

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE STUDIES
Minutes of the October 3, 2007 meeting

In attendance: A. Shome (Chair), M. Rose, V. Woloshyn, K. Jaipal-Jamani, J. Corlett, B. Jeynes, N. Worth, T. Boak, B. Wright, M. Grove, C. Daigle, K. Klassen, G. Pepper. (M. Rose and T. Boak left following the Dean's Report to attend the Senate Governance meeting.)

Regrets: A. Reynolds, B. Dimand, J. Carre.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the May 15, 2007 Meeting

- It was **MOVED** (Jeynes/Woloshyn) that the minutes of the May 15, 2007 meeting be approved.

CARRIED

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

- A. Shome welcomed members to the first meeting of the 2007/08 committee. He thanked all continuing members for their excellent work last year and also thanked the past Chair, Miriam Richards, for her dedication and accomplishments.
- A. Shome reviewed some of the committee's major accomplishments in the past year (creation of Faculty of Graduate Studies, revised and new FHB policy, new sub-committees, etc.) and noted that he looked forward to continuing to work with the committee on further policy development and graduate issues (including enrolment).

3. Dean of Graduate Studies Report
Graduate Enrolment

- Graduate enrolment numbers will be reported at the next meeting of SGSC. At this time the FGS is finalizing the numbers for the November 1 Ministry count date.
- It is expected that we, like other Ontario Universities, will fall short of our projected targets re: graduate expansion. It is thought that across the system universities will meet approximately 65% of the projected Master's expansion and close to 100% of the PhD expansion.
- It is hoped that the Ministry will provide universities with another year to meet their expansion targets since it appears that the double-cohort group is not all entering graduate studies on the expected timetable.
- A further 2000 graduate expansion places will be available for distribution for the years 2008-10.
- The Graduate Deans have pointed out to the Ministry that capital funding following desired graduate expansion instead of preceding it in addition to the ineligibility of international students (especially in the sciences) is problematic and flawed.

Appraisals

- The Political Science periodic review report is currently at OCGS.
- The Earth Sciences required report was filed with OCGS in September 2007.
- Mathematics & Statistics is working on a proposed new initiative for a Master of Applied Statistics field within the existing MSc in Mathematics and Statistics; this will be a cost-recovery program.
- The proposal for a PhD in Applied Health Sciences is almost ready to come to SGSC for review.
- The PhD in Humanities proposal is moving forward and should come to SGSC sometime this year.
- Sociology has begun discussions regarding a proposal for a MA in Sociology.
- A PhD in Communications (Media Studies) is also under discussion and development.
- Political Science has indicated that they are interested in developing a PhD in Political Science.
- Discussions have occurred regarding a Collaborative Program in Canadian Studies with SUNY Buffalo.
- J. Corlett commented that the requested increase in graduate enrolments has placed a heavy burden on Faculty part-time budgets re: TA assignments. He estimates that a 25% increase in part-time budgets will be required to accommodate the necessity to provide more teaching assistantships to graduate students at the graduate rather than undergraduate TA rate.
- He stressed that discussions need to occur across the University regarding the costs associated with current and future graduate growth.
- C. Daigle further noted that as she understands it graduate growth also affects the required graduate fellowship/scholarship budget.
- M. Rose noted that the FGS will be looking at its funding model moving forward and that at Brock the proportion of funding that comes from central coffers is at this time much larger than at other institutions where they are able to support graduate funding from healthy endowed scholarships and research funding sources. Ideally universities try to support graduate funding on a 1/3 from central sources, 1/3 from scholarships and 1/3 from research funding model.

VP Research Search Committee

- Dean Rose expressed her concern to the committee regarding Governance's decision to not recognize the Faculty of Graduate Studies as a defined Faculty within FHB (re: current FHB language) and therefore their unwillingness to add a full-time tenured faculty representative from the FGS to the search committee for the new VP Research.
- The following was **MOVED** (Daigle/Wright) While we the Senate Graduate Studies Committee recognize that Governance is presently

reviewing policy and procedures regarding the Faculty of Graduate Studies membership on search committees, we strongly recommend that a Faculty of Graduate Studies representative be appointed to the present VP Research search committee.

CARRIED

- The approved motion will be forwarded to the University Secretariat and copied to T. Boak.

4. Sub-Committee Membership

- The SGSC Sub-Committees and the nature of their work were reviewed. Various members volunteered to serve on the sub-committees. The membership of Sub-Committees for 2007/08 are:
 - a) Awards Sub-Committee: Brian Roy, Gail Pepper, Marilyn Rose, Charlotte Sheridan.
 - b) Policy Review Sub-Committee: Brian Jeynes, Christine Daigle, Narnia Worth, Gail Pepper.
 - c) Calendar Review Sub-Committee: Kamini Jaipal-Jamani, Vera Woloshyn, Ken Klassen, Gail Pepper.
 - d) Library Resource Sub-Committee: Margaret Grove, Marilyn Rose, Gail Pepper.

5. Report from Graduate Council Working Group – *Graduate Theses, Projects and Major Papers*

- G. Pepper briefly explained the material that had been distributed to committee members and the discussion that has occurred to date by the previous SGSC.
- It was suggested by J. Corlett that a diagram be constructed which illustrates the various issues and who will be responsible for the items re: the proposed policy. This would assist the committee members in understanding what is being proposed. G. Pepper will work on this.

6. University Student Medical Certificate

- G. Pepper explained that the Student Advisory Committee had suggested that a University wide Student Medical Certificate be developed and approved so that all sectors of the institution utilize one common form.
- The Senate Teaching and Learning Committee will bring the form to Senate for approval.
- No objections to the form for the graduate sector were noted.

7. Report from Dave Hughes: *Towards a Rational Academic Year*

- J. Corlett questioned why this item from an individual faculty member is to be reviewed by a Senate Committee.
- It was **MOVED** (Corlett/Wright) that this item be referred back to the University Secretariat for re-direction to the University Registrar.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned.