

SENATE GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the February 1, 2010 Meeting

In attendance: N. Klentrou (Chair), C. Daigle, C. Skorobohacz, T. Akseer, T. Dunk, , M. Rose, M. Grove, A. Reynolds, R. Kuchapski, D. Zinni, C. Mitchell, N. DeCourville, J. Sivell, C. Sheridan (for G. Pepper)

Absent: G. Pepper

1. Approval of the Minutes of the January 7, 2010 meeting

- It was **MOVED** (Daigle/Rose) that the minutes of the January 7, 2010 meeting be approved with one change.

CARRIED

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

- N. Klentrou reported that the proposal for the Interdisciplinary PhD program in Humanities was approved to be sent to OCGS by Senate and has been sent to OCGS as of February 1, 2010.

3. Dean of Graduate Studies Report

OCGS Appraisal

- Information from the OCGS letter to the Dean on the outcome of the Appraisal of the MA/MADS program, received in October, 2009 was shared with the committee.
- The dates for upcoming periodic appraisals were confirmed: PhD Physics February 18/19; MA CHYS March 8/9; MSc/PhD Biological Sciences March 11/12; MA/PhD Psychology March 31/April 1.
- We are still awaiting the appointment of consultants for the MA program in English and for the MA program in Philosophy (which was submitted on January 15, 2010, as required).
- The PhD Humanities new program brief was couriered to OCGS today, February 1/10.

DLEs (Degree Level Expectations)

- The Dean spoke briefly about OCAV's degree level expectations and indicated that the work of developing Brock's "modulation" of the OCAV DLEs is currently with the Senate Teaching and Learning Policy Committee, where the Associate VP Academic is leading the initiative.

Dean's Update

- The Dean will attempt to produce a written document each month, to be prepared at the beginning of the month and circulated to Graduate Council, SCGS, the other Deans and the Provost, so that, through this monthly snapshot, everyone is made aware of the full range of activities connected to the FGS. The first Update is under preparation for distribution to Grad Council later this week.

4. 2010-2011 Graduate Calendar Submissions

- It was **MOVED** to accept all calendar submissions (Daigle/Reynolds) with two changes. All in favour, with exception of one abstention.

CARRIED

5. Quality Assurance Planning Committee Updates 4 and 5

- SGSC wished to see something in writing included in Brock's IQAP that will address the need for a very carefully-constructed, high-level committee in terms of its membership: those appointed to it must be knowledgeable, experienced and dedicated to the development and sustenance of a robust review system that incorporates rigour and follow-up into the internal program review process.
- A second point was the endorsement of continuity within the committee – that there must be a strong degree of carry-over in membership from year to year, as is proposed in Update #5.

6. Academic Colleague Working Paper: Accommodating Graduate Students with Disabilities (Review of Recommendations)

- The paper will be posted on the OCGS website after copy-editing by COU. Dean Rose led a discussion on the first two recommendations presented in the paper, namely:
 - that Universities develop and make fully accessible, on-line and through their graduate calendars, the policies and processes that they have developed that are specific to the needs of graduate students with disabilities
 - that graduate programs think deeply about, articulate clearly and make fully accessible the essential requirements for degree completion given their curriculum, the kinds of work that must be undertaken, and the kinds of assessments that will ensure the integrity of the credential that is to be earned.
- She indicated that with regard to the first, the Office for Students with DisABILITIES is beginning to work on adapting Brock's policy

statements re: accommodation so that they include more specific references to accommodation for graduate students.

- As well, the DisABILITIES office, CTLET and the FGS are working together to bring an expert on the matter of “essential requirements” to campus in March to work with the Brock community on understanding and developing this component in relation to our programs.
- Dean Rose sought endorsement from the committee with respect to these initiatives as appropriate first steps in responding to the paper’s recommendations regarding the accommodation of graduate students with disabilities at Brock. The committee noted the complexity of the issues involved, but indicated approval of these as first steps.

7. Other Business

- A draft Budget memo to the Senate Budget Advisory Committee, dated January 28, 2010, was introduced by the Chair. The committee discussed the draft, and especially the third paragraph. The Chair noted the discussion and asked committee members to forward further changes to her. She will revise the document and send it to the Senate Budget Advisory Committee before the meeting on February 2, 2010.
- An agenda item was proposed for the March meeting: Online courses for Graduate Programs.

The meeting was adjourned.