# SENATE COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE STUDIES

## Minutes of the March 4, 2010 Meeting

In Attendance: N. Klentrou (Chair), C. Daigle, M. Rose, J. Sivell, D. Zinni, C. Mitchell, G. Finn, G. Pepper.

Regrets: C. Skorobohacz, A. Reynolds, N. DeCourville.

1. **Approval of the Minutes of the February 1, 2010 meeting**

- It was **MOVED** (Daigle/Zinni) that the minutes of the February 1, 2010 meeting be approved.

**CARRIED**

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

- N. Klentrou reported that the SGSC memo had been delivered to the Senate Budget Advisory Committee and reviewed. The Budget Advisory Committee received a number of memos from Senate committees and therefore decided to combine the issues/ideas identified outlined in the various submissions re: the academic impacts of budget cuts in a report to Senate. The report will be presented at the next Senate meeting. Graduate student support decline via the deletion of Teaching Assistantship opportunities has been identified as one of the main areas of concern.

**Dean of Graduate Studies Report**

**OCGS Appraisals Update:**

- Philosophy consultants have been appointed.
- The PhD in Humanities proposal has been approved by the appraisal committee to go forward to the consultant stage.

**New Program Proposal:**

- Dean Rose has been informed that there is interest in mounting a joint (with University of Buffalo) international MA in Canadian and American Studies housed in the Faculty of Humanities. Dean Rose has confirmed via a meeting with the Provost, Dean of Social Sciences and Associate Dean of Humanities that this interest should be pursued. Dean Rose will undertake consultations with relevant programs/departments.

3. **2010-2011 Graduate Calendar**

- It was **MOVED** (Rose/Zinni) that the Applied Disability Studies 10/11 Calendar submission be approved.

**CARRIED**

- It was **MOVED** (Zinni/Finn) that the Education 10/11 Calendar submission be approved.

**CARRIED**

- It was **MOVED** (Finn/Sivell) that the Educational Studies 10/11 Calendar submission be approved.

**CARRIED**

- It was **MOVED** (Zinni/Daigle) that the Philosophy 10/11 Calendar submission be approved.

**CARRIED**

- It was **MOVED** (Sivell/Daigle) that the Physics 10/11 Calendar submission be approved.

**CARRIED**

- It was **MOVED** (Sivell/Finn) that the Political Science 10/11 Calendar submission be approved.

**CARRIED**

- It was **MOVED** (Rose/Zinni) that the Critical Sociology 10/11 Calendar submission be approved.

**CARRIED**

**4. Evaluation of Student Performance**

- Information was sought from committee members regarding the FHB Evaluation entry re: should qualitative descriptors for A, B, C, etc. ranges of courses be included in a revised FHB entry? Qualitative descriptors are provided in the undergraduate FHB Evaluation entry.
- Committee members thought that such descriptors would be difficult to write at the graduate level to pertain to all graduate programs and that it would make more sense for graduate programs to determine and describe graduate work at the A, B, C, etc. level so that the information was discipline specific.
- G. Pepper is to check the transcript legend re: is A-, A, A+ noted.

**5. Doctoral Defences**

- Dean Rose asked for comment from the SGSC re: the chairing of doctoral defences. One of our graduate programs has disputed the Dean of Graduate Studies' selections per Chair designates. The program would like the GPD to Chair all doctoral defences and the DGS has appointed Chair designates from outside of the program.
- The SGSC confirmed that a doctoral defence Chair must be an objective at arms length person outside of the program.
- Dean Rose noted that her OCGS colleagues had also supported this viewpoint.

`he meeting was adjourned.