



School of Graduate Studies

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Graduate Council
November 17th, 2015 1:30 PM
GH 111

Present: Dr. D. Welch (Chair), Dr. N. Agarwal, Dr. C. Hayward, Dr. G. McClelland, Dr. A. Shi, Dr. A. Roddick, Dr. S. Kumar, Mr. A. Visawanathan, Mr. D. Finnerty, Mr. R. Mah, Mr. R. Morton, Ms. C. Brown, Ms. A. Ion

Regrets: Dr. S. McCracken, Dr. M. Verma, Dr. A. Guarne, Dr. A. Holloway, Dr. A. Dean, Dr. E. Gedge, Dr. E. Badone, Ms. R. Pereira

A G E N D A

- I. **Minutes of the meeting of October 20th, 2015**
- II. **Business arising**

There was no business arising.

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

Dr. Welch reported that there had been a lot of improvement with respect to Mosaic and the various situations facing graduate students over the past few months. Students are now getting paid what and when they expect. He noted that there had been a letter from senior administration that will help resolve some of the issues in real time to make Mosaic functional and to resolve graduate student issues. Dr. Welch reported that he is now on the executive committee for Mosaic sustainment. He noted that very good progress had been made with Students Accounts and Cashiering getting systems there functional and ensuring that students don't get shuffled from office to office. There will also be funding workshops for graduate students that will give them the opportunity to sit down, in front of a computer, and see what is happening with their own student accounts. There will be a video to show students how to access this information themselves, outside of the workshop setting. In January staff from SGS will be going out to departments to advise incoming students in real time. He also reported that refunds are now going out and the amount taken out of accounts for tuition is now actually being applied to tuition. Dr. Welch thanked everyone for their patience and support.

- IV. **Report from the Graduate Associate Deans**

Dr. Thompson reported that the new graduate student career planning initiative had just begun to roll out in the Faculty of Engineering. Workshops have been delivered to students and the Faculty has received a lot of positive responses. Dr. Agarwal reported that the new EMBA program in the Faculty of Business would be launching next year. They have held information sessions about the new program and there appears to be a lot of interest. Dr. Hayward reported that the Faculty of Health Sciences had held a very successful open house. The event included FHS programs as well as interdisciplinary

programs. FHS Student Ambassadors were in attendance. Dr. Hayward also reported that she had attended Canadian Association of Graduate Studies meeting and noted that the big theme was career paths for Ph.D. graduates. A lot of the discussion focused on the fact that additional training to prepare students for a career should be supplementary material that the student can choose to opt in to instead of fitting into mandatory degree requirements. She noted that the meeting will be in Toronto next year and that it is worthwhile to attend. Dr. Swett reported that the Faculty of Humanities has begun discussions about extending an existing undergraduate program to facilitate English language training for graduate students. Dr. Sills reported that Senate voted to close the department of Medical Physics. There is no intention to close the corresponding graduate program, therefore they need to find a director for the program. She noted that the Graduate Council meeting package included a memo with a list of selection committee members.

V. Report from the Associate Registrar and Graduate Secretary

There was no report.

VI. Report from the Assistant Dean, Graduate Student Life and Research Training

Mr. Self reported that his team is working to get all of the information for the summer Indigenous Undergraduate Research program online by mid-December. Applications are going to open Canada-wide this year. They're hoping to have 15 students attend in June and July and will be sending out a request to faculty members to participate as supervisors in the next couple of weeks. The Student Life Team has also organized yoga for graduate students, taking place every Friday. In partnership with the McMaster Museum of Art they have also sponsored a painting evening where students try to mimic a Tom Thomson in the collection here.

VII. New Program Proposal: M.Sc. in Speech Language Pathology

Dr. Solomon presented the proposed new program. Speech Language Pathologists are health professionals who have the skills to treat communication and swallowing disorders. They primarily treat younger children and older adults. The standard for entry-level practice in this profession is a course-based program. She noted that the proposed M.Sc. in Speech Language Pathology is similar to other programs within the School of Rehabilitation Sciences. The new program aligns with McMaster's Strategic Mandate Agreement in areas of both growth and strength. The program will be relatively small: maximum enrollment will be 32 students. The curriculum involves problem-based learning, which is unique in North America, and the program is two years in length. Dr. Solomon noted that there are exciting opportunities to collaborate with the Linguistics and Languages program with respect to student research and noted that this sort of program is often a feeder program for speech language pathology programs. They expect a lot of demand as speech language pathology programs are extremely popular across the country. In developing the proposal they engaged in broad consultation with the clinical community.

Dr. Hayward moved and Dr. Sills seconded, 'that Graduate Council approve the proposed new program as described in the document.'

The vote was deferred to an e-ballot due to lack of quorum.

VIII. New Program Proposal: Ph.D. in Communication, New Media and Cultural Studies

Dr. O'Connor presented the proposed new program. The proposed Ph.D. is interdisciplinary and designed by two different departments: English and Cultural Studies and Communication and New Media. They have designed a Ph.D. that brings cultural studies and communication and new media together. In developing the proposal they looked at where they saw the MA students going or wanting to go. Dr. O'Connor noted that some Cultural Studies MA students went on to the English Ph.D. but were missing out on the production and communication side. Graduates with Communication Studies degrees are, for the most part, getting academic employment as Communication Studies is a growing field. The proposal brings together the expertise in both departments to design a Ph.D. for a student who wants to go into academia as well as those who want to be trained in critique and media production. The proposal includes a variety of thesis options: traditional, sandwich and the third option, creative research (which is SHERC supported). The third option would involve a combination of media creation and 100 pages of explaining what the student has produced. The proposed Ph.D. can teach students literacies in communication studies, how to communicate, as well as the power of communication and producing media. Dr. O'Connor noted that this program aligns with McMaster's Strategic Mandate Agreement.

Dr. Welch provided a brief explanation of the Strategic Mandate Agreement. He noted that historically there had been a fairly dysfunctional relationship between universities in Ontario and the Ministry. There were significant delays from the MTCU in terms of responding to new program proposals. Eventually, the province made a commitment to receiving proposals at certain times and making decisions on proposals at certain times. To facilitate this plan, the university and the ministry independently put together a three-year proposal for what the university was going to do and how that aligned with its own interior strategic plans and what levels of enrollment they were hoping for. The Ministry worked to reach an agreement to show the numbers of Masters and Ph.D. students it would be funding. The final agreement between the university and the MTCU includes agreed-on areas of growth and strength for programs. There is one year left on the current agreement. Anything that goes forward in terms of a new program, particularly for expedited review, needs to be aligned with that strategic mandate agreement. When we produce new programs they are considered for expedited review if they are in alignment with the priorities of the university and MTCU.

Dr. Porter moved and Dr. Agarwal seconded, 'that Graduate Council approve the proposed new program as described in the document.'

The vote was deferred to an e-ballot due to lack of quorum.

IX. Faculty of Business Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee Report

Dr. Agarwal reported on the changes proposed by the Faculty of Business. The first change related to the Business Ph.D. program. The Faculty has 8 areas, 6 of which offer fields in the Business Ph.D. program. The proposed change is to add a 7th field from the Health Policy and Management Area. He

noted that there would be a change to title of the proposed new field from what appeared in the document circulated – it will be Health Management rather than Health Policy and Management. Dr. Agarwal said that this new field would be reviewed the next time the Business Ph.D. program as a whole goes through and IQAP review. Dr. Randall noted that they had received a lot of feedback recently that they'd like to have a Ph.D. in Health Management, including senior management people in government and hospitals wanting a Ph.D. but not to give up their day jobs. The new field would provide additional research and management skills that they're looking for.

Dr. Agarwal reported that the second curriculum change is a change in course requirements to the Information Systems field. The change relates to their Business Ph.D. IQAP review - one of the recommendations that came from that was to reduce the number of MBA courses that are part of the requirements for field. The proposal is to reduce the number of MBA courses from three to two. In the place of the dropped MBA course there is a new course being created. They are also changing the list of available courses.

The Health Management change proposed did not constitute a change to course requirements, only a change to calendar wording highlighting course options. The current description of that option is confusing so they've revised it to make the wording clear.

The final change proposed was from the MBA program. It currently has both specializations and minors. There has been very little demand for these minors and the proposal is to delete them. This is also a response to an IQAP review, where it was recommended that the program simplify the structure of their program.

Dr. Agarwal moved and Dr. Hayward seconded, 'that Graduate Council approve the curriculum changes proposed by the Faculty of Business as described in the documents.'

The vote was deferred to an e-ballot due to lack of quorum.

X. Faculty of Health Sciences Graduate Policy and Curriculum Committee Report

Dr. Hayward noted that the changes proposed included no changes to the program. The M.D./Ph.D. program proposed creating a separate section of graduate calendar discussing MD/PHD specifically and adding new available programs to their list of options (including Chemical Biology and Health Policy). The changes to calendar copy proposed by Medical Sciences is related to the M.D./Ph.D. change – all reference in their own calendar section to the M.D./Ph.D. program will be removed and potential students will be directed to the new M.D./Ph.D. section of the Graduate Calendar.

Dr. Hayward moved and Dr. Porter seconded, 'that Graduate Council approve the changes proposed by the Faculty of Health Sciences as described in the documents.'

The vote was deferred to an e-ballot due to lack of quorum.

XI. Faculty of Humanities Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee Report

Dr. Swett noted that the change proposed by English and Cultural Studies was a very straightforward. The program proposed deleting a six-unit course and replaced it with two three-unit courses. The for-information changes included new courses reflecting new faculty and changing research interests.

Dr. Swett moved and Dr. Hayward seconded, 'that Graduate Council approve the change proposed by the Faculty of Humanities as described in the document.'

The vote was deferred to an e-ballot due to lack of quorum.

XII. Faculty of Science Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee Report

Dr. Sills reported that all changes included were minor. The Biology program cancelled a course that hasn't been taught at graduate level for years. Kinesiology updated their prerequisites on all courses and added a new course.

XIII. Additional Scholarship Committee Members

Dr. Welch noted that there had been a very significant change to the composition of the scholarship committee. The committee was reworked in recognition of the fact that there are a number of large competitions and more small competitions. Within the new committee structure there is a set of faculty members available for one kind and a different set available for the other kind. They also needed to equalize the workload per faculty member as the number of scholarship applications that have been ranked in the past is huge. It was decided that they would ask for more committee member names and limit the number of applications that each committee member would review to help spread the burden and expertise.

Dr. Sills moved and Dr. Swett seconded, 'that Graduate Council approve the proposed additional scholarship committee members as listed in the document.'

The vote was deferred to an e-ballot due to lack of quorum.