



School of Graduate Studies

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Tuesday October 22nd at 9:30 am in Council Chambers (GH-111)

Present: Dr. Dr. Welch (Chair), Ms. N. Taylor, Dr. S. Hanna, Dr. M. Horn, Dr. J. Gillett, Dr. M. Thompson, Dr. B. Gupta, Ms. V. Lewis, Dr. J. Kish, Dr. I. Bruce, Dr. S. Raha, Dr. S. Bannerman, Dr. M. Stroinska, Dr. J. Xu, Dr. N. Tan, Dr. N. McLaughlin, Dr. M. A. Letendre, Dr. L. Chan, Dr. D. Mountain, Ms. C. Bryce (Assistant Graduate Secretary), Ms. S. Baschiera (Associate Registrar and Graduate Secretary)

Regrets: Dr. C. Kwan, Dr. S. Dickson, Dr. J. Shedden, Dr. K. Hassanein

I. Minutes of the meeting of September 17th, 2019

It was duly moved and seconded, **'that Graduate Council approve the minutes of the meeting of September 17th, 2019.'**

The motion was **carried**.

II. Business arising

There was no business arising

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

Dr. Welch reported on the following items:

- A meeting with other Graduate Deans in Ontario and discussions around timing with the Ministry, including the OGS allocation;
- The graduate supervision questionnaire that had been circulated;
- The committee on micro credentials, noting that the Graduate Deans at other institutions were also discussing this issue at their institutions.

Council members discussed the response rate for the survey and the progress other institutions were making around the concept of micro credentials. Dr. Welch noted that the other universities seemed to be in a similar place to McMaster and everyone is still working on what the right model is to move forward.

IV. Report from the Graduate Associate Deans

Dr. Steve Hanna (Faculty of Health Sciences) reported on the following items:

- The ongoing student ambassadors program;
- Turnover in program leadership for the Occupational Therapy, Global Health, Health Management and Chemical Biology programs.

Dr. Martin Horn (Faculty of Humanities) reported on the following items:

- The work within the Faculty to harmonize work done across programs, including graduate student training and having former graduate students come into engage with current students about how they used their skills post-graduation in a non-academic context.

Drs. Gillett, Gupta, Hassanein and Thompson had no report.

V. Report from the Associate Registrar and Graduate Secretary

Ms. Baschiera reported on the following items:

- Four projects going forward with UTS;
- The admissions project is in the RFP phase;
- A very successful condition clearing cycle, with better service to students;
- Convocation and government count season.

VI. Report from the Coordinator Postdoctoral Affairs and Research Training

Ms. Taylor reported on the following items:

- The CIHR post doc competition had just finished;
- The fall edition of the thesis writing bootcamp;
- Valedictorians for the Fall 2019 Convocation ceremonies;
- The upcoming Graduate Recognition Awards on November 14th.

VII. Fall 2019 Graduands (to be distributed)

Council members discussed some errors on the list.

It was duly moved and seconded, **'that Graduate Council approve the list of the 2019 Fall Graduands, with amendments/corrections to be made as necessary by the Associate Graduate Registrar.'**

The motion was **carried**.

VIII. Towards Inclusive Excellence – McMaster's EDI Strategy

Dr. Arig Al Shabagh provided an update on the work being conducted at McMaster with respect to its Equity Diversity and Inclusion strategy, noting the different principles they've developed and the timeline for implementation. She noted in the documentation they've drafted they wanted to ensure everyone had the same definitions to work from when they introduced the strategy and to have a clear sense of what success would look like.

There are a number of themes that came out of consultations with the campus community and they have grouped objectives within those themes according to their status and planned timeline. Where there is no traction, they have grouped them as potential items for a working group to move things forward with engagement from other areas across campus.

The next step is for the steering committee is to go through an exercise of benchmarking and inventorying to see what units are already doing. Dr. Al Shabagh highlighted the importance of the principle of community ownership, noting that this wasn't the work of one office.

IX. Working Groups

Ms. Baschiera noted that in the package there was a document providing an update on the recommendations from the previous year's working groups. She also highlighted the four groups for the upcoming academic year:

- Review of the definition of part-time status for graduate studies;
- Continuation of the Student-Supervisor Relationship working group from last year;
- Graduate Calendar format and structure;
- Course Management Policy.

Council members discussed what a course management policy would include.

X. **Scholarships**

Ms. Ramsammy gave an overview of the awards. Ms. Bryce noted a correction needed to the degree to the second award listed.

It was duly moved and seconded, **'that Graduate Council approve the new scholarships with the correction noted.'**

The motion was **carried**.

XI. **Other Business**

Vivian Lewis provided an update from the library, noting that it was Open Access Week and highlighted two sessions, one on predatory publishing and the other on open governance.