

**Graduate Council**  
**Tuesday April 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 am via Zoom**

Present: D. Welch (Chair), J. Gillet, S. Hanna, M. Horn, K. Hassanein, M. Thompson, B. Gupta, M. Dion, A. Shi, S. Raha, B. Farmer, M. Parlar, S. Madeiros, S.K. Dhimi, O. Loertscher, C. Seiler, K. Tsang, E. Wright, N. Tan, S. Dickson, J. Shedden, A. Roddick, J. Kish, S. Zakaria, M. Naisani, J.P. Xu, S. Baschiera (Associate Registrar and Graduate Secretary), C. Bryce, (Assistant Graduate Secretary)

Regrets: N. Tan, S. Bannerman, E. Wright

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**I. Minutes of the meeting of March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

It was duly moved and seconded **'that Graduate Council approve the minutes of the meeting of March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021.'**

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:**

- With the current lockdown, the graduate studies space in Mills Library is closed;
- Students can still arrange for room to defend their Ph.D. on campus until the end of August;
- Updates to vaccination eligibility;
- Changes to the information being sent to external reviewers and updates to the supervisory committee report to note the impact on the trajectory of research work related to Covid;
- Fall 2021 planning reports have been submitted with the expectation of a public report in a few weeks;
- The restructuring at Laurentian University, noting there is considerable activity to see how McMaster can assist graduate students in some of these situations;
- A very successful first Gradflix competition;
- International arrivals, noting a lot of churn and the transition from the current arrival plan to the new (to be approved) plan. May 31<sup>st</sup> is the arrival deadline to quarantine on campus and there is no plan to subsidize airport quarantines and/or hotel stay for folks beyond this time;
- IQAP reviews are going well, noting that it has been great to hear how programs are managing and adapting during the pandemic;
- Graduate admissions numbers are very positive in terms of people wanting to start in September with applications and acceptances up dramatically compared to the same time last year.

Council members discussed the new arrival plan for international students.

In response to a question about the enrollment caps in the Strategic Mandate Agreement as it related to the admission numbers presented Dr. Welch noted that this is something that programs and associate

deans are looking at. He noted that a big factor in the numbers is that they are turning offers around more efficiently than they did last year and that there are significant numbers of unfunded students at any given time.

#### **IV. Report from the Graduate Associate Deans**

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

- The Research Plenary event is coming up in third week of May, including a pandemic-themed panel session.

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

- The application cycle is proceeding well and acceptances are higher than normal;
- The AACSB accreditation process for the Faculty.

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

- Fall admissions going well with most programs seeing a significant increase in applications and acceptances;
- Monitoring arrival of international students, looking to see how many are coming in the fall term;
- Fall term courses will be mainly online with the exception of a few courses;
- Two winners from Gradflix competition were from Science;
- Annual alumni event.

Dr. Gillett (Faculty of Social Science) reported on the following items:

- Continuing to monitor offers, noting more interest and uptake;
- Looking for ways to support students through pandemic
- MPP starting up May 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

- A welcome package for incoming international graduate students put together by the Engineering Graduate Student Society.

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

- IQAP activities in the Faculty of Humanities.

#### **V. Report from the Associate Registrar and Graduate Secretary**

There was no report.

#### **VI. Faculty of Business Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee Report**

Dr. Hassanein presented the following items for approval:

- Change to the requirements and related calendar copy for the Business Analytics specialization in the M.B.A. program;
- An update to the electives list for the Blended Learning Part Time MBA program.

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

The motion was **carried**.

**VII. Faculty of Engineering Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee Report**

Dr. Thompson presented the following items for approval:

- Engineering Physics cleaned up language in calendar copy, revised course requirements and added a smart systems research field;
- Electrical and Computer Engineering cleaned up language regarding course requirements, particularly trying to help students understand the requirements around taking courses outside their department and at 600 level;
- Materials Science and Engineering revised their comprehensive examination;
- Master of Engineering Design increased the number of courses required from a core group, which corresponds to an earlier approved change;
- Master of Engineering in Systems and Technology added a stream in process systems stream in their offerings.

It was duly moved and seconded, **‘that Graduate Council approve the changes proposed by the Faculty of Engineering as described in the documents’**.

The motion was **carried**.

**VIII. Faculty of Humanities Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee Report**

Dr. Horn presented three changes for approval:

- An international dual degree stream for Classics proposed at the M.A. level;
- A change to course requirements and calendar copy for the Communication Management Masters;
- A change to program name and other alternations to program and calendar copy for Gender Studies and Feminist Research.

It was duly moved and seconded: **‘that Graduate Council approve the changes proposed by the Faculty of Humanities as described in the documents’**.

The motion was **carried**.

**IX. Faculty of Social Sciences Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee Report**

Dr. Gillett presented the item for approval, noting that the School of Social Work proposed a change to their course requirements to Social Sciences 701 as an option and a couple of adjustments to their calendar copy.

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**.

**X. Graduate Calendar Administrative Section Revisions**

There were a number of changes to the sections, including removing redundant information, corrections to the language used around visa and study permits and a new notation that students are required to follow the rules of the program they're taking courses in among others.

It was duly moved and seconded, **'that Graduate Council approve the changes to the calendar administrative sections as set out in the document.'**

The motion was **carried**.

#### **XI. New Scholarships and Scholarship Changes**

It was duly moved and seconded: **'that Graduate Council approve the new scholarships and changes to scholarships as outlined in the document'**.

The motion was **carried**.

#### **XII. Final Assessment Reports**

Ms. Baschiera explained that the reports were for the information of Graduate Council and were the output of IQAP reviews with outcomes decided by McMaster's Quality Assurance Committee. All were deemed reasonable and will be proceeding through the normal review cycle.

#### **XIII. Youth in Extended Society Care Bursary Program**

Ms. Baschiera presented the item for information explained that it is an initiative in collaboration with the Child Welfare Political Action Committee. The program will provide support for current and former youth in care pursuing their first undergraduate or graduate degree. At the graduate level it is open to applicants from all of Ontario.