

## **SENATE COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE STUDIES**

### **Minutes of the October 1, 2009 meeting**

**In attendance:** N. Klentrou (Chair), C. Daigle, C. Skorobohacz, M. Rose, T. Dunk, A. Reynolds, M. Grove, M. Knuttila, P. Beard, D. Zinni, R. Kuchapski, C. Mitchell, N. DeCourville, G. Pepper.

**Guest:** M. Ashton.

**Guests:** E. Sternin, K. Samokhin.

#### **1. Approval of the Minutes of the September 10, 2009 meeting**

- M. Grove requested that the sentence under 5. New Program Proposal – PhD in Physics be modified to: M. Grove noted that the library resourcing required for this initiative **is** costly.
- M. Rose reported that she is back on the OCGS Executive for 09/10.
- It was **MOVED** (Rose/Zinni) that the minutes of the September 10, 2009 meeting be approved as amended.

### **CARRIED**

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

- N. Klentrou reported that the PhD in Physics proposal had been approved in principle by Senate and will now be forwarded to OCGS. It's review is scheduled for the October 28<sup>th</sup> OCGS meeting.
- J. Koustas has acknowledged receipt of SGSC's suggestions re: the PhD in Humanities proposal. She has noted to SGSC her thanks for the feedback and the opportunity to improve the proposal. Following additional consultation and some revision of the proposal it will be returned to SGSC for consideration.

#### **3. Dean of Graduate Studies Report**

- Dean Rose reported on Fall 09 headcount and preliminary MTCU domestic FTE re: November 1 graduate expansion targets. The numbers are very strong and we are optimistic that we will meet the graduate expansion targets requested by the President. Our graduate programs have worked very hard to achieve these enrolment targets.
- Dean Rose expressed concern that the University must engage in detailed discussion regarding the interdisciplinary mission of the University outlined in Brock 2014. She asked for SGSC's comments regarding this issue. Discussion

occurred and the committee was in agreement that this is an important and pressing matter for the University.

**4. Report – Joint Sub-Committee on Interdisciplinary Issues**

- C. Daigle reported on the work of the 08/09 committee. She noted that the committee focused on two sets of concerns. The first was how to conceptualize interdisciplinary graduate programs and what we desire to do with them at Brock. The second was a number of concrete problems/issues the interdisciplinary graduate programs face and what might be done to assist/resolve the concerns.
- A key issue is the structure of the interdisciplinary programs and how best to home and ensure resources for the interdisciplinary programs. Faculty participation re: teaching and supervision is also a concern as is the availability of teaching assistantships for graduate students enrolled in interdisciplinary programs. The new proposed BRAM budget model has many implications for the interdisciplinary programs.
- This year's Interdisciplinary Issues committee will meet very soon to define its mandate for 09/10. The sub-committee will continue to report to SGSC on its mandate and activity.

**5. FHB Regulation 14.9 Evaluation – Memo from Psychology**

- M. Ashton, Psychology, explained the concerns/issues that the department has regarding FHB Regulation 14.9. The format of the Psychology courses concerned do not lend themselves well to grading. A number of options including non-credit status (Satisfactory/Non-Satisfactory grading), a request for a decanal exception etc. was explored and discussed.
- Psychology is not requesting a revision of the FHB regulation and will therefore explore further the concern and possible solutions with the Dean of Graduate Studies.

**6. Other Business**

- M. Knuttila reported for the information of SGSC that he had announced at Senate his intention to strike an Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee re: Graduate Studies at Brock. The committee membership will be finalized as soon as possible and begin its work. M. Knuttila will continue to report on a regular basis regarding the committee's work.

The meeting was adjourned.