

# SENATE COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE STUDIES

## Minutes of the May 17, 2010 Meeting

In Attendance: N. Klentrou (Chair), C. Daigle, C. Skorobohacz, N. De Courville, A. Reynolds, M. Rose, D. Zinni, J. Sivell, R. Kuchapski, T. Dunk, G. Pepper.

Regrets: M. Knuttila.

### 1. Approval of the Minutes of the April 26, 2010 meeting

- It was **MOVED** (Zinni/Kuchapski) that the minutes of the April 26, 2010 meeting be approved.

**CARRIED**

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

- N. Klentrou reported that the revised FHB motion regarding PhD Direct Admission (from an honours bachelor's degree) was approved by Senate at its most recent meeting.

### 3. Dean of Graduate Studies Report

#### Appraisals

- Dean Rose reported that the last of the appraisals visits have occurred and her office is working on the various Institutional Responses which will be submitted over the next couple of months to OCGS.

#### Provost's Ad-Hoc Committee

- This committee, chaired by the Provost, has commenced meeting. It comprises representatives who represent all six academic faculties as well as all relevant graduate functional positions. As well, the membership of the committee includes a graduate student representative and the Dean of Graduate Studies.

#### PhD Direct Admission

- Dean Rose reported that the FGS had reviewed and discussed the procedure programs would follow if needing to deal with PhD direct admits who do not thrive in the PhD and are withdrawn. These withdrawn students could possibly be considered for master's admission. Such consideration will require an internal application to a master's program and review by the graduate program committee. This procedure has been used to accommodate two recent PhD students who could not continue in the PhD and whom the program wished to admit to the master's program. Each student file and situation will need to be reviewed by the graduate program on a case-by-case basis to determine eligibility for the master's, degree requirements and funding and then will be forwarded to the FGS for approval.

First Draft Status

- Dean Rose shared a document which summarized Graduate Council's comments and discussion about First Draft status.

#### Donor Entrance Scholarships

- Dean Rose explained that we now have a number of donor entrance scholarships that need to be reviewed and approved over the Spring/Summer months when the SGSC Awards Sub-Committee is not operating.
- Various suggested solutions/options were discussed.
- It was agreed that during the Spring/Summer, when the SGSC Awards Sub-Committee for the coming year has not yet been formed, any donor entrance scholarship competitions requiring immediate adjudication and approval will be approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies in consultation with the incoming Chair or Vice-Chair of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee. It is expected that typical cases will involve authorizing program nominations for entrance scholarship awards.

#### International Student Funding

- Dean Rose summarized for the information of the SGSC the current funding initiatives in place for our international graduate students.

#### DGS May Update

- The Dean's May Update will be ready very soon and will be distributed to SGSC members by email.

### **4. Proposed 2010-11 Graduate Calendar Changes**

#### Physics

- It was **MOVED** (Sivell/Zinni) that the revised Physics 10/11 Graduate Calendar entry re: the new PhD be approved and forwarded to Senate.

**CARRIED**

#### Chemistry

- It was **MOVED** (Zinni/DeCourville) that the revised PhD Admissions Requirements for the Chemistry 10/11 Graduate Calendar entry be approved.

**CARRIED**

### **5. Proposed FHB Change**

- It was **MOVED** (Reynolds/Kupachski) that the proposed changes to FHB 14.9.1 Grading System for Graduate Courses D. and F be approved and forwarded to Senate.

**CARRIED**

### **6. Degree Level Expectations**

- The proposed preamble to the OCAV document prepared by the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee was reviewed and discussed.
- The SGSC's suggested changes will be forwarded by N. Klentrou to Teaching and Learning for their consideration.

**7. Brock Internal Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) Draft**

- The final version of this document will be submitted and voted on at the final Senate meeting of the 09/10 academic year.
- SGSC members can send their comments to G. Finn directly or to our Chair, N. Klentrou who will compile and send G. Finn all SGSC comments.

**8. SGSC Sub-Committee Reports**

- The Awards, Library and Policy Review Sub-Committee reports have been submitted for the information of SGSC members.
- C. Daigle provided a summary of the Interdisciplinary Sub-Committee's work and highlighted the information contained in the sub-committee's *Discussion Paper on Interdisciplinarity and its Challenges at the Graduate Level*.
- SGSC members were encouraged to send their comments regarding the discussion paper to C. Daigle. The sub-committee is planning to present the discussion paper to the Provost over the Spring/Summer and to meet with him regarding the issues of concern. Dean Rose will circulate the discussion paper to the Associate Deans for Graduate Studies.
- N. Klentrou will ask the Senate Research Committee for a copy of their document on Nomenclature and once received we will circulate it to SGSC members.

**9. SGSC 2009-10 Yearly Report**

- N. Klentrou will circulate her yearly report to SGSC members for comment prior to it being submitted to Senate.
- N. Klentrou thanked all members for their participation and work on the 09/10 SGSC committee.

The meeting was adjourned.