

Tuesday November 14th at 9:00 am in Council Chambers (GH 111)

Present: S. Hranilovic (Chair), S. Hanna, M. Heath, M. Verma, B. Newbold, M. Horn, M. Young, C. Biruk, J. Kish, W. Liao, A. Anand, L. Parker, N. Santesso, C. Ching, A. Prasad, K. McCallum, M. Gough, B. Milliken, T. McDonald, Y. Kim, L. Kayassi, Y. Berson, E. Grodek, C. Gabel, A. Dosen, S. van Koughnett, M. Shi, S. Baschiera (Associate Registrar and Graduate Secretary)

Regrets: P. Nyers, T. Chamberlain, X. Li, L. Side, N. Wagner, N. Carter

I. Opening Remarks

Dr. Hranilovic reported on the following items:

- The Graduate Funding Task Force work continues, noting they're on schedule for releasing their final report;
- Work on the graduate residence and the first meeting of the building operations committee;
- The release of the Ombuds annual report, noting some graduate-specific items to be discussed.

Members discussed continuing issues at the graduate residence building. Dr. Hranilovic noted that he would connect them with Housing and Conference Services.

II. Minutes of the meeting of October 17th, 2023

It was duly moved and seconded, **'that Graduate Council approve the minutes of the October 17th, 2023 meeting, with the correction noted.'**

The motion was **carried**.

III. Business arising

There was no business arising.

IV. Report from the Associate Deans, Graduate Studies

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

- The Faculty of Health Sciences Open House, noting representation from 18 programs and highlighting their Student Ambassadors' participation.

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

- Work to finalize the process for prospective postdoctoral fellows.

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

- Attendance at CAGS, noting sessions on career mentoring and graduate supervision;
- An upcoming science communication event for grad students and post-docs.

- The Faculty Research Day on December 8th in CIBC banquet hall, including new awards for graduate students.
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Drs. Thompson and Verma had no report.

V. Report from the Associate Registrar and Graduate Secretary

Ms. Baschiera reported on the following items:

- The status of the records and finance IT projects;
- A successful iThenticate pilot and that it's ready to go for December 1st.

Members discussed the iThenticate requirement as it related to Masters defences.

VI. New Program Proposal – M.A. in Indigenous Studies

Dr. Chelsea Gabel presented the proposed new program, providing an overview of the department, its 35-year history, faculty composition and the development of the proposed program. She explained there would be two streams, a 12-month major research paper and 16-month community-based research project, and highlighted the experience of the faculty in the department, noting they would be able to help students navigate their research projects to ensure they're able to accomplish them and also that they're beneficial to the community.

Members discussed the applicant's connection to an Indigenous community, the potential for a thesis stream going forward, the funding model for students and the potential for additional programming at the Ph.D. or graduate diploma level.

It was duly moved and seconded, **'that the Graduate Council approve, for recommendation to University Planning Committee and Senate, the proposed M.A. in Indigenous Studies, as described in the documents.'**

The motion was **carried**.

VII. Faculty of Business Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee Report

Dr. Verma presented the items for approval. The first item was a course change from the EMBA program, cancelling a six-unit course and replacing it with two 3-unit courses, noting the previous arrangement was too intense for students.

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

The motion was **carried**.

Dr. Verma explained that they proposed a redesign of the first year of the co-op and full-time streams of MBA program, while maintaining existing program learning outcomes. The change is based on feedback from different stakeholders, students, employers and student experience team and developed over the past 16 months.

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

The motion was **carried**.

The third change presented was to the admission requirement for the accelerated MBA stream which allows students to enter directly into year two of the program. They proposed that BTech students from McMaster could be considered for the accelerated stream as an accepted degree, provided two bridging courses are completed at McMaster.

Members discussed how to make the option more accessible and Dr. Hranilovic proposed a friendly amendment to add “or their equivalents as determined by the Selection Committee (if degree completed before 2023)” to the new language.

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

The motion was **carried**.

Dr. Verma presented the final change noting that the Management Science area proposed a reduction in the overall course requirement and to require Q780 for all students to cover the basic foundational concepts in the area of management science. They also proposed a change to the comprehensive examination, and they are now recommending that they remove the closed book exam, the comprehensive examination will only focus on the research project.

Members discussed what would be appealing in the new set up and the written examination in courses in the field.

It was duly moved and seconded, **that Graduate Council approve, for recommendation to Senate as appropriate, the change 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:

- A change to admission requirements for the diploma in Community and Public Health, removing the statistics requirement, noting that the program feels that this restricts the pool they want to get to and that it's not necessary for success in the diploma;
- The closure of the course-based option for the M.Sc. in Rehabilitation Sciences, noting the context in which the option was initially offered, the change in circumstances since conception, highlighting the existence of a course-based Masters of Health Management, and a comprehensive plan to phase the course-based stream out.

In response to a question about the admission requirements change Dr. Hanna noted that it's not a math heavy program.

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

The motion was **carried**.

IX. Student Affairs Presentation: SAS – Academic Accommodations Review

Dr. Hranilovic provided context for the presentation and Sean Van Koughnett, Associate Vice-President (Students and Learning) and Dean of Students, Arlene Fajutrao Dosen, Executive Director and Assistant Dean, Student Success; and Mei-Ju Shih, Director, Student Accessibility Services, gave a presentation on the outcome of the review and subsequent report as well as providing context for the current landscape for accommodations at McMaster. Their presentation highlighted the areas of enhancement they would be focusing on and their next steps, including streamlined intake and a new information system to improve scheduling and record keeping.

Members discussed the proportion of the case load that is graduate, the complexity of graduate cases, tuition structure as it relates to dropping to part-time status and specific guidelines regarding progression in program for Ph.D. students after the coursework is complete.

X. Faculty of Social Sciences Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee Report

For information.