

**GRADUATE COUNCIL
JUNE 21, 2007, 2:00 P.M.
GILMOUR HALL 111**

PRESENT: Dean F.L. Hall, Mr. L. Ariano, Dean P. Bates, Dr. K. Bennett, Dr. M. Boda, Dr. G. Bone, Dr. L. Chan, Dean S. Crosta, Dean L. Finsten, Dr. P. Guo, Dr. W. Lewchuk, Dr. G. Luke, Ms. B. McNally, Dr. G. Moyal, Dr. D. Pawluch, Dr. S. Porter, Dean C. Richards, Dr. P. Solomon, Dr. J. Tiessen, Dr. R. Viveros-Aguilera, Dr. D. Wright, Mrs. M. Espiritu (Assistant Secretary)

BY INVITATION: Dr. N. Agarwal, Dr. G. Heath

REGRETS: Dean D. Capson, Ms. K. Espiritu, Dr. C. Ingram, Dr. T. Marlin, Dr. R. O'Brien, Mr. J. Scime

I. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of May 28, 2007 were not available.

II. BUSINESS ARISING

At its meeting on May 16, 2007, the Faculty of Science discussed at length the proposals of Biochemistry, Biology, and Chemical Biology to reduce to zero the course requirements for their Ph.D. programs. The Faculty of Science expressed concern that there was no rationale given for the proposed change, other than Graduate Council's decision to remove the minimum course requirements for the Ph.D. programs. The change will allow departments to set their own course requirements, subject to approval of the appropriate Faculty curriculum committee and Graduate Council. The Faculty of Science approved the proposal on the condition that the three departments submit the rationale for the change to Graduate Council for information.

Dean Hall then referred to the documents submitted by the three departments, and he briefly discussed the rationale provided by each one. As there were no questions/comments from the members, Dean Hall announced that the concern of the Faculty of Science has been sufficiently addressed. In response to a query, Dean Hall said he is not aware of how many universities have zero course requirements in their Ph.D. programs. He added that the question of course requirements in Ph.D. programs has been a long-standing issue in most life sciences departments.

III. VACATION TIME ALLOWED FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

The Department of Civil Engineering contacted Dean Hall to inquire about the University's policy regarding vacation time for graduate students. Currently, there is no entry in the graduate calendar regarding the specific amount of vacation entitlement for a graduate student. Dean Hall referred to his proposal for a new section in the graduate calendar, "*Section 2.4.6 Vacations,*" and he reviewed the proposed wording. After a brief discussion, the Council made the following amendments to the document: (a) the phrase, "*a graduate student is permitted to take two weeks*

of vacation during the year,” was replaced with *“normal vacation entitlement is two weeks of vacation during the year”*; and (b) the last line, *“If research progress is excellent, the supervisor may approve an additional two weeks of vacation,”* was replaced with *“Exception above this amount requires approval from the supervisory committee.”*

Dr. Bone moved, and Dr. Moyal seconded,

“that Graduate Council approve the new section in the graduate calendar, Section 2.4.6 Vacations, subject to the above amendments.”

The motion was **carried**.

IV. CONTINUATION OF SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING DURING THE GRADUATE STUDENT PARENTAL LEAVE FROM STUDIES

Dean Hall recalled that at the February 12, 2007 meeting of Graduate Council, there was a recommendation to revise *Section 2.4.5 – Leaves of Absence – Continuation of Scholarship Funding During Graduate Student Parental Leave from Studies*. The change is necessary in order to clarify the issue that pregnancy leave and parental leave cannot be taken at the same time. In response to this recommendation to revise Section 2.4.5, Dean Hall presented a report based on a discussion between Mr. Scime and Ms. Kirby (McMaster Employee/Labour Relations Advisor) regarding exceptional situations in which graduate students are permitted to take both leaves. Dean Hall is now seeking Graduate Council approval of this document.

Dr. Wright moved, and Dr. Moyal seconded,

“that Graduate Council approve the proposed changes to Section 2.4.5 in the graduate calendar, as described in the document.”

In response to a query, Dean Hall clarified that both parents are allowed to take a leave but only one is entitled to the funding. He added that the financial support will come from the central scholarship funds.

The motion was **carried**.

V. SCHOOL OF BUSINESS: MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANCY

Dr. Chan reviewed the proposed Master of Professional Accountancy in the School of Business. Designed to meet the needs of the honours commerce program, the Master’s program completes the following: the 51-credit requirement for the CA designation; the prerequisite for the CMA designation; and the courses required for level 4 of the Advanced Studies and the Public Practice option of the PACE program for the CGS designation. The School will offer the program on a full- or part-time basis. Dr. Chan also discussed the course offerings for the program.

Dr. Chan moved, and Dean Bates seconded,

“that Graduate Council approve the proposed Master of Professional Accountancy.”

In response to a query, Dr. Chan explained that additional faculty resources—both tenured/tenure-track and contractually-limited appointments—are needed for the program to commence in May 2008. With regards to the admission requirements section of the document, one member commented that it is unclear whether the proposed Master’s program requires a three- or a four-year undergraduate degree. Dr. Chan will revise the document to address this issue.

The motion was **carried**.

VI. DIVINITY COLLEGE: MASTER OF DIVINITY AND MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Dean Hall explained that the proposed curriculum changes from Divinity College are for the existing programs of Master of Divinity and Master of Theological Studies.

He then invited Dr. Gordon Heath to discuss in detail the proposed changes for the two Master’s programs. According to Dr. Heath, the proposed changes are as follows:

Master of Divinity

- revised statement of purpose
- revised areas of focus
- change in number of total credit hours from 99 to 90

Master of Theological Studies

- revised statement of purpose
- revised areas of focus

Dr. Porter moved, and Dr. Boda seconded,

“that Graduate Council approve the proposed curriculum changes to the Master of Divinity and the Master of Theological Studies programs in the Divinity College, as described in the document.”

The motion was **carried**.

Dr. Heath then discussed for Graduate Council information the other curriculum changes for the two Master’s programs. These include changes to the areas of focus titles, course titles, new courses, and cancellation of courses.

VII. REPORT FROM THE FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES GRADUATE POLICY AND CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Dean Richards reviewed for Graduate Council information the report of the Faculty of Health Sciences Graduate Policy and Curriculum Committee. The report included curriculum changes

to the Health Research methodology program, such as new courses, change in course title and description, and course cancellations; and the cancellation of course CHS *730 - Determinants of the Health Populations.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Dean Hall announced that this is his last Graduate Council meeting before he assumes the position of Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies at the University of Calgary. He also thanked the members for their services to Graduate Council during his term.

There was no other business, and the meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.