

Tuesday October 22nd at 9:00 am in MUSC 311/313

Present: S. Hranilovic (Chair), S. Hanna, D. Trigatti, K. Mattison, K. Graham, F. Homid, T. Ruebottom, M. Cino, F. Ma, T. Davidson, K. Grandfield, E. Grodek, C. Biruk, M. Heath, S. Heathorn, K. McCallum, Y.K. Shin, B. Newbold, B. Milliken, P. Miu, N. Carter, E. Zhou, A. Gadsden, M. Gough, L. Parker, E. Aspenlieder, S. Bannerman, E. Chin, F. Xie, C. Bryce (Assistant Graduate Secretary), S. Baschiera (Senior Associate Registrar and Graduate Secretary)

Regrets: M. Verma, A. Shakib, A. Prasad

I. Opening Remarks

Dr. Hranilovic reported on the following items:

- Provincial Attestation Letters (PALs) for international student and the effect on graduate recruitment;
- Curriculum changes, highlighting the graduate diploma and microcredential coming for approval.

II. Minutes of the meeting of September 17th, 2024

It was duly moved and seconded, **‘that the Graduate Council approve the minutes of the September 17th, 2024 meeting, as circulated.’**

The motion was **carried**.

III. Business arising

There was no business arising.

IV. Report from the Associate Deans, Graduate Studies

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

- Upcoming curriculum changes.

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

- Work on publishing the names of all eligible supervisors and to streamline the process for approval within the Faculty;
- The development of a new policy regarding stacking credentials, noting it will come to Graduate Council for approval.

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

- The introduction of new graduate student representatives, Marissa Cino and Kalla Graham

Drs. Heath and Newbold had no report.

V. Report from the Associate Registrar and Graduate Secretary

Ms. Baschiera reported on the following items:

- Submission of questions to the IRCC around PALs and related admissions work;
- The upcoming supervisory committee report deadline, noting scholarship implications if reports are not submitted on time;
- A pilot project with the Student Success Centre (SSC), regarding the front desk of the School of Graduate Studies.

VI. Report from Certificates, Diplomas and Microcredentials Committee

a. Graduate Diploma in Global Surgery: Surgical Care Systems & Health Equity

Dr. Hranilovic explained the context of the joint Certificates, Diplomas and Microcredentials Committee and the report with two items for consideration stemming from it.

Dr. Hanna noted that the proposed diploma had been approved through the Faculty committees, had been to Certificates and Diplomas and University Student Fees Committee. It comes to Graduate Council ahead of University Planning Committee and Senate.

Dr. Chen presented the diploma, providing the context and need for access to safe surgical care. The diploma will be focused on surgical care systems and right now there are no options in Ontario for graduate work in this area. The proposal is for a standalone graduate diploma which would be online, asynchronous, and offered by Global Health program with four 3-unit courses.

Members discussed fees for students and learners from low- and high-income countries. Dr. Hanna highlighted that fees discussions are to be addressed at University Student Fees Committee but that all students enrolled in the program would be charged the same fee and if there was to be additional support there would have to be revenues from the program or another area.

Members discussed the qualifications for students and Dr. Chen highlighted the diversity of professionals that are required for global surgical systems.

Dr. Hranilovic provided some additional context for the approval process, noting UPC's role in reviewing both the academic and resources considerations.

It was duly moved and seconded, **'that the Graduate Council approve, for recommendation to the University Planning Committee and the Senate, the Graduate Diploma in Global Surgery: Surgical Care Systems & Health Equity, as circulated.'**

The motion was **carried**.

b. Non-Academic Microcredentials in Health Technology Assessment

Dr. Feng Xie presented the microcredentials noting that a new technology or medical device needs to receive approval that it's safe to use and highlighted the context in publicly funded healthcare systems. They will be targeted to working professionals.

In response to a question Dr. Xie confirmed that the courses are new.

It was duly moved and seconded, **'that the Graduate Council approve, for recommendation to the University Planning Committee and the Senate, the following non-academic microcredentials in Health Technology Assessments, as circulated.'**

The motion was **carried**.

VII. Fall 2024 Graduands

It was duly moved and seconded, **'that Graduate Council approve the list of the 2024 Fall Graduands, with amendments/corrections to be made as necessary by the Associate Graduate Registrar.'**

The motion was **carried**.

VIII. New Awards and Changes to Award Terms

It was duly moved and seconded, **'that Graduate Council approve the new award with terms as circulated.'**

The motion was **carried**.

IX. Provisional Guidelines for the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Research

Dr. Erin Aspenlieder presented the guidelines, highlighting McMaster's AI Advisory Committee with three expert panels.

She noted that the draft circulated was developed with the panel on Research and has received feedback from a number of areas while noting that they were still seeking feedback from faculty and students to ensure that it's useful for campus needs.

The guidelines are intended to address graduate students as researchers during their dissertation research. Students concerned with coursework should be looking at the Teaching and Learning Framework.

Dr. Aspenlieder highlighted that the guidelines are not a policy, noting both the variability in campus approach and the rapidly changing technology.

Members discussed the role of the supervisor in approving a student's use of AI, tools being developed to support usage on campus, concerns around the usage of the tool (including privacy), examples of where it can be used, intersections with existing policies (including the Academic Integrity Policy), and ways to make students aware of the requirements.

Dr. Aspenlieder highlighted a link for feedback and Dr. Hranilovic noted that Dr. Aspenlieder had been involved in the development of a guide adopted by the COU. Both would be circulated to members.

Members discussed the incoming requirement for PALs and the deposit fee, noting concerns about students having to pay up front and the difference in undergraduate versus graduate recruitment. Dr. Hranilovic noted that the change they're putting forward would allow the possibility for Faculties to charge a deposit fee if they would like to, highlighting the potential for a student to take a PAL to another institution.

Members discussed the PAL usage sectorwide.