

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE STUDIES

Minutes of the April 17, 2012 meeting

In attendance: N. Klentrou (Chair), R. Kuchapski, C. Mitchell, J. Mandigo, I. Makus, C. Daigle, N. McCartney, T. O'Connell, D. Antwi-Amoabeng, M. Plyley, G. Pepper.

Regrets: M. Grove, C. Lackner.

1. Approval of the minutes of the March 20, 2012 meeting

- It was MOVED (McCartney/Makus) that the minutes of the March 20, 2012 meeting be approved.

CARRIED (1 abstention)

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

- N. Klentrou reported that Senate has sent back the Time-Off FHB proposal for re-wording. Based on the feedback from Senate, the the Policy Sub-Committee will re-write the proposal.
- N. Klentrou and I. Makus summarized the feedback received regarding the Membership in the Faculty of Graduate Studies proposal.
- The feedback received and SGSC member's viewpoints was thoroughly discussed.
- It was suggested that this proposed policy was attempting to solve a number of different issues and that it may be more appropriate to separate out the relevant issues to determine the problems we are attempting to solve and to discuss alternative methods for exploring solutions.
- It was decided that a task force would be struck to work over the Spring/Summer term to develop a Graduate Student Rights document. The following SGSC members volunteered to participate: D. Antwi-Amoabeng, J. Mandigo, N. Klentrou. G. Pepper will invite a representative from the Office of Human Rights and Equity Services, Ombuds Office, GSA and a SGSC member coming on to the committee for the 13/14 year.
- The SGSC will not continue at this time to pursue FHB regulations regarding Membership in the Faculty of Graduate Studies.
- The Policy Sub-Committee is re-working the Supervision FHB entry and will consider the viewpoints/issues raised at the SGSC during its discussion about the proposed Membership in the Faculty of Graduate Studies FHB entry.

3. Dean of Graduate Studies Report

- Dean Plyley reported that the annual Mapping the New Knowledges conference was held last week. Ninety-two abstracts were accepted, 56 oral and 36 poster. The keynote address was provided by Dr. Melanie Pilkington, CRC Chair (Organic Chemistry). The GSA hosted a workshop titled, Mental Health: Maintenance and Repair, and an end of day social. Two graduate mentor awards were presented: June Corman (Master's supervision), David Gabriel (Master's and Doctoral supervision). A full article about the conference will appear in an upcoming Brock News edition. It was a wonderful event. The conference can probably expand a bit further to 100 participants but not much beyond that. A number of interested faculty members have come forward to serve on next year's planning committee.

- Dean Plyley provided an update on internal and external scholarships. He thanked the SGSC Awards Sub-Committee for its work adjudicating the internal donor awards.

4. Graduate Program Reports for ARC

- N. Klentrou reported that she had received feedback from ARC that the recently submitted report from SGSC re: Earth Sciences review was not helpful.
- Concerns, viewpoints regarding reports for ARC were discussed. N. Klentrou will seek additional clarification from ARC and will request a report template.
- SGSC members are asked to forward N. Klentrou their comments regarding the Biotechnology, Classics and Applied Linguistics Review reports.

5. Non-Program Specific Graduate Courses

- Dean Plyley reported that he has been approached by three different groups interested in offering types of general graduate studies courses. It is proposed that such courses be housed in a general Graduate Studies category within the graduate course bank/Graduate Calendar.
- The SGSC discussed the need for criteria to be established to determine if such a course is to be included in the graduate course bank (as credit or non-credit) or developed as a part of graduate student professional skills (GSPD) program.
- Questions that arose concerned: Who would teach such courses?, Who would administer the courses?, and Who would pay the teaching stipend, if one was required?
- Overall the idea to include academic courses in the graduate course bank under the category Graduate Studies was favourably received. It was suggested that the above issues be explored by the Dean, and that course outlines for the potential courses be developed.

6. Senate Retreat

- J. Mandigo reminded members of the planned Senate retreat, informed members of the topics to be discussed, and inquired if any additional graduate studies topics needed to be added.
- SGSC members thought that graduate issues could be explored/discussed within the existing defined topics.

The meeting was adjourned.