

**GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 25, 2011, 2:00 PM  
MUSC-311/313**

**PRESENT:** Dr. A. Sekuler (Chair), Ms. M. Baidon, Ms. S. Baschiera, Dr. A. Campos, Dr. T. Chamberlain, Dr. N. Charupat, Dr. A. Chen, Dr. S. Fast, Dr. D. Goellnicht, Ms. B. Gordon, Dr. P. Graefe, Dr. A. Guarne, Dr. K. Kanagaretnam, Dr. L. Magee, Mr. P. Self, Dr. E. Service, Dr. C. Sinding, Dr. J. Trzeciak, Dr. D. Welch, Mrs. M. Espiritu (Assistant Secretary)

**REGRETS:** Dr. P. Bennett, Dr. A. Holloway, Mr. R. Khokhar, Dr. L. Platt

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**Minutes of meeting**

The minutes of the September 20, 2011 meeting were not available.

**Report from the Associate Vice-President and Dean of Graduate Studies**

Dr. Sekuler reported that there were 67 attendees at the October 18<sup>th</sup> *Best Practices Lunch*. The topic was "What's new in SGS" and Mr. P. Self and Mrs. S. Baschiera facilitated the session. The next *Best Practices Lunch* will be on November 16, 2011 and the topic is the President's letter to the McMaster community concerning the priorities and principles that will assist the development of the University. Dr. Sekuler also did a presentation to the Human Resources staff concerning the School of Graduate Studies. Dr. Sekuler discussed the 15<sup>th</sup> *Annual Graduate Students Recognition Day*, which was held on October 21, 2011. The following awards were presented at the ceremony: The President's Award for Excellence in Graduate Supervision; The Dean's Award for Excellence in Communicating Graduate Research; The Dean's Award for Graduate Student Knowledge Translation & Innovation; GSA Honour Society (A Distinguished Service Award); GSA Teaching Assistant Excellence Award; GSA Award for Contributions by Non-Academic Staff; Therese Quigley Award of Excellence for Graduate Student Leadership in Athletics; and the Mary Keyes Award for Outstanding Leadership and Service to McMaster. Dr. Sekuler mentioned that the 2<sup>nd</sup> *Annual Faculty of Health Sciences Postdoctoral Research Day* was held on October 7, 2011. Dr. Sekuler reported as well that the University is currently negotiating with CUPE 3906, which represents McMaster Teaching and Research Assistants.

Dr. Sekuler said the Master of Science in Health Sciences Education is the first new graduate program that will be reviewed by McMaster's Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP). In addition, Ms. Baschiera reported that the following programs are scheduled for IQAP review: MBA, Neuroscience, and Biochemistry. Ms. Baschiera further said that the list of graduate programs scheduled for IQAP review in 2012 will be available in May 2012.

## **Report from the Associate Deans of Graduate Studies**

Dr. Welch reported that the Graduate Associate Deans were involved in the rankings of the Vanier Graduate Scholarships. Dr. Goellnicht reminded Council members that this year is the first Fall Convocation that will have graduate student valedictorians for the morning and afternoon ceremonies. He said nominations for valedictorians can be sent to the School of Graduate Studies until October 26, 2011.

## **Report from the Assistant Dean, Graduate Student Life and Research Training**

Mr. Self explained that the visiting graduate students at McMaster, who used to pay incidental fees plus the appropriate Canadian equivalent per course fee, are now required to pay incidental fees only, and the amount is less than the regular incidental fees paid by other graduate students at the University. However, international visiting students are still required to enroll in the UHIP program for health insurance coverage. With the change, Ms. Baschiera added that current students who paid the regular fees can get reimbursements through Financial Services by October 31, 2011. She noted that this change does not apply to the Ontario Visiting Graduate Student arrangement.

## **2011 Fall Graduands**

Dr. Sekuler reviewed the list of the 2011 Fall Graduands for the Faculties of Business, Engineering, Health Sciences, Humanities, Science and Social Sciences.

Dr. Welch moved, and Dr. Goellnicht seconded,

**“that Graduate Council approve the list of the 2011 Fall Graduands with amendments/corrections to be made as necessary by the Associate Graduate Registrar.”**

Dr. Charupat commented that “Michael Massov, Management Science” shown in the Faculty of Business list, should be changed to “Michael Massov, Business.”

The motion was carried, subject to the amendment mentioned above.

In response to a question, Ms. Baschiera explained that she is in discussion with the Registrar’s Office regarding the schedule of future Convocation ceremonies-- especially concerning their duration (i.e., ceremonies are too long) and scheduling (i.e., afternoon ceremonies are always heavily scheduled). Dr. Sekuler added that the School of Graduate Studies plans to increase the festive spirit of the Convocation ceremonies this year by holding a reception for the graduands at the waiting area—and providing more photo session activities.

## **New Graduate Scholarships**

Ms. Gordon reviewed the following graduate scholarships:

- The David Basford Ontario Graduate Scholarship
- The Dr. Mithilesh Nandan Prasad Graduate Scholarship
- The Ruth & Roger Couldrey Ontario Graduate Scholarship
- Michael Hart Memorial Scholarship

Dr. Goellnicht moved, and Dr. Campos seconded,

**“that Graduate Council approve the David Basford Ontario Graduate Scholarship, Dr. Mithilesh Nandan Prasad Graduate Scholarship, Ruth & Roger Couldrey Ontario Graduate Scholarship, and the Michael Hart Memorial Scholarship, as described in the document.”**

The motion was carried.

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.