



School of Graduate Studies

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Tuesday March 20th at 9:30 am in Council Chambers (GH-111)

Present: Dr. D. Welch (Chair), Ms. C. Bryce, Ms. S. Baschiera, Dr. C. Hayward, Dr. M. Thompson, Ms. A. Devitt, Dr. S. Pope, Ms. J. Dawdy, Ms. S. Ramsammy, Mr. M. Luit, Mr. P. Self, Dr. E. Grodek, Dr. S. Feng, Dr. E. Badone, Dr. B. Doble, Dr. W. Farmer, Dr. I. Marwah, Dr. P. Mhaskar, Dr. J. Gillett, Dr. S. Corner, Ms. M. Badv

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

A G E N D A

I. Minutes of the meeting of February 20th, 2018

Dr. Welch had a few comments and small corrections for the minutes. There was a couple of typos. He noted that in his report on the SMA is said that McMaster was doing one SMA project, but it was one graduate project out of a total of three SMA projects that McMaster was working on. Regarding the divinity academic audit, he noted that Joan Norris was (not is) his counterpart. He noted that the where is said that WLU has an analogous situation isn't quite right in that WLU has a Ministry-approved graduate program in this area that is funded at the graduate level. Dr. Welch said in the area where it references Dr. Allen Hayes' understanding of the Divinity programs in UofT a reference to 'significant past' needed to be removed. Finally, in that area a correction was needed to refer to the Dean of Social Sciences, Dr. Jeremiah Hurley, specifically.

The minutes of the meeting of February 20th were approved on a motion by Dr. Hassanein, seconded by Dr. Thompson, with the corrections noted.

II. Business arising

There was no business arising.

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

Dr. Welch reported that there would likely be more information about changes to international Ph.D. tuition in the coming days. He noted that McMaster has announced that they're moving as of September 1st to make fees for international Ph.D. students equivalent to domestic and that only Ph.D. students are affected at this point. He noted that all six faculties at McMaster operate slightly differently with respect to how they support international Ph.D. students. Some combination of scholarship, faculty funding, and research funding must

occur to make up the difference so that students will have enough after tuition to support themselves. In many cases a good fraction of that difference was made up had to come out of a researcher's grant. They had a discussion at the Deans/Provost level and decided that they weren't making the best use of researchers funding by doing this. They also considered that competitors had already done this when discussing the change.

He noted that at this time nothing had changed to the funding for this year and any funding in place for this academic year will stay in place until end of August. Come September 1st tuition will be reduced to a domestic level and therefore there would be a reworking of the funding profiles for each student. Students will retain the same amount of after-tuition income and any TA commitments will be met for their time at McMaster in this degree. He said that the change will produce more flexibility in terms of how they're funded, and it is likely there will be a wide variety of positive benefits, including more research money available for research activities. Other potential benefits are that new offers can be more competitive, and researchers and departments may be able to choose to support students at a higher level.

There is a fairly extensive FAQ available on the SGS website that addresses a number of the questions and corner cases related to this change to international tuition. He asked council members to let SGS know if they found that something was missing so it could be added to the FAQ. In-course students will receive an email explaining the change shortly but won't see a change until August. The existing offers will be clarified, and all offer letters have a statement about changes in tuition.

A council member asked if the changes would affect current students. Dr. Welch responded that they would. The council member asked if students would get a new offer letter. Dr. Welch said that they will get an explanation of the change and an explanation of their funding. The council member commented that the problem that they see is that international students get additional bursary above domestic students to cover the difference in tuition and asked if that would that be taken away from them. Dr. Welch responded that the university would not be giving them ten thousand extra dollars. The council member responded that because they have an offer, they might be resistant to getting less money. Dr. Welch responded that they won't get less money and that they'll make at least as much money as before. The money might not look as big, but they won't have to give it back afterward in tuition. The council member asked if there is a difference between what international students and domestic students are getting. Dr. Welch responded that there were no other changes, they're just removing the difference in tuition. The hope is that with the added flexibility there will be an increase in the support that goes out on average to international graduate students and because of the additional flexibility that additional support might also go to domestic students. He hoped that more competitive offers would go out generally.

A council member asked if they're alleviating the pressure on research budgets how would the university recoup the money that's lost. Dr. Welch responded that the university had looked at the amount of money that's changing. He said that the council member was correct in that there's some amount that's lost but that

it was surprising how little the amount lost is. Once they factored in the fact that McMaster is getting more funded Ph.D. spots with the additional funded international students the university is almost net neutral after the change. There are areas where there will be adjustments and the Provost has talked to those areas. The fact that the change was so small was surprising and shows how much offset was happening on average. Money is being moved around rather than being lost. There is more money coming in to fund international students as part of the internationalization strategy from the province and because of the change to international Ph.D. tuition McMaster will be able to hit its Ph.D. caps for every year this SMA which means the institution is get the most funding it can get for Ph.D.s.

A council commented that the election could change commitments. Dr. Welch responded that elections can always change commitments but that the contract will not be broken during the SMA. What may happen is that at the end of this contract is that the next contract will have different terms. The council member asked how long the contract was. Dr. Welch responded that it was three years and includes the internationalization commitment. At the end of this SMA there will be a new contract. With the internationalization strategy they took half of the spots and gave them to faculties who would not normally be able to fund international students. The Provost committed to two additional years of support to see them all the way through if province changed their stance.

A council member asked if they would still be doing internationalization funding conversions. Dr. Welch responded that they would, but it wouldn't have any effect on the students. The council member asked if students would be notified. Dr. Welch responded that there won't be any change to the funding, so it would likely cause more confusion if they did notify them. He noted that in the past year there had been several episodes of having to inform students and it caused some level of confusion. Now as their tuition will all be the same, the change will be blind to the student.

Dr. Welch also commented that there was a throne speech by the province and that it did not include anything that would affect graduate students directly.

IV. Report from the Graduate Associate Deans

Dr. Thompson reported that Engineering is constantly trying to see ways they can add more nuance to their graduate programs, particularly around the Ph.D., to introduce a more entrepreneurial skill set. He said that right now they're advertising an entrepreneurial fellowship between McMaster and The Forge. It will involve taking new discoveries and becoming an inventor/entrepreneur in the community. Dr. Hayward reported that Health Science programs have been working together on a facilitated indigenous admissions process and also establishing scholarships for indigenous students. Dr. Corner, Dr. Gillett and Dr. Hassanein 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

Mr. Self reported that they would be running the Indigenous Undergraduate Summer Research again this year. Undergraduate students spend the summer doing research at McMaster. There will be 12 students participating. He said that the application period just ended yesterday, and that they are now adjudicating and connecting students with supervisors.

He said that they would be running another webinar for international students for May admissions. They will be sending it to all new students joining in May.

He reported that 3MT had been held on campus in the Wilson Concert Hall. He said they'd had the most students participating that they'd ever had with 80 students and all faculties represented. He said that the heats were very challenging. There were excellent students that didn't even make it to the final. The winner of the competition was Matthew Berry from Psychology. Mr. Self noted that he gave a very strong presentation and will be at York for the provincial competition. There was a \$500 prize for the top person from each Faculty. A council member asked if the webinar would be available on the website afterwards. Mr. Self said he thought it already was and agree

Dr. Welch said that he would be going to Queensland for a meeting of deans and directors of graduate studies at the end of April. He noted that this is where the 3MT originated. For this meeting all the institutions have been invited to bring along a video of their winner.

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

Dr. Hayward explained that the Health Policy program, following their IQAP, were advised to change course requirements to reduce them. A related update to calendar copy was required and forgotten but has now been done. She noted there was also a change to field description that needed to be updated, also because of the IQAP review. She said that all other items for information related to new courses.

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

The motion was carried.

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

Dr. Gillett explained that there were several relatively minor changes. Economics proposed a change to the course requirements for their Masters degree, where a 600-level course that would replace a 700-level course for some students. Political science had proposed some changes to their requirements, removing the qualifying paper and requiring a longer research proposal instead. The final changes were proposed by Sociology. They

proposed updating the name of a research area, eliminating a methodology waiver that had been in place and changing the wording around the completion of the major research paper.

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

The motion was carried.

IX. New Scholarship

Dr. Pope moved and Dr. Hassanein seconded, 'that Graduate Council approve the proposed new scholarship as set out in the document.'

The motion was carried.