

GRADUATE COUNCIL
APRIL 25, 2005, 10:00 a.m.
Council Chambers, Gilmour Hall 111

PRESENT: Dean L. Finsten (Chair), Dr. G. Bone, Dr. K. Bennett, Dr. C. Blimkie, Dr. L. Chan, Dr. J. Clark, Dr. M. Gauvreau, Dr. M. Head, Mr. T. Hoare, Dr. C. Ingram, Dean B. Kaczynski, Mr. B. Li, Ms. C-Y Lin, Dr. S. Porter, Dean C. Richards, Mr. J. Scime (Secretary), Dr. D. Swartz, Dr. J. Valliant, Dean D. Welch, Dr. J. Xu, Mrs. M. Espiritu (Recording Secretary)

BY INVITATION: Dr. G. Irons

OBSERVERS: Dr. A. Bedard, Dr. R. Racine

REGRETS: Mr. L. Ariano, Dr. D. Clark, Ms. V. D'Costa, Ms. K. Espiritu, Dr. A. Herring, Dr. G. Luke, Dean N. Rahimieh, Dr. D. Wright

I. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of March 21, 2005 were approved on a motion by Dr. Blimkie, seconded by Dean Richards.

II. BUSINESS ARISING

Dean Finsten explained that the overlap issues between the courses in the MBA Health Services Management and Health Research Methodology have not been resolved. Mr. Scime referred to the report of the Business Faculty Council stating that the Faculty of Health Sciences has agreed that the Faculty of Business will now administer and teach the courses in question. Dr. Chan added that the teaching agreement between Business and Health Sciences for the courses expired at the end of 2004 and that the Faculty of Business will now be in charge of the courses. Dean Finsten said the Faculty of Business created new courses (with different course titles) which overlap with existing courses in Health Research Methodology; it is unclear whether the Health Research Methodology courses will still be offered. Mr. Scime said Health Research Methodology should make a decision as to whether or not these courses will be offered. If they decide to continue to offer the courses, then both the faculties of Business and Health Sciences should discuss and resolve the issues pertaining to these courses. It was agreed to table this agenda item until the outcome of both faculties' respective discussions are known.

III. SPRING 2005 GRADUANDS

Faculty of Health Sciences

Dean Richards moved, and Dr. Ingram seconded,

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

The motion was carried.

IV. GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN STEEL PROCESSING AND MANUFACTURING

Referring to the document, Dean Welch briefly discussed the proposed graduate diploma in Steel Processing and Manufacturing. The diploma will be jointly offered by the departments of Chemical Engineering, Materials Science & Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering. Dr. Irons explained that the requirement for the diploma entails the completion of four half courses, or 8 quarter modules or some equivalent combination thereof, within a three-year period with a minimum passing grade of B- for each course. At present, most steel industry engineers enroll into the Master's degree program as part time to be able to upgrade their skills. The proposed graduate diploma allows steel industry engineers to upgrade their skills/knowledge, relieving them of the major commitment involved in a Master's degree. Dr. Blimkie commented that the proposal places emphasis on course work rather than research work and inquired about the possibility of continuing the diploma to a Master's degree. Dr. Irons said this scenario is quite possible, but certain regulations have to be applied. Dean Finsten said the School of Graduate Studies is currently working on formulating regulations (specifically the issue of double counting of courses) for students taking diploma programs and who wish to go into the Master's degrees. The regulations, once formulated, will be presented to Graduate Council for approval.

Dean Welch moved, and Dr. Blimkie seconded,

“that Graduate Council approve the proposed Graduate Diploma in Steel Processing and Manufacturing, as outlined in the document.”

The motion was carried.

V. CURRICULUM REVISIONS FOR 2005-2006

Faculty of Business

Dr. Chan reported the graduate curriculum changes for the Faculty of Business for Graduate Council information. Referring to the document, Dr. Chan added that the deletion of *Business A750 – Financial Statement Analysis* from the list of elective courses for the Finance specialization should be included in the report.

Faculty of Engineering

Dean Welch presented the proposed curriculum changes from the Department of Computing and Software: (a) for admission to the M.A.Sc. program, students are required to have the equivalent of a Bachelor's degree in Software Engineering from McMaster University with a B+ average; (b) for admission to the M.Eng. program, students must have an accredited Bachelor's degree in Engineering or a recognized Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or Mathematics with a B+ average; (c) change in the requirements for the Ph.D. degrees in Computer Science and Software Engineering as set out in the attached document.

Dean Welch moved, and Dr. Bone seconded,

“that Graduate Council approve the curriculum changes proposed by the Department of Computing and Software, as outlined in the document.”

The motion was carried.

Referring to the document, Dean Welch explained that the Master of Engineering in Entrepreneurship and Innovation program proposed a change to its “Admission” section in the graduate calendar.

Dean Welch moved, and Dr. Bone seconded,

“that Graduate Council approve the proposed change to the ‘Admission’ calendar description for the Master of Engineering Entrepreneurship and Innovation program.”

The motion was carried.

Dean Welch then briefly discussed the remaining report of the Faculty of Engineering Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee for Graduate Council information.

Faculty of Humanities

Referring to the report of the Joint Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee, Dean Kaczynski briefly discussed the proposed graduate curriculum changes for English, Cultural Studies and Critical Theory, French, Globalization, History, and Music Criticism for Graduate Council information.

Faculty of Science

Dean Welch referred to the report of the Faculty of Science Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee and discussed the proposed graduate curriculum changes for the Department of Biology as follows: (a) change in the comprehensive examination procedures; (b) change in the transfer examination procedures from M.Sc. to Ph.D. program; (c) new course requirements for Ph.D. program; and (d) core graduate courses. Dr. Bedard from the Department of Biology attended the meeting to answer questions from Council members.

Dean Welch moved, and Dr. Xu seconded,

“that Graduate Council approve the graduate curriculum changes proposed by the Department of Biology, as outlined in the attachment.”

The motion was carried.

The Department of Chemistry proposed to add the following statement to its “Courses” calendar description: *Students are free to include Education 750 (Principles and Practice of University Teaching) in their program, but this cannot be counted toward their course requirements for the degree.*

Dean Welch moved, and Dr. Blimkie seconded,

“that Graduate Council approve the proposed change in the ‘Courses’ calendar description for the Department of Chemistry.”

The motion was carried.

Dean Welch reported that the School of Geography and Geology recommended changes to the titles and fields of the Geology Ph.D. program. The proposed changes were approved by the Faculty of Science Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee at an e-mail ballot conducted on April 4, 2005. Specifically, the changes that the School proposes are: (a) renaming the program to Earth and Environmental Sciences; (b) changing the title of the Near-surface Earth Processes field to Earth Surface Processes; (c) removal of the GeoBiology-Basin Analysis field and redistributing its content into the Earth Surface Processes and Geochemistry fields; and (d) extend the Hydrological Sciences field in the Geography program and include it as a field in the Earth and Environmental Sciences program.

Dean Welch moved, and Dr. Xu seconded,

“that Graduate Council approve the proposed changes to the titles and fields of the Geology Ph.D. program in the School of Geography and Geology.”

The motion was carried.

Dean Welch discussed the changes proposed by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics for its Mathematics program: (a) the duration of the Master’s thesis option be specified in the graduate calendar as 20 months; (b) change in the comprehensive examination for the Ph.D. program. Upon further discussion of the proposed change in the Ph.D. comprehensive examination, the Council members commented that the proposed statement is quite ambiguous; it does not clearly specify whether the composition of the two exams are oral and written or both oral. The members decided to refer the proposal back to the Department of Mathematics and Statistics for clarification, and to table this agenda item to the next Graduate Council meeting.

Dean Welch moved, and Dr. Blimkie seconded,

“that Graduate Council approve the duration of the Mathematics Master’s thesis option be specified in the graduate calendar as 20 months.”

The motion was carried.

The Department of Medical and Health Physics recommended a change in the “Health and Radiation Physics” calendar description.

Dean Welch moved, and Dr. Valliant seconded,

“that Graduate Council approve the curriculum change proposed by the Department of Medical and Health Physics, as outlined in the document.”

The motion was carried.

Dean Welch then drew attention to the change in the “M.Sc. Degree” calendar description for the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Dean Welch moved, and Dr. Blimkie seconded,

“that Graduate Council approve the curriculum change proposed by the Department of Physics and Astronomy, as outlined in the document.”

The motion was carried.

Dean Welch discussed the proposed change in the calendar description of the “M.Sc. and Ph.D. Degree” for the Department of Psychology.

Dean Welch moved, and Dr. Xu seconded,

“that Graduate Council approve the proposed change in the ‘M.Sc. and Ph.D. Degree’ calendar description for the Department of Psychology, as outlined in the document.”

The motion was carried.

Dean Welch then briefly discussed the remaining report of the Faculty of Science Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee for Graduate Council information.

Faculty of Social Sciences

Referring to the report of the Joint Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee, Dean Kaczynski discussed the curriculum change proposed by the Department of Political Science, which would remove the subfield *International dimensions of public policy* in the *International Relations* field.

Dean Kaczynski moved, and Dr. Gauvreau seconded,

“that Graduate Council approve the recommended curriculum change for the Department of Political Science, as outlined in the document.”

The motion was carried.

VI. SCHOLARSHIPS

Mr. Scime presented the following scholarships for approval:

New scholarships: The Harish Jain Human Rights in Employment Bursary and the Dr. John Thomas Memorial Bursary.

A change in the description for The Robert John Morris Graduate Studies Bursary was also recommended.

Dr. Blimkie moved, and Dr. Ingram seconded,

“that Graduate Council approve the new scholarships: The Harish Jain Human Rights in Employment Bursary and the Dr. John Thomas Memorial Bursary; and the change in the description for The Robert John Morris Graduate Studies Bursary, as outlined in the document.”

The motion was carried.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Dean Finsten circulated and discussed the document concerning the proposed continuation of scholarship funding during parental leaves of graduate students. The document stated that a full time graduate student parent expecting a child by birth or adoption, who receives McMaster graduate scholarship funding and takes a parental leave will be entitled to receive scholarship funds up to a maximum of \$3,000 per instance. Dean Finsten conducted a straw vote to gauge the Council’s approval of the proposal. In response to a query, Dean Finsten explained that the funds mentioned in the document refer to a “special pool” specifically for this purpose. The funds are not from research monies of department faculty members.

Result of the straw vote: The members unanimously approved the proposal.

There was no other business. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.