

Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)
Annual Report to Senate
May 20, 2009

The Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) will have met eleven times during the period September 2008 to June 2009. During these meetings, the Committee actively tackled several issues relating to graduate studies at Brock University as presented below.

A. Major policy issues developed during the year: The following significant policy issues were developed during the year:

1. Faculty Handbook Sections: Significant aspects of the Faculty Handbook regarding graduate studies were added or revised. Proposals regarding FHB Section 14.3 Graduate Calendar; 14.4 Graduate Degrees; 14.5.4 Transfer Students; 14.6 Registration and Student Status; 14.7 Examinations; 14.7.5 Deposit of Theses; 14.9.2 Appeals Procedures; and 14.10 Awarding of Posthumous Degree were considered. After much active discussion, debate and refinement, all of these were forwarded to Senate for approval.

2. Programs: The PhD in Applied Health Sciences was approved by OCGS and its first student was accepted in winter 2009. The proposal for a MA in Critical Sociology was also approved by OCGS and is accepting applications for fall 09 entry. Changes in program requirements for 4 Graduate programs, including the two new programs, were reviewed, forwarded to Senate and approved by Senate.

B. Items regularly discussed during the year: The following items were discussed on a regular basis:

1. Monthly reports from the Dean of Graduate Studies, Dr. Marilyn Rose. The Dean apprised the Committee of developments regarding the issues noted below. The Committee discussed the implications of these issues for graduate studies at Brock.

- Graduate program development
- the role of the Graduate Program Director
- Graduate enrolment
- the reductions in graduate funding budget and the modified graduate funding model for 2009-10
- OCGS appraisals and reviews
- the "Mapping the New Knowledge" 2009 Graduate Conference
- External scholarships
- the MTCU (Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, Ontario) Graduate Expansion Report

2. Additional items discussed and reviewed on a regular basis: In addition to the issues outlined above, the following were discussed at the SGSC on a regular basis:

- Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs
- Space for graduate studies
- Academic Integrity policy
- The new grading system and transcripts
- Variations in programs' length
- Library updates

The Committee reviewed and approved thirty-three (33) 2008-09 Graduate Program Calendar submissions as well as late additions/changes to the 2007-08 Calendar. Additional late changes to the 2009-10 Graduate Calendar were also considered. Furthermore, the committee was briefed by Greg Finn regarding the new police on travel safety and field trips.

C. The Sub-Committees of the SGSC: The SGSC includes four sub-committees. The work that these sub-committees do is extremely valuable and adds greatly to the effectiveness of the SGSC in carrying out its mandate. The membership and achievements of the sub-committees are outlined below.

1. Graduate Calendar Review Sub-Committee: (Nota Klentrou, Melissa Barnard, Kamini Jaipal-Jamini, Gail Pepper). This sub-committee met five times during the current period to review all of the 2009-2010 Graduate Program Calendar submissions. The sub-committee indicated where changes were required to these submissions prior to submitting the Calendar entries to SGSC for approval.

2. Policy Review Sub-Committee: (Christina Skorobohacz, Adonis Skandalis, Nota Klentrou, Gail Pepper). This sub-committee met five times to draft and review proposed Faculty Handbook entries prior to the proposed entries being considered by SGSC and Senate. The sub-committee worked on all of the FHB sections noted above.

3. Library Sub-Committee: (Andy Reynolds, Margaret Grove, Marilyn Rose, Gail Pepper). This sub-committee met twice and discussed the digitization of theses (new and past); the Open Access Institutional Repository, graduate student space options/plans within the Library; Library liaison system; Library budget; and electronic thesis submission, issues of great significance to graduate studies.

4. Graduate Awards Sub-Committee: (Danny Cho, May Bletz, Charlotte Sheridan, Marilyn Rose, Gail Pepper). This sub-committee met eleven times to approve all internal graduate awards.

5. Interdisciplinary Issues Sub-Committee: (Thomas Dunk, Christine Daigle, Leslie Boldt-Irons, Jane Helleiner, Gail Pepper). This sub-committee met twice and discussed a number of issues related to the interdisciplinary programs that are of concern and problematic.

D. Items to place on the agenda for 2009-2010: There few issues with significant implications for graduate studies that need to be discussed by the committee over the next

academic year. The proposal for a PhD in Humanities and the PhD program in Physics will be the first item that should be reviewed before presented at Senate for approval. The committee should continue with improvements to the Faculty Handbook sections on graduate studies such as the inclusion of Graduate Nomenclature that was discussed in the policy sub-committee but more work is needed before it can be finalized.

E: Acknowledgements: I would like to thank all of the members of the SGSC for their dedication to graduate studies, especially Professor Adonis Skandalis, Vice-Chair, who filled in for me very capably when I could not attend the Senate meeting. My sincere thanks go to Dean Marilyn Rose for her constant support and passion for graduate studies. My deepest appreciation goes to Mrs. Gail Pepper for the stupendous amount of work she does in keeping the SGSC functioning smoothly, the great support she provides and her tremendous enthusiasm especially when dealing with the difficult task of drafting faculty handbook guidelines and rules that apply to all faculties despite the large differences in practice among the graduate programs.

Respectfully submitted,
Panagiota (Nota) Klentrou, PhD
Chair, Senate Graduate Studies Committee