

**Tuesday April 18<sup>th</sup> 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, H. Abdulhussain, D. Gillespie, J. Antwi-Boasiako, C. Ching, T. McDonald, T. Chamberlain, R. Wu, M. Ragany, S. Baschiera (Associate Registrar and Graduate Secretary), C. Bryce, (Assistant Graduate Secretary)

Regrets: M. Heath, Z. Samaan, D. Trigatti, M. Young, S. Raha

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**I. Opening Remarks**

Dr. Hranilovic reported on the following items:

- Updates on the task force, including topics for upcoming meetings, a [website](#) with a link to a form for stakeholders to share their views, upcoming round table meetings and a town hall in early June;
- The status of the graduate residence;
- The Certificates and Diploma policy changes had been adopted by Senate.

Member discussed how the questions for the focus groups would be generated and when the town hall date would be announced.

**II. Minutes of the meeting of March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

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

The motion was **carried**.

**III. Business arising**

There was no business arising.

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

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

- An upcoming workshop for students on communication.

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

- The success of the book publishing work shop led by UBC.

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

- A mentorship social, giving everyone the opportunity to attend and learn about the program being offered in the Faculty.

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

- The upcoming Research Plenary on May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

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

Ms. Baschiera reported on the following items:

- Admissions team is in its busiest season, noting offers are coming out in 2-4 days of receiving them;
- The Records team is preparing spring seasons for convocation;
- A smooth launch for the graduate residence portal;
- The Records and Systems Project noting they are identifying stakeholders and starting to gather requirements.

#### VI. Faculty of Engineering Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee report

Dr. Thompson introduced the following changes:

- A change to the timelines for co-op, to allow more flexibility in finding opportunities;
- The School of Engineering Practice:
  - A change to the language around seeking an interview with the program director as it related to admission for the Master of Engineering and Public Policy Program;
  - Changes to course requirements for the Manufacturing, Public Policy, Systems and Technology Masters degrees;
- Civil Engineering proposed a reduction to course requirements and also proposed to streamline their comprehensive examination process to be more in line with the rest of the departments in the Faculty.

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

The motion was **carried**.

#### VII. Faculty of Health Sciences Graduate Policy and Curriculum Committee Report

Dr. Hanna presented the item for approval, noting that the Public Health program had amended their calendar copy to include a more complete list of elective courses from outside the program, to better reflect current practice in the 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**.

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

Dr. Horn presented the following items for approval:

- A change to the course requirements for the Ph.D. in Communication, New Media and Cultural Studies;
- A change to the grading basis for the comprehensive examination for the Ph.D. in Communication, New Media and Cultural Studies to move from an exam with a letter grade to a P/F grading basis, noting the department was hoping for the change to take immediate effect;
- English requested that language requirement be dropped for Ph.D.;
- History proposed a similar change;

- Gender and Social Justice proposed adding Greek and Roman Studies to the list of eligible programs for the graduate diploma;
- Gender and Social Justice also proposed a change to their M.A. requirements, changing their core 6 unit course and replacing it with two others going forward;
- A clarification to the calendar copy language for the Ph.D. in Philosophy, noting no change to the requirement.

Members discussed the grading for components of the comprehensive examination and process for the department proposing the change.

In response to a question about eliminating the language requirement Dr. horn noted that the department thinks that in most instances it doesn't rise to the requirement for most students and acknowledge in the documentation that having a second language may be useful for some and they would have to do that in consultation with supervisory committee. Members discussed the language requirement as it related to admission requirements and how proficiency in language would be accomplished.

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

The motion was **carried**.

#### **IX. Faculty of Health Sciences Spring 2023 Graduands**

It was duly moved and seconded, **'that Graduate Council approve the list of the 2023 Faculty of Health Sciences Spring Graduands, with amendments/corrections to be made as necessary by the Associate Graduate Registrar.'**

The motion was **carried**.

#### **X. Update on iThenticate**

Dr. Thompson provided an update on the implementation of the software intended to support the Research Plagiarism Checking Policy (<https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/app/uploads/Research-Plagiarism-Checking-Policy.pdf>). He reminded members about the content of the policy and provided context for the timeline for implementation and issues with a previous vendor. The new system doesn't archive material; it's scanned and deleted off of their system as soon as it's checked. He also noted that UTS is currently working on implementation.

Members discussed whether the policy would be mandatory for all faculties, noting discipline-specific concerns, the location and security of the servers, the report provided from the system, and ChatGPT.