

To : Members of Graduate Council

From : Christina Bryce
Assistant Graduate Secretary

The next meeting of Graduate Council will be held on **Tuesday October 17th at 9:00 am in Council Chambers (GH 111)**

Listed below are the agenda items for discussion.

Please email cbryce@mcmaster.ca if you are unable to attend the meeting.

A G E N D A

- I. **Opening Remarks**
- II. **Minutes of the meeting of September 19th, 2023**
Approval
- III. **Business arising**
- IV. **Report from the Associate Deans, Graduate Studies**
- V. **Report from the Associate Registrar and Graduate Secretary**
- VI. **Fall 2023 Graduands (to be circulated)**
Approval
- VII. **New Award**
Approval
- VIII. **Generative AI Taskforce**
Information

Tuesday September 19th at 9:00 am in Council Chambers (GH 111)

Present: S. Hranilovic (Chair), S. Hanna, M. Heath, M. Verma, B. Newbold, M. Horn, Y. Berson, A. Prasad, E. Grodek, N. Carter, C. Ching, A. Anand, M. Kadem, N. Wagner, B. Milliken, L. Kayassi, K. McCallum, X. Li, C. Biruk, L. Parker, J. Kish, S. Baschiera (Associate Registrar and Graduate Secretary), C. Bryce, (Assistant Graduate Secretary)

Regrets: P. Nyers, T. Chamberlain, V. Lewis, T. McDonald

I. Opening Remarks and Reception

Dr. Hranilovic reported on the following items:

- The status of the graduate student residence move-in;
- Overall enrollment numbers, noting final numbers will come later in the term;
- The IQAP review for the proposed M.A. in Indigenous Studies;
- Next steps for the School of Graduate Studies review;
- Next steps for the Task Force on Graduate Student Funding, noting that they're taking the inputs that they've received from the community and crafting recommendations.

II. Graduate Council Overview

A short overview of Graduate Council's responsibilities and functions was provided to members.

III. Minutes of the meeting of June 28th, 2023

It was duly moved and seconded, **'that the Graduate Council approve the minutes of the June 28th, 2023 meeting, with one correction to the regrets.'**

The motion was **carried**.

IV. Business arising

There was no business arising.

V. Report from the Associate Deans, Graduate Studies

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

- Thanked the FHS student members, noting the co-presidents of their Health Sciences Graduate Student Association participated on a number of committees;
- Updates to graduate program leadership;
- New graduate programming, noting the second cohort for the M.Sc. in Midwifery and the first for the Master of Biomedical Innovation;
- Only one cyclical IQAP review for the upcoming academic year, for the M.Sc. in Child Life and Pediatric Psychosocial Care.

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

- Student membership elections for Graduate Council, noting that at the next meeting they should have their two representatives;
- Progress on the approval process for the M.A. in Indigenous Studies;
- Ministry funding approval for the Master of Public Policy Program;
- First year Ph.D. orientation, noting that SPARK gives them access to lab and study space and that it is intended to connect students across disciplines.

Dr. Verma (Faculty of Business) reported on the following items;

- Graduate Student membership for the Council, noting that it's typically executive members of the DeGroot Doctoral Association and that membership is currently being finalized;
- A large incoming MBA cohort, noting work to make other programs within the Faculty more attractive to domestic students.

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

- One upcoming IQAP review;
- The Graduate Research Symposium;
- A recent successful event run by the Faculty's graduate student society.

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

- Thanked new student members and noted that they're looking at streamlining the Faculty of Humanities by-laws to make the election process align a little better to GC meeting dates;
- An update on the SAF project on shortening the PhD;
- The context of federal government tri-council funding.

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

- New members of the Engineering Graduate Student Society putting on their annual research conference on Monday September 25th.

VI. Report from the Associate Registrar and Graduate Secretary

Ms. Baschiera reported on the following items:

- The status of two IT projects currently ongoing, regarding the student record and how students are paid;
- In parallel, a deep dive on process improvements on the records side.

In response to a question about student accommodation services for graduate students Dr. Horn provided an updated on the current state of affairs, including the new incoming director and proposed new positions.

Members discussed Faculty-specific requirements, the review of SAS, the complexity of graduate accommodations, and the importance of communication to ensure program leadership is aware of students with accommodations.

With respect to the IT projects a member noted the importance of equalizing payments across 12 months, as used to be the case.

VII. Deferral of Graduate Thesis Plagiarism Checking requirement

Dr. Hranilovic presented the item, noting that the policy was already approved and passed by Senate. The original requirement was to implement October 1st. As they're in the process of configuring the tool it has become clear that more time is need to ensure everything is set up correctly and so the proposal is to defer the requirement to people who initiate defences on or after December 1st.

Members discussed the availability of the tool, the process at a high level, and the need to communicate the change.

It was duly moved and seconded, **'that Graduate Council approve deferring the implementation of the University's Research Plagiarism Checking for graduate theses from October 1, 2023 to December 1, 2023, with all necessary changes to the graduate calendar.'**

The motion was **carried**.

VIII. New Awards

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

The motion was **carried**.

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

Dr. Hanna presented the for-information items, noting they included new courses, a change to course title and description, a change to mode of delivery and a review of a course evaluation in light of the requirements of the Graduate Course Management Policy's requirements.

October 2023 Graduate Council

New Award Terms for Approval

Name of Fund: The Rambynas Bursary in Healthy Aging

Terms of Reference for Fund:

Established in 2023 by the Board of the Hamilton & District Senior Citizens' Home RAMBYNAS Inc. To be awarded by the School of Graduate Studies to graduate students enrolled in The School of Nursing or The School of Rehabilitation Science who demonstrate active participation in advancing the health of aging adults in the community and who demonstrate financial need.