



School of Graduate Studies

1280 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
L8S 4L8

Phone 905.525.9140
Ext. 23679
<http://graduate.mcmaster.ca>

Graduate Council
December 6th, 9:30 am
GH 111

Present: Dr. D. Welch, Ms. S. Baschiera, Ms. C. Bryce, Mr. P. Self, Dr. I. Marwah, Dr. T. Porter, Dr. B. Gupta, Dr. P. Swett, Dr. E. Grodek, Ms. S. Ramsammy, Ms. R. Estok, Mr. N. Quinn, Ms. H. Yousefi, Dr. J. Qiu, Mr. R. Narro Perez, Dr. L. Thabane, Ms. N. Shen, Dr. A. Fudge Schormans, Dr. A. Kitai, Dr. D. Pelinovsky, Dr. G. McClelland, Dr. S. O'Brien, Dr. A. Dean, Dr. B. Doble, Dr. A. Guarne, Dr. S. McCracken, Dr. M. Thompson, Dr. N. Agarwal, Dr. T. Adams, Dr. E. Badone

Regrets: Dr. M. Verma, Dr. A. Deza, Dr. A. Sills

I. Minutes of the meeting November 15th, 2016

The minutes of the meeting of November 15th were approved on a motion by Dr. Agarwal, seconded by Dr. Porter.

II. Business arising

There was no business arising.

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

Dr. Welch gave special thanks to Pamela Swett whose term as Acting Associate Dean Humanities was coming to an end. He noted that there would be or are were underway associate dean searches for Business and Social Sciences for July 1st and that Dr. Ibhawoh would be returning to his position on January 1st.

He mentioned that the OGS numbers, noting that they are slightly down in terms of overall allocation: 193 relative to 197 last year. On the plus side, the CGS-M allocation formula was changed this year which increased significantly the number available. McMaster was one of two Ontario universities to receive an increase and many others received decreases.

Dr. Welch responded that the SGS external review came in and it is available publicly. He suggested it be circulated for the next Graduate Council meeting, noting that the administrative aspects of the review are something separate from grad council, but that it was important for Graduate Council to see.

IV. Report from the Graduate Associate Deans

There were no reports from Drs. Agarwal, Porter, Swett and Thompson. Dr. Gupta noted that the alumni networking event for the Faculty of Science would be held in February and that they've identified a number of alumni they'll be contacting to participate.

V. Report from the Associate Registrar and Graduate Secretary

Ms. Baschiera had no report.

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

Mr. Self reported on the Three Minute Thesis competition, noting that registration opened on December 12th. For those interested in summarizing their research in three minutes or less there is lots of material available online. They have found that students have a great experience doing it. The competition will take place on February 23rd at the David Braley Center downtown. He noted that anyone in attendance could, in a relatively short period of time, get some breadth across the institution.

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

Dr. Thabane noted that there two items to report from the Faculty of Health Sciences GPCC. The first one for approval is for a change in the calendar regarding a change previously approved by the School of Nursing around their comprehensive examination. For the Nursing Comprehensive exam, students in the program currently have to complete two papers and an oral. These are related/complementary to thesis. The student are assigned exam chair, not a committee member. The outline of the papers are submitted and an exam committee is organized. Students then have six weeks to submit papers. If the student fails, they are allowed to rewrite the papers. This takes about six weeks all together and could be more if the student fails. The school is recommending to make a change in the period that they do this and have changed the length of time accordingly in the calendar copy.

Dr. Swett asked if they students are having trouble getting through it and that's slowing everything down isn't the change only going to make the problem worse. She was concerned about the student running out of time.

Dr. Thabane responded that by extending the time, the feeling is that they can also work on starting their thesis concurrently.

Ms. Bryce noted for clarification that the comprehensive change (where students will be doing a thesis proposal and defence of it) had already been approved at the previous meeting, the only item up for approval is the associated change to calendar copy.

Dr. Thabane moved and Dr. Thompson seconded, 'that Graduate Council approve the change proposed as described in the document.'

The motion was carried.

Dr. Thabane noted that there was also a new public health course for information.

VIII. Faculty of Science Graduate Policy and Curriculum Committee Report

Dr. Gupta presented three changes for the Kinesiology program. They proposed a change to their course requirements to make KIN 713 as a required course, instead of KIN 714. The second change was to the wording around the admission requirements. The change will correct the wording to align with SGS rules and regulations. The final change was to their comprehensive examination procedure. He explained that the comprehensive used to have two steps and that each step was graded. It has now been streamlined so that there is just one point at which students are graded.

A council member asked what was meant by 'special populations' in reference to one of the courses in the Kinesiology course requirement change. Dr. Gupta responded that he understood that it was very specific topics within the discipline. 713 is much broader and makes more sense as part of their requirements as it gives them flexibility.

Dr. Welch asked for the program to clarify what special populations were.

Dr. Porter moved and Dr. Swett seconded, 'that Graduate Council approve the changes proposed as described in the documents.'

The motion was carried.

IX. Faculty of Social Sciences Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee Report

Dr. Porter presented the changes. The first set of changes were from Health Aging and Society. At the Masters level they proposed an increase in the number of required courses taken within the program. At the Ph.D. level they proposed reducing the number of required courses from 6 to 5, with one theory course no longer required. He noted that Political Science proposed a significant change: to cancel the collaborative program between Guelph and McMaster. Essentially the collaborative M.A. has run out of steam as Guelph has gone in a different direction and the two institutions are not able to maintain the degree as it was initially conceived.

Social work proposed a change to their course requirements as they're combining two methods courses, which will allow students to get methods advice through the first year in a better way. Sociology was concerned about students taking courses that are intended to be once-in-awhile special topics course so they proposed restricting access to those as well as putting constraints on the number of courses that can be taken outside of the program.

Dr. Porter moved and Dr. Badone seconded, 'that Graduate Council approve the changes proposed as described in the documents.'

The motion was carried.

X. Final Assessment Reports

Dr. Welch explained that the Quality Assurance Committee at McMaster oversees all the IQAP reviews and once they have gone through their appropriate faculties and departments the recommendations from external reviewers and responses are considered by QAC. The committee reviews whether all the items that were identified by reviewers were appropriately responded to and recommends which of a series of possible outcomes a program would face. The standard is an eight year cycle, but some are referred to an earlier review schedule.