

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

Present: S. Hranilovic(Chair), M. Heath, S. Hanna, M. Verma, M. Thompson, B. Newbold, E. Grodek, A. Prasad, D. Trigatti, N. Carter, K. McCallum, X. Li, C. Di Maria, A. Anand, J. Kish, L. Parker, D. Emslie, L. Side, N. Wagner, M. Gough, Y. Kim, J. Antwi-Boasiako, C. Ching, C. Biruk, B. Milliken, W. Liao, C. Bryce (Assistant Graduate Secretary)

Regrets: S. Baschiera, M. Horn, T. McDonald, M. Pham, M. Young, N. Santesso, T. Chamberlain

I. Opening Remarks

Dr. Hranilovic reported on the following items:

- Welcomed the new Faculty of Health Sciences student member, Michelle Pham;
- Provincial announcements regarding funding;
- The upcoming allocation of international visa caps;
- Research security requirements from the Federal government and work at McMaster to accommodate the requirement;
- The Taskforce report had been submitted to the Provost for review.

Members discussed the research security requirement, including the implementation at McMaster, issues students at other institutions had experienced, and the importance of communicating what information was available.

II. Minutes of the meeting of February 13th, 2024

It was duly moved and seconded, **‘that Graduate Council approve the minutes of the February 13th, 2024 meeting, with one correction to the regrets.’**

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 items:

- Research security discussion within the Faculty, related to the new Federal requirement;
- Policy work within the Faculty in anticipation of some of the recommendations of the Task Force report, including a clearer policy for what adjustment happens when a student gets an award.

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

- The Faculty had drafted and passed an adjustment policy that will apply for all students who have received an external grant;

- An upcoming workshop for graduate students on job searches.

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

- An annual event in recognition of students and employers for co-op, noting the growth of this option year over year.

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

- The Faculty had pulled together a committee to discuss the award adjustment policy;
- Congratulations to the Science Graduate Student Association on successful alumni event

Dr. Verma had no report.

V. Report from the Associate Registrar and Graduate Secretary

There was no report.

VI. Faculty of Business Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee Report

Dr. Verma reported on the following items:

- An update to the admission requirements for the Graduate Diploma in Professional Accountancy to align with current CPA wording regarding prerequisite courses and to remove redundant language;
- An update to the admission requirement for the Master of Finance program, acknowledging the fact that a new version of GMAT has been introduced;
- For the Business Ph.D. program:
 - An update to the calendar copy to emphasize the comprehensive requirement listed in the administrative section of the Graduate Calendar;
 - A change to the requirements for the Accounting specialization, reducing the number of economics courses required and instead requiring students choose two quantitative courses from an approved list;
 - A change to the course requirements for the Health Management specialization to add a new required seminar;
- The Blended Part-Time MBA program updated their admission language to state explicitly that applicants need to complete all components of their application and removed a required course, adding the opportunity for an additional elective course;
- The following changes from the MBA program:
 - The courses and calendar copy related to the previously-approved MBA redesign;
 - A change to admission requirements related to the new GMAT format.

Members discussed the comprehensive examination requirement text for the Business Ph.D. calendar copy change, including the structure of the program and the existing requirement in the Graduate Calendar.

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**.

VII. Faculty of Humanities Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee Report

This item was deferred.

VIII. Faculty of Science Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee Report

Dr. Newbold reported on the following items:

- A change to course requirements for Biology, to now include a new required seminar course;
- For the Chemistry M.Sc. program the addition of an advanced credit option and a correction to the calendar language around the unit counts listed for their 600-level courses;
- For Physics, an expansion to the list of core courses for the Ph.D. program and for Radiation Sciences an addition to the list of possible electives.

In response to a question about who the advanced credit pathway would be open to, Dr. Newbold noted it was for internal students.

Members discussed the Biology seminar requirement, including the importance of student engagement in the departmental environment, highlighting accommodations listed, and the context for a transfer from Masters to Ph.D.

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

The motion was **carried**.

IX. Faculty of Social Science Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee Report

Dr. Heath reported on the following items:

- Religious Studies proposed the addition a new area of focus in Jewish Studies in the Western Field within the program, noting they’ve had expertise in that area but haven’t previously highlighted it;
- The new program calendar copy, listing requirements and details of program for the M.A. in Indigenous Studies;
- A change to program requirements for the Ph.D. in Political Science, removing the requirement for an additional language and now noting the requirement for additional

language training will depend on the area of research and be decided with the supervisory committee.

Members discussed why Hinduism wasn't listed under the Asian religions category and the distinction between Jewish Studies versus Judaism in Antiquity.

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

The motion was **carried**.

X. New Awards and Changes to Award Terms

With respect to the Physics & Astronomy Graduate Support Award members discussed the number of students who would benefit from the award, the assessment, the timing, and the different types of awards at McMaster.

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

The motion was **carried**.

Dr. Hranilovic noted his thanks to the former Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies, Dr. Doug Welch for his donation and the subsequent award.

XI. Other Business

In response to a question about an issue with an overpayment and repayment Dr. Hranilovic directed them to speak with their associate dean.