

Dr. Doug Welch (Chair), Dr. J. Gillet, Dr. S. Hanna, Dr. M. Horn, Dr. K. Hassanein, Dr. M. Thompson, Dr. A. Hicks, Dr. A. Shi, Dr. S. Raha, Dr. A. Roddick, Dr. M. Stroinska, Dr. L. Chan, Dr. L. Thabane, Dr. J. West-Mays, Dr. W. Farmer, S. Madeiros, Dr. S. Bannerman, Dr. S. Raha, S.K. Dhami, C. Davidson, Dr. D. Mountain, Dr. N. Tan, O. Loertscher, E. Wright, C. Seiler, Dr. M. Parlar, S. Baschiera (Associate Registrar and Graduate Secretary), C. Bryce, (Assistant Graduate Secretary)

Regrets: Dr. S. Brophy, Dr. M. Dion, Ms. V. Lewis

By Invitation: K. Tsang

I. Minutes of the meeting of October 20th, 2020

It was duly moved and seconded, **'that Graduate Council approve the minutes of the meeting of October 20th, 2020.'**

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:

- Karen Tsang had joined the School of Graduate Studies as Manager of Finance and Administration;
- International student arrival, noting that McMaster's quarantine plan was approved on November 3rd and students are finally able to make plans to arrive;
- Study space is available unless there is a lockdown that prevents it;
- OGS and Trillium guidance has not yet been released;
- Comprehensive examinations must be online this year, there are no approvals are being extended to have students come on campus into the same room as an examiner;
- The provincial budget has been released and it includes a push for microcredential;
- Discussion on a delay to the start of the winter term.

Committee members discussed the timing for international student arrivals and guidance around holiday travel. They also discussed the possibility of changes to the timing of McMasters's winter term break.

IV. Report from the Graduate Associate Deans

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

- Faculty of Health Sciences open house had been held recently;
- Upcoming event with graduate student ambassadors;
- The potential of the extension to the winter break to have serious impacts for the Faculty.

Dr. Thompson (Faculty of Engineering) reported on the following items:

- A successful metric conference run by the Engineering Graduate Student Society;

- Plagiarism checking software implementation with the rollout expected in January.

Dr. Hassanein (Faculty of Business) reported on the following items:

- Healthy application numbers for programs;
- Successful activities supporting online engagement;
- Finalizing five indigenous student scholarships that they hope to roll out in the fall term.

Drs. Hicks, Gillett and Horn had no report.

V. Report from the Associate Registrar and Graduate Secretary

Ms. Baschiera reported on the following items:

- The university is contemplating a one-card system for all on-campus card requirements
- Work on a new CRM system;
- A privacy round table;
- Student records management;
- The hope that the first e-form will be active and implemented in January.

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

Dr. Gillet presented the items which included the following changes:

- A change in course requirements from Economics to better incorporate their research paper requirement into the program;
- A new work integrated learning stream from Economics, intended to streamline the process for students in their coop option;
- Housekeeping changes to the comprehensive examination areas offered by Sociology to give students more opportunity to delve into knowledge in particular fields and eliminating others not in use;
- New program calendar copy from the recently-approved Master of Public Policy.

It was duly moved and seconded, **'that Graduate Council approve the changes proposed by the Faculty of Social Sciences as described in the documents.'**

The motion was **carried**.

VII. New Awards

It was duly moved and seconded, **'that Graduate Council approve the new awards as set out in the document.'**

The motion was **carried**.

VIII. Senate Ad Hoc Committee for Microcredentials

Dr. Thompson explained that McMaster is putting together a joint ad hoc committee between Graduate and Undergraduate Council to discuss how to modify the certificates and diploma policy so that microcredentials are a part of it, including an institutional level definition.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.