

Tuesday November 15th at 9:30 am in GH-111 and via Zoom

Present: S. Hranilovic (Chair), M. Thompson, S. Hanna, M. Heath, M. Horn, B. Gupta, T. Chamberlain, N. Kuhathasan, S. Raha, C. Ching, E. Grodek, L. Romane, J. Kish, B. Trigatti, D. Emslie, V. Kuperman, T. McDonald, N. Malik, M. Parlar, P. Guo, G. Randhawa, M. Young, S. Baschiera (Associate Registrar and Graduate Secretary), C. Bryce, (Assistant Graduate Secretary)

Regrets: D. Gillespie, M. Verma, L. Side, H. Abdulhussain, Z. Samaan, P. Nyers, M. Ragany

I. Minutes of the meeting of October 18th, 2022

It was duly moved and seconded, **'that Graduate Council approve the minutes of the meeting of October 18th, 2022 as set out in the document with a correction to the expected occupancy date for the graduate residence.'**

The motion was **carried**.

II. Business arising

There was no business arising

III. Report from the Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies

Dr. Hranilovic reported on the following items:

- Policy revision work being spearheaded by the associate deans;
- The Dual Degree Stream framework which will be brought to Quality Assurance Committee for comment and then up to Graduate Council, noting that it's intended to streamline the process for partnerships between programs here at McMaster and other institutions;
- Progress has been made on identifying another vendor for the plagiarism checking software;
- The Graduate Residence, noting that work is occurring now on how offers of residence will be issued;
- Terms of reference are being drafted for the upcoming review of the School of Graduate Studies;
- The Annual Report preparation is in the final stages and will be released shortly;
- The CAGS conference a couple of weeks ago;
- CUPE is in a strike position as of 12:01 on November 21st, noting that while bargaining continues, contingency planning is underway. In the event of a possible labour disruption, academic requirements/progress are expected to continue and they want to ensure they have support for graduate students. A message will be released to students.

IV. Report from the Graduate Associate Deans

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

- Continued work on the development of the Indigenous graduate studies program;
- Work on specifications around funding and admissions;
- Attendance at CAGS.

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

- Attendance at CAGS;
- MBI new program developments, noting the external review had been held last week;
- The upcoming FHS Student Ambassadors night;
- FHS graduate studies website revamp.

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

- Faculty of Science graduate student symposium on December 6th;
- Follow up from CAGS, noting that the Faculty is looking at developing best practices for EDI for admissions.

In response to a question Dr. Gupta agreed to share what they develop.

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

- Attendance at CAGS, noting he'd largely attended the professional skills development area and that McMaster was well positioned in its focus on increasing skills development for graduate students;
- The success of the annual EGS Metric conference;
- Work on two policy revision committees: revisions to Ph.D. supervisory policy and post-doc policy with representatives from SGS and each of the six faculties.

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

- The upcoming book publishing workshop with two senior editors from UBC press on Wednesday November 23rd.

In his absence Dr. Verma (Faculty of Business) submitted a report on the following items:

- IQAP reviews were conducted for the PhD Program and Master of Finance Program.
- Quality Assurance review was completed for the Graduate Diploma in Professional Accountancy Program.
- DeGroot is undergoing a Strategic Planning exercise.
- Several consultations with stakeholders have taken place over the past 10 months.
- 2 town hall events took place on November 7th and November 9th to share the Mission and Vision Statements, and the 5 priority areas with internal stakeholders (faculty; staff; and students). High participation was noticed, and excellent feedback was provided.
- The leadership team will synthesize the feedback and develop key action items in support of the identified initiatives.

- The MBA Program celebrated the 60th Anniversary on November 2nd at Liuna Station attended by alumni from the early 70's. The event was a huge success, and showcased the prominence of the MBA Program.
- PhD Awards night is scheduled for December 15th. Students will be recognized for their academic success, publications, leadership and community engagements

V. Report from the Associate Registrar and Graduate Secretary

Ms. Baschiera reported on the following items:

- Work on enhanced financial reporting on offers from Slate;
- Early work on an equity census at the point of application, noting a similar exercise is underway for undergraduate applications;
- Two major projects: the financial database and Records system improvements, noting they're exploring the context at other Peoplesoft institutions.
- Preliminary government count numbers expected first week of December.

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

Dr. Health presented the following changes for approval:

- Public Policy proposed a small change to calendar copy to add language to clarify course requirements;
- Religious Studies – proposed the following:
 - An MRP option which would be one year in length, in line with other departments in Social Sciences, allow students the same option in that area
 - A minor modification to requirements for MA program to remove the breadth requirement, wasn't doing what it was intended to do for MA thesis and also doesn't make sense with the new MRP;
 - A change to field and area name to better reflect the work done in those disciplines;
 - And the addition of new area to highlight work done in the program already.

A member noted some of the course evaluations in the for-information were short on detail.

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 Award

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

The motion was **carried**.

VIII. Certificates, Diplomas & Microcredentials Policy Draft (For Discussion)

Dr. Thompson presented the policy, acknowledging the hard work of everyone involved in visualizing what microcredentials would be for McMaster University. The revisions to the existing Certificate and Diploma policy adds a policy framework to the concept of microcredentials. They are primarily looking at something that's short in duration but which involves an evaluation that would be considered credible and impactful. A key element is that it's recognizable to public as a self-contained entity.

He highlighted that there would be two types of microcredentials:

- Academic, noting these will show up on transcript and are expected to flow through same process as courses and programs, including committees already in place to evaluate. These microcredentials can be stackable.
- Non-academic, noting the need to ensure there is a review process to ensure brand and reputation is in place. They will be forwarded to a new office under Kim Dej, where the offers will be administered. There will be a new committee which will be responsible for oversight and approval.

Members discussed changes to the policy from where the ad hoc committee left off, with Dr. Thompson noting that the main change from the recommendations from that group was to revamp the Certificates and Diplomas Committee. Members discussed where that committee would sit and sharing the draft policy outside of Graduate Council.

In response to a question about OSAP eligibility Dr. Thompson noted that they'd been careful to make sure that microcredential definition they're using would be OSAP eligible. He agreed to double-check the wording.

Ms. Baschiera highlighted some of the work that's happening in parallel to the policy development including tuition arrangements and stacking.