

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE STUDIES

Minutes of the October 27, 2011 Meeting

In Attendance: N. Klentrou (Chair), M. Grove, M. Knuttila, C. Mitchell, C. Lackner, T. O'Connell, J. Mandigo, I. Makus, D. Cyr, M. Plyley, G. Pepper.

Regrets: C. Daigle, J. Menzies, D. Cyr, R. Kuchapski, N. McCartney.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the September 26, 2011 meeting

- It was **MOVED** (Makus/O'Connell) that the minutes of the September 26, 2011 meeting be approved.

CARRIED

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

- Nothing reported.

3. Dean of Graduate Studies Report

- The Faculty of Graduate Studies is nearing the end of its Fall 2011 Graduate Fair circuit. The Faculty of Humanities and Faculty of Social Sciences (D. Samson and I. Makus) recently completed a recruitment trip to five maritime universities. I. Makus provided a brief report re: this trip. A written report is being developed and will be circulated. The Faculties of Mathematics and Science and Applied Health Sciences are investigating completing similar Faculty recruitment trips.
- The FGS recently attended its mid-year budget meeting and also submitted a request re: 12/13 fellowships/scholarships budget.
- We are anxiously waiting for the official November 1 enrolment numbers. We know that the Fall 2011 admission numbers are lower than targeted and are hoping that the flow through enrolment is strong. Official November 1 numbers will be included in next month's report.
- The Graduate Professional Development Workshops are off to a very strong start. Organizers had hoped to have 15-10 students per session. Eighty-two students registered for the first session and 18 or so students have already registered ahead for all workshop offerings. This is a pilot program with no budget attached to it. Many universities are offering a comprehensive PD program and Brock's aim is to also offer an ongoing PD program.

4. 2011-12 Calendar Change – Psychology

- For the information of SGSC, Psychology has added two V series courses to its 11/12 course offerings: PSYC 5V44 Intergroup Relations and Prejudice and PSYC 7V03 Longitudinal Data Analysis.

5. 11/12 Graduate Calendar Change – Master of Accountancy and Proposed change to 14.9 Evaluation

- The SGSC expressed concern about the reputation of Brock's graduate programs if this change in evaluation (C grades to count as an acceptable grade for graduate credit) is allowed for another graduate program.
- The SGSC would like additional information - is such a regulation allowed at other Master of Accountancy programs or other graduate programs across Canada? The SGSC would also like to hold this discussion when the FOB SGSC member is present. When the issue is discussed the SGSC would also like to re-consider the approval of the MBA program to allow C grades to count as graduate credit.

6. Schedule of Graduate Studies Academic Dates

- As requested a Graduate Studies Schedule of Academic Dates to be sent to Senate for information was developed and reviewed. The SGSC reviewed the Schedule of Academic Dates and offered comments/suggestions re: additional changes.
- Various possible FHB policy additions were discussed and referred to the Policy Sub-Committee for discussion (definition of graduate term, progress information to students prior to last withdrawal date, etc.).

7. Electronic Thesis Project

- G. Pepper provided a brief outline/update of the Electronic Thesis Pilot Project to date.
- M. Grove as Chair of the Library Sub-Committee reported the Sub-Committee's recommendations re: next steps. The Library Sub-Committee suggested that Faculties be invited to opt-in to the Electronic Thesis Project as of January 2012 and that the electronic submission of all theses across the University become mandatory as of May 2012.
- The SGSC agreed that a voluntary call to join in the Electronic Thesis Project in January 2012 be sent to Faculties asap and that the electronic submission of all theses become mandatory as of September 2012. This slightly longer timeline will allow the FGS and the Library to carry out an expanded education campaign re: electronic thesis submission and for the necessary FHB changes to be developed and approved. The SGSC requested a report from the Electronic Thesis Pilot Project Committee containing quantitative and qualitative data which could be placed on the FGS website and a plan/advice for the expansion of the project to our other Faculties.

8. Mandate/Membership of Senate Graduate Studies Committee – Relationship of SGSC to Graduate Council/Graduate Program Directors

- The mandate and membership of the SGSC, Graduate Council, and the Associate Dean's Committee how these committees communicate was reviewed. Some ideas and suggestions re: maximizing the communication and work of these various committees was discussed.
- An ongoing concern of the Graduate Program Directors is their contribution to discussions/decisions re: graduate policy and procedures.
- Various options to increase communication flow and the input of all interested and invested parties were discussed.
- It was suggested that both the SGSC and Graduate Council consider the following idea, the SGSC Policy Sub-Committee membership be modified to: Chaired by the Chair of the SGSC, 1 SGSC member, 6 GPD representatives selected by the GPDs of the

Faculty. Such a change in the membership of a SGSC Sub-Committee does not require Senate approval but should be sent to Senate for information.

9. Other Business

- Dean Pyley noted that ARC was meeting this afternoon and he hoped that following this meeting we would have clarification re: what ARC does, who determines if/what proposed Graduate Calendar changes go to ARC for approval, and what is a major vs minor program change.