



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 5th 9:30 am
GH 111

Present: Dr. D. Welch, Ms. C. Bryce, Ms. S. Baschiera, Dr. M. Thompson, Dr. S. Pope, Dr. F. McNeill, Ms. A. Devitt, Mr. T. Baldeh, Dr. S. Feng, Ms. S. Ramsammy, Dr. A. Kitai, Ms. M. Badv, Mr. M. Luit, Dr. C. Hayward, Ms. S. Ebrahimi, Dr. B. Doble, Dr. J. Gillett, Dr. L. Kapiri, Dr. W. Farmer, Dr. P. Mhaskar, Dr. L. Thabane, Dr. B. Gupta, Dr. E. Grodek, Dr. E. Badone, Dr. S. Corner, Dr. K. Hassanein, Dr. I. Marwah

Regrets: Dr. M. Parlar, Dr. J. Qiu, Dr. S. Raha, Dr. S. O'Brien, Dr. A. Sills

By Invitation: Dr. E. Pawluk, Dr. V. Mahalec, Dr. P. McNicholas

I. Minutes of the meeting of November 14th, 2017

The minutes of the meeting of November 14th, 2017 were approved on a motion by Dr. Gupta, seconded by Dr. Hassanein with a minor correction.

II. Business arising

There was no business arising.

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

Dr. Welch reported that the province has approached the executive heads of universities to put together pilot programs for determining metrics for SMA 3. The new agreement will start less than three years from now and needs to be negotiated between now and then. The province has agreed to state what its proposed metrics would look like and has asked for input from universities on theirs. The province has asked for universities from Ontario to participate on 11 or 12 topics. Dr. Welch noted he had selected his top three. These have not yet been selected because the Deans and Provost's Council have to make a decision on which three of the metrics will be graduate related.

He also reported that there was a webinar for international students taking place. The initiative was brought on by the international student advisory group and the SGS student life team. They invited all international students arriving in January to discuss their arrival on campus, what to do when they get here and how to get

things going. He noted this was a positive development in making the arrival at the beginning of an academic term an easier and smoother process.

Dr. Welch noted there would be some updates on the working groups in January. He also reported that there had been good communication and cooperation between graduate deans in Ontario regarding thesis defence and about how things work at different institutions.

IV. Report from the Graduate Associate Deans

Dr. Hassanein had nothing to report on behalf of the School of Business but noted that the first meeting of the thesis working group had been very productive. Across the group there was a consensus on the need to change the entire process. The proposal that it is being discussed is a decentralized process which would involve coordinating it outside of SGS. The supervisor would approach the external, in conjunction with supervisory committee and graduate advisor. He noted that there was a couple of issues that need to be explored including the regulations in terms of revealing externals name and sharing the report ahead of the exam. They group will be looking at the practices across Ontario and are planning to involve a senior graduate student in the discussions as well. A council member commented that their suggestion would be the committee to err on the side of transparency in terms of the review.

Dr. Thompson reported that Engineering had held its first TA training session. They had built up a five hour training session for all incoming graduate students and are getting very positive responses back. It was devised by a group of graduate students who had been delivering it in Mechanical and has now been brought into the Faculty as a whole.

Dr. Hayward noted that the handbook working group did a lot of work last year and will be meeting briefly to discuss getting handbooks fully approved. She reported that the Faculty of Health Sciences had assembled a team of individuals to discuss remediation, both formal and informal. She noted that there was nothing currently in the graduate calendar in this respect, except for a few specific programs.

Drs. Corner, Gillett and Gupta had no report.

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

There was no report.

VII. New Program Proposal: M.Sc. in Psychotherapy

Dr. Pawluk introduced the new program. She explained that they are proposing an M.Sc. in Psychotherapy, to be run through the department of Psychiatry. It will be a course-based degree and will include significant applied clinical training. Students will gain theoretical knowledge and competency in the delivery of psychotherapy. She noted that it will provide a route to accreditation and that there is no overlap at McMaster. She also said that market research shows that they're a big draw.

Dr. Hayward said that there's a real need for this program. The current CBS graduate diploma program trainees have noted that they need Masters training. She also noted that mental health places huge demands on the health care system and that the program would help meet needs in Ontario and Canada.

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

The motion was carried.

VIII. New Program Proposal: M.Eng and G.Dip in Systems and Technology

Dr. Thompson noted that there was a minor issue with wording and that 'postgraduate' needed to be changed to 'graduate' where the diplomas was being discussed. Dr. Mahalec introduced the proposed new program. He explained that it would be an M.Eng program with three streams. The proposed program aims to fill a gap in the marketplace. He noted that there are a number of available jobs in automation and automotive industries. The program will be structured as a course-based Masters or 7 courses plus a project.

Dr. Thompson clarified that the Faculty has an existing manufacturing program that was devised between different departments within the Faculty of engineering and that it has not weathered well with time. It is extremely restrictive and they can't actually modify it. They believe that the new program will be the preferred program to offer. The way it's been devised now will offer scalability and the ability to address emerging areas.

Dr. Mahalec asked if a reference to MEME in the introduction paragraph should be removed. Dr. Thompson advised to keep it in.

Dr. Hayward asked if students who take this program be eligible for entry into an engineering Ph.D. program. Drs. Mahalec and Thompson confirmed that they would. Dr. Hayward thought they might want to include a brief sentence in the proposal to highlight this. Dr. Mahalec responded that he thought this was up to the program taking in the Ph.D. student. Dr. Hayward responded that a sentence about encouraging them to take the project option might be a worthwhile addition. Dr. Thompson noted that it is already the practice of the Faculty to take other course-based students from around the world into other programs. Dr. Hayward asked if one of the option would put them in better standing for an application to the Ph.D. program. Dr. Thompson said it wouldn't make a difference and didn't want to highlight a particular option.

Dr. Hayward highlighted table 2.2.3a and noted that a number of courses listed as to be taught by university staff, which seemed odd. Dr. Thompson responded that it wasn't necessarily and said they would bring in

sessionals to cover certain areas as needed. Dr. Hayward asked if they wouldn't still be instructors rather than staff. She thought the word staff could raise confusion. Dr. Welch agreed that 'staff' was ambiguous and suggested using 'sessional instructor' might be better.

Dr. Thompson agreed and said it could definitely be changed to sessional instructor. A council member asked if saying 'sessional instructors' would it limit the Ph.D. students who could teach. Dr. Welch thought that TBD would provide the most flexibility.

Dr. Gupta asked about the diploma, wondering what it would say. Dr. Thompson highlighted the changes that are coming to parchments, spearheaded by the Registrar's Office, and noted that this would affect what was on the diploma. Dr. Mahalec said the diplomas would be in the three areas.

Dr. Hassanein noted that on page 20 there was a designation status for folks teaching in the program and that this should be changed to TBD as well for consistency.

Dr. Thompson put forth a friendly amendment to switch staff to TBD where appropriate.

Dr. Thompson moved and Dr. Hassanein seconded: 'that Graduate Council approve the proposed program and diplomas as described in the document with the changes noted.'

The motion was carried.

IX. New Program Proposal: Ph.D. in Statistics

Dr. McNicholas presented the proposal and explained that for many years any students interested in a statistics Ph.D. at McMaster have had to through the Ph.D. in Math. This arrangement was unsuitable for a number of reasons, particularly as it related to the comprehensive examination. It also meant they couldn't advertise that they offered statistics at the Ph.D. level. The proposed program would allow them to advertise and tailor a program to fit what statistics students need. It will be structured as a traditional Ph.D. program.

Dr. Welch asked Dr. McNicholas to describe the mix of the effect the new Ph.D. will have on the current Ph.D. and to describe its attractiveness to applicants. He noted that there could be a perception that they're taking students from another degree. Dr. McNicholas acknowledged that Ph.D. students who had gone into math, will now go into statistics. He also noted that they will get higher quality students in statistics and they will also have a purely math program in the existing Ph.D.

Dr. Hayward commented that she was a little bit confused about students taking masters level courses while in Ph.D. She wondered if this was a requirement for entry. Dr. McNichols responded that students have three channels for entry: getting a Masters then a Ph.D., direct entry (these students may take two of the 600 level courses), and the third option is transfer to Ph.D. The Ph.D. requirement is only two 700 level courses.

Dr. Welch noted that at present an undergraduate student can't enroll in 600 level courses. Dr. McNicholas clarified the direct entry requirements, noting that two of the four courses that students take once they were in the program in this case can be 600 level courses.

Dr. Gupta moved and Dr. Thompson seconded: 'that Graduate Council approve the proposed program as described in the document.'

The motion was carried.

X. Faculty of Engineering Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee Report

Dr. Thompson noted that the four main programs in SEPT proposed making minor modifications to course requirements and calendar copy, including change of names, scope of project and offerings. The point that he wanted to highlight is that they've been allowed to use two undergraduate courses as an advanced credit but they've been very specific previously about what courses students could utilize for the option. As these students come from various departments the School is now asking for a broadening of the available options to allow any 600 level course to be used for advanced credit. He also noted the program proposed the removal of the part-time option for two of their programs, M.E.E.I and M.T.E.I., while also extending the length of the two programs. They had changed it to 16 months previously but that proved untenable so they're now proposing changing it back.

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

The motion was carried.

XI. Faculty of Science Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee Report

Dr. Gupta explained that the first change was new program calendar copy and new courses related to the approval and launch of the Master of Financial Math. Coupled to this change was the cancellation of the MPhimac option courses and calendar information. He noted the other changes for approval were from Psychology who made changes to their calendar copy, particularly around the RCT stream, to make things clearer. Other changes proposed were to course titles, prerequisites and a new course.

Dr. Welch provided context for the MPhimac/MFM change, noting that no new students had been in the MPhimac option in some time. Dr. Gupta confirmed and noted that MFM would be launching in September 2018.

Dr. Gupta moved and Dr. Mhaskar seconded, 'that Graduate Council approve the proposed changes as described in the document.'

XII. Faculty of Health Science Graduate Policy and Curriculum Committee Report

Dr. Hayward explained that there was nothing to approve, only one course change for Biochemistry.

XIII. Scholarships Committee of Graduate Council Update

Dr. Thabane moved and Dr. Grodek seconded, 'that Graduate Council approve the proposed addition to the committee as set forth in the document.'

The motion was carried.

XIV. Final Assessment Reports

A council member noticed that the Chair of the department discussed a heavy workload for faculty for the French review and said he was cognizant of the particular challenges associated with language teaching. He said that the Dean's response was that it shouldn't focus on that and that they should find innovative solutions. The council member suggested that this seemed like that didn't solve the problem. Dr. Welch responded that he thought that was a fair reading of what was in the report and noted that it was not terribly uncommon for the Chair to have a different perspective than the Dean about what the path forward would be. If the report is accepted there is an 18 month progress report and at this time programs can be asked to comment on specific items. He also noted that at the end of the cycle there's another full review. If things have gotten worse that's something that can be noted by the new review team. He noted that the Dean of the Faculty was saying that they saw this as sufficiently stable currently, that it's not a high priority.

A council member thanked the other member for his comments and for understanding the challenges of teaching language.