

**Graduate Council**  
**Tuesday February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 am via Zoom**

Present: D. Welch (Chair), M. Thompson, S. Hanna, M. Horn, G. Mulvale, B. Gupta, J. Gillett, M. Stroinska, M. Abouei, J. Kish, T. Chamberlain, W. Farmer, P. McNicholas, N. Kuhathasan, A. Roddick, D. Gillespie, E. Apatu, G. Krishna, R. Wu, S. Brophy, T. McDonald, D. Genuth-Olkon, Z. Samaan, S. Medeiros, K. Tsang, S. Baschiera (Associate Registrar and Graduate Secretary), C. Bryce, (Assistant Graduate Secretary)

Regrets: N. Tan, A-C. Shi

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**I. Minutes of the meeting of January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

It was duly moved and seconded, **'that Graduate Council approve the minutes of the meeting of January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 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 current pandemic context, noting a significant improvement in the numbers and that the staged return to campus was going well;
- Continued barriers for some international students, noting that they do need to be completely vaccinated to board a plane;
- The end of the use of the provincial vaccine passport, noting the requirement to complete MacCheck is likely to remain in place for the rest of the academic year;
- A lot of activity focusing on May graduate student arrival;
- The current status of arrangements around plagiarism checking software, noting that there have been ownership issues with the original vendor and it will be coming back to Graduate Council for further discussion.

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

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

- The Engineering Graduate Student Society had been doing excellent working holding events for students;
- A professional skills workshop on patents, noting a mix of students attended from across campus;
- With respect to the plagiarism checking software issue, he explained the company had assured the institution that all servers would remain in Europe and will remain compliant to privacy act they've signed. Before McMaster renews they will want assurances that the privacy standards set with the original vendor will stay.

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

- Many classes have moved to in-person;
- OGS departmental allocation;

- The Science Graduate Student Society has been very active with a remote alumni social coming up on March 11<sup>th</sup>;
- Working with WISE to expand their mentorship program.

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

- Emphasizing in-person social events, noting a networking event and Ph.D. awards night upcoming
- IQAP activity under way
- A review of the MBA program focused on the first year of the program.

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

- Working their way through applications, noting that beyond a few hiccups with Slate it is going reasonably well.

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

- The Faculty is in recruitment mode, noting the only issue that has come up with that is that a number of programs are interested in how to work through some EDI topics with respect to recruitment.

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

Ms. Baschiera presented the following items:

- Moving through the admissions season, noting that they're offering virtual desk side support and working hard to make sure that anything that stalls us is fixed;
- The School of Graduate Studies had just hired two BSAs, one to join the Slate team and the other to work on other projects in SGS, including document management and an enhanced focus on forms;
- The first meeting of the interfaculty administrative working group who will be looking at policies and processes on the admin side with the hope of seeing some efficiencies before enrollment is opened.

#### **VI. New Graduate Diploma in Community and Public Health**

Dr. Apatu presented the proposed graduate diploma, explaining that the diploma would focus on community and public health in the Canadian context. The existing Master of Public Health program is oversubscribed. They accept 35 students and received 600 applicants. As a way to address this need have created a diploma to focus on community health. The online diploma will consist of four courses, one per term and finish in 16 months.

In response to a question Dr. Apatu explained that they expect to see a broad mix of students take the degree, including people working in public health units and other community organizations.

It was duly moved and seconded, **'that Graduate Council approve the new graduate diploma as described in the documents.'**

The motion was **carried**.

#### **VII. Faculty of Humanities Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee Report**

Dr. Horn presented the following items for approval:

- Communication and New Media proposed a change to the course requirements for their MA, removing a previously required course and changing it to an elective;

In response to a question Dr. Horn said the elective would be from a list. Members discussed from which departments students would take the electives and if there was a concern about enrollment.

- For the Ph.D. in Communication New Media and Cultural Studies a change was proposed to the timeline for some milestones and a shift in the overall role of the departmental oversight committee as it related to the long and short proposals.

Member discussed whether or not the change to the timing of these milestones would have an affect on overall time to completion and why the department wouldn't harmonize the role of the departmental oversight committee as it related to the long and short proposals.

- English and Cultural Studies proposed two changes to their M.A., proposing to eliminate their thesis stream and adding a new required course for all students.

Members discussed the change in the context of their IQAP review, the degrees from which students were normally admitted to the Ph.D. program and the role an M.A. thesis can play in preparing a student for Ph.D. work.

- The French department proposed a change to their calendar copy for their Ph.D. program, to change the length of their thesis proposal from a set number of pages to a range;
- The Philosophy department proposed a change to their requirements for their Ph.D. program to allow graduate coursework in a discipline other than philosophy to count towards satisfying the department's requirement to demonstrate competency in five areas.

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**.

#### **VIII. IQAP Final Assessment Reports**

Dr. Welch explained that the reports were the outcome of the cyclical review process where McMaster's Quality Assurance Committee looks at the review team report, program response, Faculty response and then makes a decision on the outcome of the review.