

GRADUATE COUNCIL
OCTOBER 27, 2005, 1:30 P.M.
Council Chambers, Gilmour Hall 111

PRESENT: Dean D. Capson (Chair), Dr. N. Agarwal, Dr. B. Allen, Dr. K. Bennett, Dr. M. Boda, Dr. L. Chan, Dr. M. Head, Dr. P. Guo, Dr. C. Ingram, Dean B. Kaczynski, Ms. K. Kowalska, Ms. T. Kuzmenko, Mr. Y. Li, Mr. S. Luyk, Dr. G. Moyal, Dr. D. Pawluch, Dean C. Richards, Mr. J. Scime (Secretary), Dr. P. Solomon, Dr. M. Stein, Dr. G. Steiner, Dr. C. Swartz, Dr. Viveros-Aguilera, Dr. J.P. Xu, Mrs. M. Espiritu (Recording Secretary)

BY INVITATION: Dr. T. Flynn

REGRETS: Mr. L. Ariano, Dr. G. Bone, Dr. D. Clark, Ms. K. Espiritu, Ms. J. Greenberg, Mr. S. Kleinknecht, Dr. G. Luke, Dr. S. Porter, Ms. C. Stewart

I. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of September 29, 2005 were approved on a motion by Dr. Xu, seconded by Dean Kaczynski with minor revision. The following statement was added on page 1: *Dean Capson thanked Dean Welch for his involvement in the School of Graduate Studies display and in conducting the SGS 101 course.*

II. BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

III. FALL 2005 GRADUANDS

Faculty of Business

Dr. Agarwal moved, and Dean Kaczynski seconded,

“that Graduate Council approve the list of the 2005 Fall Graduands for the Faculty of Business, with amendments/corrections to be made as necessary by the Graduate Registrar.”

The motion was carried.

Faculty of Engineering

Dr. Swartz moved, and Dr. Guo seconded,

“that Graduate Council approve the list of the 2005 Fall Graduands for the Faculty of Engineering with amendments/corrections to be made as necessary by the Graduate Registrar.”

The motion was **carried**.

Faculty of Health Sciences

Dean Richards moved, and Dr. Bennett seconded,

“that Graduate Council approve the list of the 2005 Fall Graduands for the Faculty of Health Sciences with amendments/corrections to be made as necessary by the Graduate Registrar.”

The motion was **carried**.

Faculty of Humanities

Dean Kaczynski moved, and Dr. Moyal seconded,

“that Graduate Council approve the list of the 2005 Fall Graduands for the Faculty of Humanities with amendments/corrections to be made as necessary by the Graduate Registrar.”

The motion was **carried**.

Faculty of Science

Dr. Xu moved, and Dr. Viveros-Aguilera seconded,

“that Graduate Council approve the list of the 2005 Fall Graduands for the Faculty of Science with amendments/corrections to be made as necessary by the Graduate Registrar.”

The motion was **carried**.

Faculty of Social Sciences

Dr. Pawluch moved, and Dean Kaczynski seconded,

“that Graduate Council approve the list of the 2005 Fall Graduands for the Faculty of Social Sciences with amendments/corrections to be made as necessary by the Graduate Registrar.”

The motion was **carried**.

IV. GRADUATE COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIPS COMMITTEE FOR 2005-2006

Dean Capson presented the membership composition of the Scholarships Committee for 2005-2006.

Dr. Swartz moved, and Dean Richards seconded,

“that Graduate Council approve the membership composition of the Scholarships Committee for 2005-2006.”

The motion was carried.

V. GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Referring to the scholarships document, Mr. Scime said that since the J.B. McArthur Bursary is an undergraduate scholarship, it has to be omitted from the list. In the description for the David Oliver Mackey Ontario Graduate Scholarship, “Ontario Graduate Scholars” was replaced with “Ontario Graduate Scholarships.”

Dr. Swartz moved, and Dean Richards seconded,

“that Graduate Council approve the David Oliver Mackey Ontario Graduate Scholarship (as amended) and the J.B. McArthur Ontario Graduate Scholarship, as outlined in the document.”

The motion was carried.

VII. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE AD HOC MBA ADMISSIONS EVALUATION COMMITTEE

An ad hoc committee was created to review the admission process and policy of the MBA program. Referring to the document, Dr. Head highlighted the following in the requirements: quantitative and verbal GMAT scores, closest to the 50th percentile without being under; one-year minimum work experience for full-time and accelerated students; revised interview requirement; and revised discretionary factor for applicants who do not meet one or two of the requirements.

Dr. Head moved, and Dr. Agarwal seconded,

“that Graduate Council approve the proposed requirements for admission to the MBA program, as outlined in the document.”

Dr. Chan said if the School adopts the “50th percentile” requirement for the GMAT scores, the MBA program will not be as competitive as it is with other universities. Dr. Head said the proposal, which will be included in the recruiting materials, is an “internal (behind-the-scene) policy” and will not be printed in the MBA calendar nor advertised on the School’s website. She said the proposal ensures the recruiting materials are in line with how the MBA program is advertised. If this is the case, Dr. Agarwal said the admission process will have more flexibility. Dr. Steiner agreed, but he also cautioned that there might be loopholes if the admission advisory committee deviates from the standard procedure. The committee should ensure the change is not

recurrent, and that a “check and balance” system is in place. Dr. Head said the last sentence in the document addresses the issue of ensuring that a final enrolment target is set. Dr. Steiner suggested that an upper limit be placed on the number of students admitted outside the rules. In response to Dr. Chan, Dr. Head explained that the 50th percentile requirement is similar to the GMAT score in the current requirement: 37 quantitative and 28 verbal. One member inquired whether applicants with long-term work experience and who have been out of school for 20 years are still admissible. Dr. Head responded that the proposed requirements allow the admission advisory committee to examine such cases. Dean Richards commented that the proposal seems to be controversial and requires further clarification. He inquired whether there is some urgency to approve it. Dr. Head said there are currently 6-8 students applying to the program, but the majority of applicants are expected next term—it would not be advisable to delay the admission offers.

The motion was **carried** with 11 in favour, 3 opposed and 7 abstentions.

VII. GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTH SERVICES MANAGEMENT

The agenda item was withdrawn from Graduate Council discussion. According to Dean Richards, the status of the proposal is on hold.

VIII. MASTERS OF COMMUNICATION MANAGEMENT

Dr. Head introduced Dr. Terry Flynn, who presented the proposed Masters of Communication Management program. The program is a collaborative venture between McMaster University and Syracuse University. Graduates of this program will acquire critical management and public relations skills. McMaster and Syracuse will conduct the classes on Blackboard/WebCT sites. There is also a one-week residency per semester and course offerings will be conducted at the Executive Education Centre at the Royal Botanical Gardens Burlington campus. One third of the courses will be taught by Syracuse faculty, one third by McMaster, and one third elective courses will be offered by both universities. The proposal is a full cost recovery program and will admit a maximum of 25 students annually.

Dr. Head moved, and Dr. Xu seconded,

“that Graduate Council approve the proposed Masters of Communication Management, as outlined in the attached document.”

Dr. Agarwal noted that the courses will be taught on an overload basis—he wondered whether this is in accordance with OCGS requirements. Dr. Steiner said the overload issue might also affect the School’s accreditation with AACSB. Dr. Steiner further remarked that the report circulated to the Council was quite vague. Dean Capson said the report is a conceptual version—the detailed OCGS report for the proposed program will be available shortly. Drs. Steiner and Chan both commented that the funding for the project is unclear. Dr. Pawluch said she is not comfortable approving the proposal because it has not been discussed by the Faculty of Business. There was a general comment that the proposal should have been presented first for discussion to the Faculty of Business before submission to Graduate Council. Dr. Flynn

explained that because of several deadlines, the order of presenting the proposal to various internal committees had to be altered.

The motion was **not approved** (3 approved, 5 opposed and 8 abstentions).

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.