line they have to complete this workload project may not accommodate inclusion of mechanisms to assist with the interdisciplinary concerns.

### **Graduate Program Director**

- Dean Rose reported that a committee had been struck, with University and BUFA representation, to examine the issue of Graduate Program Director (an item set aside in the recent BUFA contract negotiations) and the committee has had its first meeting. The committee received a number of documents provided by Dean Rose and S. Rothstein. Dean Rose will report again about the work of this committee as it progresses.

### **Graduate Enrolment**

- G. Pepper reported 08/09 Graduate Enrolment as of October 20, 2008. We have 769 full-time students and 603 part-time students and a total of 1372 students.
- We have 1046 domestic master's students, 237 visa master's students and a total of 1283 master's students.
- We have 75 domestic doctoral students, 14 visa doctoral students and a total of 89 doctoral students.
- At approximately the same time last year we had a total of 1259 students.
- Our admission targets for Spring, Fall and Winter 08/09 is 256 full-time domestic students, 190 part-time domestic students and 190 full-time visa students. As of October 20<sup>th</sup> we have realized 241 new full-time domestic admissions/registrations, 203 new part-time domestic admissions/registrations and 133 new visa admissions/registrations. We will still experience additional admission pick-up in Winter 09.
- As far as meeting our MTCU Graduate Expansion Target, we have achieved 89% of our master's target and 88% of our PhD target as of October 20, 2008.

## **4. Graduate Student Space**

- The committee reviewed and discussed the memo received from J. Miller which outlined "New Buildings, their Occupants and Relocations" across the University.
- Although the report is interesting and outlines a number of possibilities for graduate student and program space it does not specifically address graduate student, program and research space needs currently or in the future.
- M. Grove outlined some possibilities for expanded graduate student space within the Library.

- G. Pepper will ask J. Miller to prepare for the SGSC an additional report that summarizes graduate student, program and research space requests and specific strategies/plans to address the requests/needs.
- Once the additional report is received the SGSC can continue to discuss the graduate space issue in more detail.

#### **5. Graduate Calendar Submission and Review Process (2010-11 Calendar)**

- G. Pepper reported that a new electronic submission and tracking process for both undergraduate and graduate department/program Calendar submissions is in development.
- We expect that this new system/process will be in place for 2010-11 submissions.

#### **6. Student Grading System (0-2-5-8)**

- M. Rose reported that most instructors are in favour of using raw grades. They believe that this offers increased student discrimination and that it would result in students having a better opportunity to qualify for external scholarship competitions.
- N. Klentrou noted that when grades are reported on a transcript the inclusion of the class mean is most useful.
- As reported under Chair's report, N. Klentrou will submit a response from SGSC to the Chair of Teaching and Learning Policy.

The meeting was adjourned.