



Graduate Council

Tuesday March 16th at 9:30 am via Zoom

Present: D. Welch (Chair), J. Gillet, S. Hanna, M. Horn, K. Hassanein, M. Thompson, B. Gupta, M. Dion, S. Brophy, A. Shi, S. Raha, B. Farmer, M. Parlar, S. Madeiros, S. Bannerman, S. Raha, S.K. Dhami, C. Davidson, D. Mountain, O. Loertscher, C. Seiler, K. Tsang, E. Wright, N. Tan, S. Dickson, S. Baschiera (Associate Registrar and Graduate Secretary), C. Bryce, (Assistant Graduate Secretary)

Regrets: M. Naisani, J. Shedden, J. Kish, A. Roddick

I. Minutes of the meeting of February 23rd, 2021

It was duly moved and seconded, **'that Graduate Council approve the minutes of the meeting of February 23rd as set out in the document.'**

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:

- The one-year anniversary of leaving the campus, noting his gratitude to everybody at the institution and hope for the future with the vaccine rollout;
- The plan to provide some context to external thesis examiners around Covid-related changes to the thesis. After meeting with the associate deans and the associate registrar and her team they have a plan to provide the option of an executive summary from the student to the external, explaining institutional guidance on changing direction in research when necessary to complete work. There will also be a field to discuss how research directions have changed as a result of Covid limitations;
- Facilitated admissions committee, with an upcoming meeting to be scheduled;
- The ongoing challenge of international arrivals, noting the mandatory hotel quarantine and funding support for it until April 30th;
- The Return to McMaster task force, making recommendations in early April with an announcement to follow;
- The microcredential committee is making progress, noting at the same time that there seems to be confusion among provincial agencies;
- Gradflix, noting the deadline is tomorrow.

IV. Report from the Graduate Associate Deans

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

- Mainly trying to work on a plan for the fall, with the potential for changing their planned schedule again to work within the constraints.

Dr. Gupta (Faculty of Science) reported on the following item:

- International arrivals for the Faculty;
- Covid impacts on thesis students, noting they are reviewing them on a case-by-case basis;
- Admissions going well.

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

- Tremendous increase in number of applications, primarily in professional masters but up everywhere to some degree;
- Dr. Sarah Wojkowski has been appointed as assistant dean of Physiotherapy;
- Dr. Julie Richardson from the School of Rehabilitation Sciences is retiring and Dr. Ada Tang has been appointed as Assistant Dean for Rehabilitation Science to replace her.

Dr. Gillett (Faculty of Social Sciences) reported on the following item:

- Planning for the fall, including what courses they may be able to provide on campus and virtual options.

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

- Humanities recruitment is well underway and the Faculty is turning their attention to the fall and an inventory of thesis students affected by the pandemic to determine what the Faculty can do to support the time to work that's been lost.

Dr. Thompson had no report.

V. Report from the Associate Registrar and Graduate Secretary

Ms. Baschiera reported on the following items:

- The completion of a major push to get outstanding and incomplete grades in;
- The Academic Services team is reviewing processes going forward and partnering with the undergraduate service desk to look at ways to improve clarity about where students can get answers to their questions, whether it is in person or online;
- With an increase in applications there is increased attention to the systems idiosyncrasies, noting that they're well within time commitments for offers.

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

Dr. Hanna presented the changes, noting the Biomedical Discovery and Commercialization program was providing some additional elective options for students.

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

The motion was **carried**.

VII. Graduate Calendar Administrative Section Update

Dr. Welch explained that the calendar administrative sections to improve coherence and organization of the calendar and that sections were moved around without contents significantly changing. Documents that were related to guidance rather than policy were removed and will be housed elsewhere.

It was duly moved and seconded **‘that Graduate Council approve the revisions as set out in the document.’**

The motion was **carried**.

VIII. 2021-2022 Sessional Dates

Ms. Baschiera highlighted that the enrollment date was in the same timeframe as what it was changed to in the last cycle and that the dates now included a slightly later grading deadline for the fall term. Council members discussed the January start date with Ms. Baschiera noting that the date was to accommodate programs with varying start times.

It was duly moved and seconded, **‘that Graduate Council approve the 2021-2022 Sessional Dates as set out in the document.’**

The motion was **carried**.

IX. New Scholarships and Changes to Scholarships

Ms. Tsang noted that the changes to terms were to make the scholarship easier to award.

It was duly moved and seconded, **‘that Graduate Council approve the scholarships as set out in the document.’**

The motion was **carried**.