

Tuesday April 15th at 9:00 am in GH-111

Present: S. Hranilovic, B. Newbold, K. McCallum, L. Parker, F. Homid, M. Verma, J. Antwi-Boasiako, T. Ruebottom, K. Mattison, M. Cino, D. Emslie, F. Ma, M. Heath, M. Gough, B. Milliken, T. Davidson, I. Jahan, C. Chakraborty, K. Bhatta, Y.K. Shin, K. Grandfield, E. Grodek, C. Biruk, L. Side C. Bryce (Assistant Graduate Secretary), S. Baschiera (Senior Associate Registrar and Graduate Secretary)

Regrets: A. Shakib, A. Prasad, K. Graham, N. Wagner, D. Trigatti, A. Gadsden, N. Carter

I. Opening Remarks

Dr. Hranilovic reported on the following item:

- The harmonized tri agency scholarship program, noting information available on their website: https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NewsDetail-DetailNouvelles_eng.asp?ID=1518

Members discussed the timing for scholarship allocations.

II. Minutes of the meeting of March 11th, 2025

It was duly moved and seconded, **‘that the Graduate Council approve the minutes of the March 11th, 2025 meeting, as circulated.’**

The motion was **carried**.

III. Business arising

Dr. Hranilovic noted at the previous meeting Graduate Council had approved changes to the Graduate Calendar administrative sections. Included there was a change to section 2.2. a which contains information about what constitutes a complete application. The change proposed was an update to language about translated documents being required to note that French documents would also need to be translated.

He noted that at Senate a Senator put forward a friendly amendment proposing to reverse the section to the status quo. The reasoning was that there is additional information that Graduate Council didn't have: Hamilton has a distinct status as a communauté francophone accueillante (CFA), meaning Hamilton is a welcoming community to the franchophone and has an obligation therein. The item was approved with this change at Senate.

Dr. Hranilovic acknowledged that Graduate Studies doesn't have the ability to translate the documents in French and noted that the calendar text in question would be taken back for further discussion with the Dean's Council and Graduate Council Executive to see if a change is needed in the future.

IV. Report from the Associate Deans, Graduate Studies

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

- An upcoming professionalization event with alumni from the Faculty coming on May 6th to talk about jobs outside of academia.

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

- McMaster would be hosting the Engineering graduate associate deans from across Ontario.

There were no updates from Drs Chakraborty, Newbold, and Verma.

V. Report from the Senior Associate Registrar and Graduate Secretary

Ms. Baschiera reported on the following items:

- Moving steadily toward June 30th PAL allocation, noting that they're working closely with departments and associate deans in the case of applicants who had not completed the entire process.
- The course outline portal project is moving forward.

VI. New Program Proposals

- Master of Management in AI and Analytics

Dr. Verma presented the proposals, noting that the first program was a full-time program with a number of courses for students to specialize in a particular area.

Members discussed the Vector Institute providing funding for students and other supports for students in the program.

In response to a question Dr. Verma clarified that the program would be two academic terms, followed by a 4-month work term and then finish the program with academic terms.

It was duly moved and seconded, **that Graduate Council approve, for recommendation to the University Planning Committee and the Senate, the establishment of the Master of Management in AI and Analytics, as circulated.**

The motion was **carried**.

- Master of Management in Applied AI and Data-Driven Decision-Making

Dr. Verma presented the second program, noting that it was a blend learning part-time program and aimed at professionals with at least 4 years of work experience. Students will learn to use AI to help with decision making and the program is 20 months with 2 courses each term.

The audience, delivery, and content of the courses are distinct from the other program proposed. Each course will have three residency weekends with 70% of instructional hours and the rest will come from asynchronous learning. The program is geared towards leadership, communication, and team building.

The full-time program is much more technical, including programming and models.

Dr. Hranilovic noted that the learner base is fundamentally different.

It was duly moved and seconded, **that Graduate Council approve, for recommendation to the University Planning Committee and the Senate, the establishment of the Master of Management in Applied AI and Data-Driven Decision-Making as circulated.**

The motion was **carried**.

VII. Report from Certificate, Diplomas and Microcredentials Committee

Dr. Hranilovic explained there were three graduate academic certificates for approval and that these graduate academic certificates were the biggest microcredential available in the policy.

- Graduate Academic Certificate in Medical Health Physics & Internal Dosimetry

Dr. Newbold gave an overview for each of the three certificates.

A member noted a typo in the date field.

Dr. Parker explained that there were three distinct certificates, each involving a pair of existing courses. The audience is for people working in nuclear industry or students in another program. The idea is to pair relevant courses to people working in this industry where there is a demand to upgrade.

For the courses themselves, they're committed to offering them in a hybrid mode. The third certificate involves some lab work but that will be offered in a condensed on-campus experience.

Members discussed a potential new program in nuclear leadership and the intersection with these certificates.

It was duly moved and seconded, **'that Graduate Council approve that the Graduate Council approve, for recommendation to the University Planning Committee and the Senate, the establishment of the graduate academic certificate in Medical Health Physics & Internal Dosimetry, for inclusion in the 2025-2026 Graduate Calendar, as circulated.'**

The motion was **carried**.

- Graduate Academic Certificate in Nuclear Detection, Instrumentation & Methods

It was duly moved and seconded, **‘that the Graduate Council approve, for recommendation to the University Planning Committee and the Senate, the establishment of the graduate academic certificate in Nuclear Detection, Instrumentation & Methods, for inclusion in the 2025-2026 Graduate Calendar, as circulated.’**

The motion was **carried**.

- Graduate Academic Certificate in Radioactivity and Radiation Interactions

Dr. Parker highlighted that these certificates were an effort jointly between the department and nuclear reactor colleagues who understand the industry needs.

It was duly moved and seconded, **‘that the Graduate Council approve, for recommendation to the University Planning Committee and the Senate, the establishment of the graduate academic certificate in Radioactivity and Radiation Interactions, for inclusion in the 2025-2026 Graduate Calendar, as circulated.’**

The motion was **carried**

- Science Leadership Certificate of Completion

Dr. Newbold explained that this was a non-academic Certificate of Completion and it comes from a generous gift from McMaster alumnus.

Dr. Hranilovic noted that there are plans to develop a framework for stacking smaller graduate microcredentials into a bigger credential. He noted that drafts and discussions were ongoing and would be brought to Graduate Council going forward. The framework will not be required or mandatory but would allow programs to avail themselves of it.

VIII. Faculty of Engineering Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee Report

Dr. Grandfield reported on the following items:

- Biomedical Engineering (an interdisciplinary program between Engineering and Health Sciences) proposed a change to program requirements to remove the requirement for Engineering students to take a Health Sciences course, noting an overburden on a particular Health Sciences course and that there is a core course that already covers both disciplines;

- A change to the comprehensive examination procedure for the Computer Science and Software Engineering Ph.D. programs to allow students to redo only one part of the exam;
- For Materials Science and Engineering, the changes proposed included a change to calendar copy to clarify the 600-level course language and to introduce an advanced credit option;
- For the MTEL/MEEI programs in the School of Engineering Practice and Technology, the introduction of an advance credit option for both programs was proposed as well as a change to course requirements.

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

The motion was **carried**.

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

Ms. Baschiera reported on the following items:

- Biomedical Discovery and Commercialization proposed converting an existing milestone to a graduate level course;
- The Master of Biomedical Innovation program proposed the addition of a part-time option to be completed over two years rather than one;
- The Child Life and Pediatric Psychosocial Care M.Sc. program moved two courses to a virtual format and updated their calendar copy accordingly;
- A change to course requirements for the Global Health M.Sc., to update the list of electives;
- New program calendar copy for the Global Surgery Graduate Diploma;
- A change to course requirements for the Health Policy program involving the creation of an additional seminar course, rather than having students take the existing course multiple times;
- For Medical Sciences M.Sc., a change to calendar copy to note that students must complete their required courses at the 700 level;
- For the Master of Public Health program, a change to admission requirements and calendar copy to expand the fields applicants can come from and changing the length of time a student needs to be out of school before a professional reference can be utilized (5 years to 3)

Members discussed a typo in the original title in one of the for-information items.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Graduate Council approve, for recommendation to Senate as appropriate, the changes proposed by the Faculty of Health Sciences, as described in the documents.

The motion was **carried**.

X. Faculty of Humanities Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee Report

Dr. Chakraborty presented the following items for approval (noting a minor correction to the memo to note that February 25th was a meeting, not e-ballot), highlighting that many are related to the initiative related to Reimagining the Ph.D.:

- Cognitive Science of Language proposed shortening the required paper for the comprehensive examination and including more options to allow students to complete the comprehensive;
- For English and Cultural Studies MA, a change to the calendar copy describing the mandatory core course and for the Ph.D. a reduction in course requirements;
- French proposed a change to calendar copy for their M.A. program related to the name change of an existing requirement. For the Ph.D. program the following changes were proposed
 - i. A change to comprehensive requirements reducing the number from 2 to 1;
 - ii. A change to course work, reducing the overall number of required courses and adding a new required course;
 - iii. A change to calendar copy to allow students to complete a sandwich style thesis;
 - iv. The removal of a requirement for a third language;
 - v. The introduction of *Éléments de formation professionnelle* to replacing the current list of milestones with three pass/fail requirements;
 - vi. A change to calendar copy to reflect the new timing for submission of the thesis proposal;
 - vii. A change to calendar copy related to the timeline for completing program requirements.
- An update to the electives lists for the Gender and Social Justice M.A. program;
- A reduction in the number of required comprehensive examinations (from 2 to 1) for the Greek and Roman Studies Ph.D.;
- A change to admission requirements for the Philosophy M.A. program.

Members discussed the deliverables for the additional options for the comprehensive examination, the variety of options that already existing and the potential to collect more information and share best practices broadly.

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

The motion was **carried**.



XI. Faculty of Science Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee Report

Dr. Newbold reported on the following item:

- A new dual degree stream for the Computational Science and Engineering Masters programs, noting approval at the last meeting of an equivalent option for the Mathematics and Statistics Masters programs.

It was duly moved and seconded, **‘that the 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**.

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

Dr. Heath presented the items for information, noting one typo in the evaluation for 6IM3 – the book review should be 15%.

XIII. Spring 2025 Faculty of Health Sciences Graduands (to be circulated)

It was duly moved and seconded, **‘that Graduate Council approve the list of the 2025 Spring Faculty of Health Science Graduands, with amendments/corrections to be made as necessary by the Associate Graduate Registrar.’**

The motion was **carried**.

XIV. New Scholarship

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

The motion was **carried**.