

Tuesday September 23rd at 9:00 am in GH-111

Present: S. Hranilovic (Chair), D. Trigatti, W. Campbell, E. Patel, S. Min, M. Heath, N. Carter, L. Parker, M. Fiorelli, K. Mattison, C. Church, S. Hanna, K. Grandfield, L. Klein, M. Verma, K. Dhandu, Y. K. Shin, S. Vriend, B. Milliken, C. Anderson, T. McDonald, T. Davidson, C. Biruk, S. Heathorn, P. Miu, L. Tafaghodi, K. Boothe, N. Wagner, V. Lewis, A. Dosen, M. Shih, C. Bryce (Assistant Graduate Secretary), S. Baschiera (Senior Associate Registrar and Graduate Secretary)

Regrets: K. Veenstra, Z. Li, K. Ologun, C. Chen. G. Scott

I. Opening Remarks

Dr. Hranilovic reported on the following items:

- An overview of his role, the work of the School of Graduate Studies, and Graduate Council;
- The development of a strategic plan in the School of Graduate Studies;
- Work on Microcredentials and stacking and laddering, noting this is a space where McMaster is leading innovation;
- The success of the Graduate Pay Project and work on the Record system project;
- The Graduate Programs Fair in the Student Centre.

II. Graduate Council Overview

III. Minutes of the meeting of June 3rd, 2025

It was duly moved and seconded, **‘that the Graduate Council approve the minutes of the June 3rd, 2025 meeting, as circulated. ‘**

The motion was **carried**.

IV. Business arising

There was no business arising.

V. Report from the Associate Deans, Graduate Studies

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

- A recent SSHRC workshop, in partnership with Science;
- Orientation sessions for students;
- Continued work on professionalization;
- A new Social Sciences Graduate Student Association.

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

- The process to find new Faculty Dean is underway along with a related review of the Faculty;

- A welcome to the Science student members and congratulations for a successful Science Graduate Student Association AGM
- A research symposium day.

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

- Student membership to Graduate Council was a work in progress;
- Hosting the Canadian Graduate Consortium event, with 250 students registered and colleagues from across Canada attending.

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

- The Faculty of Health Sciences student members who are elected co-presidents of the HSGSA who also serve on the graduate curriculum committee;
- Leadership changes in the Faculty, including a new Vice-President and Dean of Health Sciences and changes in graduate program leadership;
- The 10th anniversary of the Master of Public Health program;
- The launch of the Global Surgery graduate diploma and new program development, including a graduate diploma in Social Medicine (from the School of Global Health) and the transition of the Physician Assistant's program to a graduate program.

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

- Thanked new student members;
- New graduate student orientation events, both for a broader group of students and a smaller, more specialized orientation for international students in October
- A pilot program for graduate students, where a Humanities Ph.D. student does an internship in university administration in office that need help with policy development, communication etc.

In response to a question Dr. Heathorn noted that the internship wasn't intended to help supplement financial support but they are paid positions.

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

- Satisfactory enrollment numbers, in the context of new immigration requirements;
- Welcome events across programs;
- Recruitment for two new programs approved in the last academic year.

VI. Report from the Associate Registrar and Graduate Secretary

Ms. Baschiera reported on the following items:

- The busiest time of year for the Records team, noting the end of the last academic year and beginning of the next one;
- A number of projects in the works, noting as key milestones are met she will report on them;

- The Indigenous ancestry verification process is now live in Slate, noting that the School of Graduate Studies will provide technical support but Indigenous Student Services is the only team who can access the data;
- Graduate Calendar work, highlighting work to revise the calendar in support of microcredentials and graduate academic certificates;
- The number of Provincial Attestation Letters that had been used against McMaster's allocation.

VII. Graduate Council Executive Committee Membership

Dr. Hranilovic provided an overview of the committee, noting that it's newly approved. The main role is to coordinate functions of other subcommittees and to support discussions and strategic plans. The committee will also receive reports from the Graduate Student Association (GSA). Any actions taken by the executive committee are reported to GC at the next meeting.

The membership includes a Chair (the Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies) and 6 members (two associate deans, two faculty members, and two students) with the President of the GSA as an observer.

It was duly moved and seconded, **'that the Graduate Council approve the membership for the Executive Committee for the 2025-2026 year as set out in the document.'**

The motion was **carried**.

VIII. Quality Assurance Committee Membership

Dr. Hranilovic provided an overview of the committee, explaining that it is a joint committee between Graduate and Undergraduate Council and reviews the outcome of IQAP reviews. There was a challenge obtaining a Social Sciences member from Graduate Council so they sought a member from Undergraduate Council to ensure there is membership between all Faculties. Dr. Goutor is a previously member of the committee.

It was duly moved and seconded, **'that the Graduate Council approve the appointment of Dave Gouter as the QAC member for the 2025-2026 academic year'.**

The motion was **carried**.

IX. Student Accessibility Services Update

Dr. Heath provided an overview of the different phases of the Student Accessibility Service project to streamline processes for graduate students.

Ms. Shih (Director, Student Accessibility Services) gave an overview of the MySAS portal that students will now use, the process of communication to the department and associate dean

when an accommodation is approved, and the distinction between accommodations that will be approved without additional consultation and those that still require it.

Members discussed the role of the department, what's required for students to activate the services, the support required to students working in labs, and the overall increase in accommodations.

X. New Awards

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

The motion was **carried**.