

Tuesday March 21st at 9:30 am in Council Chambers (GH 111)

Present: S. Hranilovic (Chair), B. Gupta, S. Hanna, M. Thompson, M. Horn, M. Verma, V. Kuperman, S. Han, N. Malik, D. Emslie, E. Grodek, Z. Lea, X. Li, L. Side, L. Dondi, P. Guo, S. Pushkar, M. Young, G. Nair, A. Anand, M. Parlar, H. Abdulhussain, S. Baschiera (Associate Registrar and Graduate Secretary), C. Bryce, (Assistant Graduate Secretary)

Regrets: M. Heath, D. Gillespie, C. Ching, S. Raha

I. Opening Remarks

Dr. Hranilovic reported on the following items:

- The first meeting of the task force on graduate student funding, highlighting the items discussed, including campus consultation, a mechanism for feedback and plans for the upcoming meeting;
- The upcoming School of Graduate Studies Review;
- The status of the graduate residence building.

II. Minutes of the meeting of February 21st, 2023

It was duly moved and seconded, **‘that the Graduate Council approve the minutes of the February 21st, 2023 meeting, as circulated.’**

The motion was **carried**.

III. Business arising

Dr. Hanna noted that at the previous meeting there had been a representative speaking from MacPherson about IQAP policy and he’d raised a couple of issues, related to the ability to hold IQAP reviews remotely and the intersection of IQAP and accreditation reviews. He reported that they’d since learned that Quality Council would continue to allow reviews to be held remotely with at least one year of notice if they are changing it back to in person. He also passed along an invitation to pull together folks on the issue of the integration of IQAP and accreditation.

IV. Report from the Graduate Associate Deans

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

- The proposed Master of Biomedical Innovation has been positively received by the Appraisal Committee, with a response submitted for Quality Council consideration, noting they are on track to launch in September;
- The FHS Graduate Plenary on May 8th and 9th in the Heersink Pavilion of the Faculty of Health Sciences Library;
- Continued to work with the Health Sciences Graduate Student Association on developing terms of reference for their organization.

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

Discussions in the Faculty on the student-supervisor relationship and graduate excellence;

- Work to streamline the process for the cotutelle framework, noting upcoming consultations with the associate deans for their feedback and an update to Graduate Council in the coming meetings.

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

- The UBC book publishing talk had been rescheduled for the 29th of March;
- A request put forward by the Faculty to the Strategic Alignment Fund to examine how to shorten the Ph.D.;a
- A meeting with graduate student representatives from the Faculty to meet with the Provost, Dean of the Faculty, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Graduate Associate Dean.

Members discussed the average length of Ph.D. studies.

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

- Offers of admission in the Faculty, noting that the acceptance rate is quite high for most professional programs and should be close to previous years.

Dr. Thompson had no report.

V. Report from the Associate Registrar and Graduate Secretary

Ms. Baschiera reported on the following item:

- Good processing times for offers of admission;
- The status of the proposal of the records and payment systems project.

In response to a question from a member, Ms. Baschiera noted that they have made the decision to hold back offers of residence until the final details are available and highlighted plans for the communication plan for the residence.

VI. Certificates and Diplomas Policy

Dr. Hranilovic explained that the changes to the policy represented work that had been taking place over a long period of time. The work lies between Graduate Council and Undergraduate Council and part of what has been submitted for approval is the creation of a joint committee between the two governing bodies.

Dr. Thompson presented the policy changes, providing context for the work that had been done leading up to the revisions. He noted that a committee had been established to determine the acceptable definition of a microcredential, within the boundaries of the McMaster Act. Like certificates there will be both academic and non-academic microcredentials, governance structure for both kinds to ensure the McMaster brand and reputation is maintained and a new office that would play a role in the administration of microcredentials.

Members discussed consultation with MacPherson, admission requirements and the distinction between the three types of graduate diplomas.

Two friendly amendments were put forward to correct a contradictory statement about learners versus students and to add a missing 'academic' where it referred to a graduate certificate.

It was duly moved and seconded, **that the Graduate Council approve, for recommendation to Senate, the changes to the Certificates and Diplomas policy, as set out in the attached.**

The motion was **carried**.

It was duly moved and seconded, **‘that the Graduate Council approve, for recommendation to Senate, the establishment of a Joint Committee on Certificates, Diplomas and Microcredentials’.**

The motion was **carried**.

VII. Faculty of Business Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee report

Dr. Verma reported on the following items:

- A change to admission requirements and wording for the Master of Finance program;
- An addition to the recommend electives list for the business analytics specialization in MBA.

Members discussed the language around the admission requirements. In response to a question Dr. Verma noted that they have a large number of applicants for limited spots, including those who do not meet the requirements outlined.

It was duly moved and seconded, **‘that the Graduate Council approve, for recommendation to Senate as appropriate, the changes proposed by the Faculty of Business, as described in the documents.’**

The motion was **carried**.

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

Dr. Hanna presented the following items for approval:

- The cancellation of the full-time option in the Master of Health Management program (also approved by the Faculty of Business);
- Calendar copy for the new Community and Public Health graduate diploma;
- Cancellation of the advanced neonatal nursing program;
- A change to requirements for the rehabilitation science course-based masters program.

It was duly moved and seconded, **‘that the Graduate Council approve, for recommendation to Senate as appropriate, the changes proposed by the Faculty of Health Sciences, as described in the documents.’**

The motion was **carried**.

IX. Faculty of Science Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee report

Dr. Gupta presented the following items for approval:

- A change to the calendar copy around transfer requirements for Chemistry;
- A new professional activities milestone for the Master of Financial Math;
- A change to course requirements, in light of change to unit counts and to admission requirements to be clear that they’re looking for a B+ minimum in the final two years for the Kinesiology programs;
- A change to the course requirements for the course-based M.Sc. In Physics;
- A change to course requirement for the M.Sc. in Statistics.

He noted that for the changes proposed to the Research and Clinical Training stream of Psychology there was still some wording that had not been updated so they were withdrawing it to correct it.

It was duly moved and seconded, **‘that the Graduate Council approve, for recommendation to Senate as appropriate, the changes proposed by the Faculty of Science, as described in the documents, except for the RCT changes which are withdrawn.’**

The motion was **carried**.

X. New Awards

It was duly moved and seconded, **that the Graduate Council approve two new awards, as set out in the attached.**

The motion was withdrawn.

Member discussed the term of the Don Morrison award, noting an issue of the use of the word ‘female’ and that it should be referred back to University Advancement for an update to the language.

It was duly moved and seconded, **‘that the Graduate Council approve the Mahmut Parlar award, as set out in the attached.’**

The motion was **carried**.