

Graduate Council
Tuesday March 15th at 9:30 am via Zoom

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

Regrets: M. Dion, S. Brophy, P. McNicholas

I. Minutes of the meeting of February 22nd, 2022

It was duly moved and seconded, **'that Graduate Council approve the minutes of the meeting of February 22nd, 2022 as set out in the document.'**

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:

- Improvement in Covid indicators, noting that McMaster will be maintaining its mandate until the end of the term;
- The situation in Ukraine has been a source of considerable worry, noting they've communicated with all Russian and Ukrainian students to connect them with support;
- The development of a scholars at risk strategy;
- Peak admissions season with a lot of folks in SGS working to get offers out.

In response to a question about the scholars at risk, Dr. Welch noted it would be dealing with both new admits and current learners.

IV. Report from the Graduate Associate Deans

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

- The Graduate Plenary is scheduled for the middle of May;
- The M.Sc. in Midwifery has been approved by Quality Council and will be admitting their first cohort in the near future;
- The Community Health Graduate Diploma continued through the chain of approvals.

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

- The submission of a proposal to eCampus Ontario for a communication course designed to help acquaint students with different communication skill requirements at the graduate level;
- Engineering Graduate Student Society initiatives;
- Making sure all students who have started virtually are getting to campus, noting hotspots still causing issues for grad students to join program.

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

- Admissions were going well, noting applications up in certain areas and down in others;
- A successful alumni networking event;
- New staff taking on graduate mentorship in the Faculty.

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

- Admissions is well underway with a significant shift towards international, noting both the benefit and challenges of this.

Members discussed the potential trends around international student application and enrollment.

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

- A lot of events happening with folks coming back to campus;
- Working hard on IQAP report for the Ph.D. program, noting the Master of Finance is also well underway;
- A consulting firm has been hired to get input on MBA program which is part of a broader strategic plan for MBA;
- A lot of engagement for the Ph.D. IQAP, noting that they're quite decentralized between areas and are using the process to bring people together. She noted that survey shows stark trends between domestic and international students.

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

- A new pilot program where they provide more central funding for international Ph.D. students to provide more support for their studies;
- Have also been tracking international student trends;
- The development of a Masters of Mental Health degree program.

V. Report from the Associate Registrar and Graduate Secretary

Ms. Baschiera reported on the following items:

- Focused efforts to get offers out, noting that they are within the boundary of time for their stated service level;
- Requests received for enhanced training at program level;
- Also turning attention to gathering requirements for improvement to admission system ahead of next season;
- Working on the graduate calendar admin sections, noting that probably the policy that will have the most attention is the policy around part-time for course-based masters.
- Work on the development of a course management policy.

Members discussed the course management policy, noting the context at the undergraduate level and gaps to be covered on the graduate side.

Ms. Romane provided information on library graduate initiatives:

- The libraries are essentially open back up to normal;
- They've initiated a books by mail service;
- The graduate study room is open;
- She is the contact person for the IQAP library report;
- She can also help students with systematic reviews, noting plans to reach out to the associate deans to talk about how best to connect with graduate students.

Members discussed how best to direct students to this information and Ms. Romane provided a link:

<https://library.mcmaster.ca/services/graduate-students-library>

VI. Teaching and Learning Certificate Changes

Dr. Aspenlieder explained that over the last year they've been thinking about the certificates that they offer and hearing feedback that students are encountering bottlenecks, noting the EDU courses are oversubscribed. They've opened up requirements for certificates to complete and will be offering a new course.

It was duly moved and seconded, **'that Graduate Council approve the changes to the Teaching and Learning Certificate of Completion as described in the documents.'**

The motion was **carried**.

VII. 2022-2023 Sessional Dates

It was duly moved and seconded, **'that Graduate Council approve the 2022-2023 Sessional Dates as laid out in the document.'**

The motion was **carried**.

VIII. New Awards and Award Changes

It was duly moved and seconded, **'that Graduate Council approve the new awards and changes to award as described in the document.'**

The motion was **carried**.