

Tuesday October 17<sup>th</sup> 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, R. Khan, N. Carter, Y. Berson, A. Prasad, D. Trigatti, X. Li, N. Santesso, L. Parker, C. di Maria, A. Ammar, C. Ching, B. Miliken, M. Gough, C. Biruk, T. Chamberlain, E. Grodek, S. Baschiera (Associate Registrar and Graduate Secretary)

Regrets: P. Nyers, T. McDonald

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## I. Opening Remarks

Dr. Hranilovic reported on the following items:

- Reflected on the situation in the world and reiterated that the School of Graduate Studies, along with campus partners, is here to support our graduate students;
- The funding task force meets again in October and information will be coming forward to Graduate Council in the weeks to come;
- The status of the graduate residence, noting a reduction in rent had been negotiated as some parts of the building were still in progress and highlighting a forthcoming meeting with the operating committee, SGS and students;
- A new graduate fair in the Student Centre to support recruitment internally with undergraduate students.

Members discussed ongoing issues with rooms in the residence, the potential for additional rent reductions and the mechanism for students in residence to report their concerns with the building.

## II. Minutes of the meeting of September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

It was duly moved and seconded, **‘that Graduate Council approve the minutes of the September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting, as circulated.’**

The motion was **carried**.

## III. Business arising

There was no business arising.

## IV. Report from the Associate Deans, Graduate Studies

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

- Engineering Graduate Student events;
- A graduate fair tour across Canada targeting domestic students.

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

- The election of a new executive team for the Ph.D. student society and, accordingly, new student members of Graduate Council;
- Admission trends within the Faculty;
- Equity, diversity, and inclusion training for all admissions committees.

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

- Equity, diversity, and inclusion best practices document for graduate recruitment shared to faculty graduate chairs;
- A graduate student mentorship event;
- An upcoming Graduate Symposium in December, with awards for mentorship and teaching excellence in addition to poster and presentation awards.

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

- The status of SSHRC arrangements, noting allocations had been decided and technical issues seem to be resolved as well as noting a decline in applications;
- An upcoming funding meeting with students.

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

- A first year Ph.D. orientation at the end of September to highlight services available;
- Student elections and membership to Graduate Council and the graduate curriculum committee for the Faculty.

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

- The new FHS member to Graduate Council, Dr. Nancy Santesso.

Members discussed trends in scholarship applications, the context at other institutions, students taking on other jobs, and potential barriers to student application, including the work to apply, the context of clawbacks, and the lack of increase to Tri-Council funding amounts. They also discussed how application rates can impact the places McMaster receives and the need to highlight the benefit of applying and winning, including more recognition at the Faculty and University level.

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

Ms. Baschiera reported on the following items:

- The status of two ongoing IT projects, regarding student records and payment;
- End of term activities ahead of November Convocation.

#### **VI. Fall 2023 Graduands**

It was duly moved and seconded, **‘that Graduate Council approve the list of the 2023 Fall Graduands, with amendments/corrections to be made as necessary by the Associate Graduate Registrar.’**

The motion was **carried**.

#### **VII. New Award**

It was duly moved and seconded, **‘that Graduate Council approve the new award as described in the document.’**

The motion was **carried**.

#### **VIII. Generative AI Taskforce**

Unfortunately Dr. Aspenlieder was unable to attend but the item would be moved forward to a future meeting.

Dr. Hranilovic noted that he planned to bring forward more items for information and discussion in a graduate-specific context, highlighting Student Affairs and student accommodations and noting that they would be coming to discuss plans for moving forward at the next meeting.

Members discussed the writing supports currently in place for graduate students and next steps for the program as well as the use of generative AI for a brief research proposal.