

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE STUDIES
Minutes of the April 28, 2008 meeting

In attendance: A. Shome (Chair), M. Rose, B. Roy, K. Jaipal-Jamani, N. Worth, A. Reynolds, M. Grove, C. Daigle, K. Klassen, V. Woloshyn, G. Pepper.

Regrets: B. Dimand, B. Jeynes.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the March 31, 2008 Meeting

- It was **MOVED** (Daigle/Jaipal-Jamani) that the minutes of the March 31, 2008 meeting be approved.

CARRIED

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

- A. Shome explained that he is required by Senate to submit an annual report re: SGSC activity for 2007-08. This report is due on Tuesday May 20th. Members of the committee should feel free to forward A. Shome any material they would like included in the report by May 10th.

4. Dean of Graduate Studies Report

MTCU Report

- The FGS with members of ACID have been working on this report that is due to the Ministry today. The complex report requires institutions to provide analysis of their progress towards meeting their Fall 2007 growth targets (the first 12,000 spaces in the Reaching Higher program) and to indicate when (or if) they will meet their shortfall in those targets. Also, each institution may bid on the remaining 2,000 spaces to be distributed, 500 further Master's spaces and 1500 Doctoral spaces. The end point of the exercise is 2009-10 (November 1 2009 count date).
- Our report indicates that we will reach our Fall 2007 targets by 2009-10 and will also require a further 101 Master's FTEs and 17 Doctoral FTEs. This is based upon current unused graduate capacity in our programs, as indicated by the programs themselves, and several new programs that we anticipate being in place by Fall 2009, notably the PhD program in AHS and – we believe – PhD programs in Humanities and Physics. We also anticipate at least one new Master's program (Sociology has submitted a brief to the Deans for review).
- We also needed to estimate our growth between 2010 and 2012. Our projections for that are an additional 58 Master's FTE growth and 33 Doctoral FTE growth.
- We have tried to build a realistic model based on enrolment patterns and our knowledge of new programs that we are told are likely to be in place over the next while. Brock has not taken great advantage of the

opportunity to build new programs during the period of this funding window. Perhaps that is the correct thing to have done since we have so many young programs that are not yet at capacity, and we are short of resources in support of new graduate programs.

External Scholarship Results

- Our results are very positive this year.
 - NSERC (16 awards) 11 Master's, 4 Doctoral and 1 PDF (of 18 quota)
 - SSHRC (26 awards) 20 Master's, 6 Doctoral (of 26 quota)
 - OGS (54 awards) 43 Master's, 11 Doctoral (no quota)
 - CHIR still waiting for results
- We used both a Vetting and an Adjudication process again this year with two separate committees. Applicants were provided with a lot of application feedback following the vetting stage. The Office of Graduate Studies is concerned that it may not have the time or staff resources to continue the extensive vetting stage. Graduate Council has commented that it feels that some graduate programs need this kind of vetting intervention more than others do. The Dean believes that everyone is helped by the vetting process. SGSC may wish to discuss and advise the FGS regarding plans for next year.

Advisory Committee for the selection of a VP Academic and Provost

- The FGS is entitled to a representative from the Graduate sector to sit on this committee. Nominations must be submitted to Governance by midnight May 2nd. SGSC members are encouraged to send any nominations to the Dean. The Dean will also forward a call for nominations to Graduate Program Directors.

5. Library Sub-Committee Report

- The committee has met twice now and has begun to discuss electronic thesis submission and an institutional repository.
- A number of legal issues are currently being investigated regarding the conversion of 915 hard copy theses that were collected prior to routine digitization.
- Issues regarding an institutional repository and the open access movement need to be debated on campus.
- The committee will re-convene once the legal opinions have been obtained.

6. Library Update

- M. Grove reviewed the *New Initiatives at the Library Report* that had been circulated to SGSC members.
- SGSC will send this report for information to Senate.
- A summary of graduate student responses to the Library's recent Graduate Survey are available on the Library website for review.

7. Faculty Handbook Policy – Academic Standing

- G. Pepper circulated and explained an information document of Academic Standing issues for consideration re: new/revised Faculty Handbook Policy. SGSC members were asked to review the document and to come to the next meeting ready to discuss this issue.

8. Academic Plan

- Dean Rose explained the few changes that had been made in the Graduate Studies section and encouraged members to review the plan and forward any comments to T. Boak.

The meeting was adjourned.