

**GRADUATE COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 3, 2009, 10:00 A.M.
MUSC-318**

PRESENT: Dr. A. Sekuler (Chair), Dr. P. Baxter, Dr. D. Cassidy, Dr. K. Dalnoki-Veress, Dr. T. Fetner, Dr. D. Goellnicht, Dr. C. Hayward, Dr. K. Kanagaretnam, Dr. G. Kehler, Dr. N. Kevlahan, Dr. M. Kliffer, Dr. A. Knights, Ms. H. Kuiper, Dr. L. Magee, Mr. J. Scime (Secretary), Dr. H. Sheardown, Dr. M. Stroinska, Dr. D. Welch, Dr. T. Yoshikawa, Dr. P. Zylla, Mrs. M. Espiritu (Assistant Secretary)

BY INVITATION: Dr. A. Bédard

REGRETS: Dr. K. Bennett, Dr. R. Cain, Dr. N. Charupat, Dr. F. McNeill, Dr. M. Thompson, Dr. J. West-Mays

I. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of October 1, 2009 were approved on a motion by Dr. Stroinska, seconded by Dr. Goellnicht.

II. Business Arising

There was no business arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

III. Report from the Associate Vice-President and Dean of Graduate Studies

Open House Events

Dr. Sekuler reported that the School of Graduate Studies Open House for the Faculties of Business, Humanities and Social Sciences was held on November 2, 2009. The SGS Open House for the Faculties of Engineering, Health Sciences and Science will be held on November 3, 2009. A member commented that perhaps open house events are no longer effective means of attracting prospective students because attendance at the November 2 Open House event was quite low. Dr. Sekuler said SGS will review the two-day functions to determine if there are issues/concerns that need to be addressed, and to gauge whether organizing open house events is still valuable for graduate recruitment.

CUPE Strike

Dr. Sekuler discussed the ongoing CUPE strike involving teaching and research assistants. She said the University has procedures in place regarding the strike—especially concerning Teaching Assistants who opt to continue working during the strike. She explained that the process will involve contacting the instructor and completing a work verification form which is downloadable from the School of Graduate Studies website.

Graduate student representatives at Graduate Council

Dr. Sekuler noted that graduate students are underrepresented at Graduate Council meetings. Only one student representative from the Faculty of Humanities currently attends Council meetings. According to the Senate by-laws, Graduate Council membership requires two graduate representatives from each Faculty. It was decided to contact the Faculties and request for student volunteers.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Sekuler announced that the Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA) Annual Poster Session organized by the School of Graduate Studies will be held on November 11, 2009. She added that the session is a potential graduate recruitment opportunity. The event increases student awareness of graduate programs while also exposing students to independent research at an early stage in their academic careers. Dr. Sekuler also announced the inaugural lunch on November 10, 2009, for graduate chairs and graduate administrators to discuss best practices in graduate programs and research training. She said the monthly “best practices” lunch will feature short presentations from different graduate programs concerning various aspects of graduate studies.

Enrolment Figures

Dr. Sekuler reported the total graduate enrolment numbers as of November 1, 2009. There was a 228 overall increase in full time enrolment compared to last year, and an overall BIU eligible student enrolment of 180. She cautioned that the enrolment figures are unofficial, and the Associate Vice-President for Institutional Research and Analysis will release the official enrolment report later this year.

OCGS Updates

Dr. Sekuler discussed the status of the graduate programs submitted to OCGS for appraisal:

- Consultants’ site visits were held for the Health Management M.Sc. program on October 20-21, 2009, and Economics (M.A., Ph.D.) on October 22, 2009.
- Consultants’ site visit is forthcoming for the Social Work M.S.W. program
- The following programs submitted their appraisal reports: Management Studies Diploma, English (M.A., Ph.D.), Globalization Studies (M.A.), and Psychology (M.Sc., Ph.D.)
- The following programs were appraised with a classification of “Good Quality:” Anthropology, M.A., Ph.D., and Philosophy (M.A.)
- The following program was appraised with a classification of “Good Quality with Report:” Electrical and Computer Engineering (M.A.Sc., M.Eng., Ph.D.)
- The following programs are awaiting funding approval from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities: Computer Science (M. Eng.), Mechatronics (M.Eng.), Cognitive Science of Language (M.Sc., Ph.D.), and Communication and New Media (M.A.)

IV. Report from the Graduate Studies Associate Deans

Dr. Goellnicht reported that OCGS consultants’ site visit for the Department of Economics was held on October 22, 2009. He also reported that the Vanier Scholarships ranking has concluded and six nominees were recommended by the committee. Drs. Goellnicht and Sekuler will be

meeting with the Director of Indigenous Studies Program to discuss the selection criteria for the proposed scholarship for indigenous students. Dr. Welch reported that the ranking committee nominated eight students from the Faculty of Science for the Vanier Scholarships. Dr. Hayward reported that the ranking of the Vanier Scholarships for the Faculty of Health Sciences was held on October 28, 2009 and there were six nominees. Dr. Hayward said she is also involved in several activities in Health Sciences, such as: fundraising initiatives for the School of Rehabilitation Science, focus groups on quality research projects, evaluation projects regarding available tools for graduate student evaluation, and development of new graduate programs. Dr. Sheardown is working on the OCGS appraisal review for the ADMI program in the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

V. 2009 Fall Graduands

Dr. Sekuler reviewed the list of the 2009 Fall Graduands for the Faculties of Business, Engineering, Health Sciences, Humanities, Science and Social Sciences.

Dr. Hayward moved, and Dr. Goellnicht seconded,

“that Graduate Council approve the list of the 2009 Fall Graduands for the Faculties of Business, Engineering, Health Sciences, Humanities, Science, and Social Sciences, with amendments/corrections to be made as necessary by the Graduate Registrar.”

Dr. Sekuler reported for Council information the total number of 2009 Fall graduands for the different Faculties: Business - 16; Engineering – 133; Health Sciences – 231; Humanities – 73; Science – 105; Social Sciences – 115.

The motion was carried.

VI. Graduate Scholarships

Mr. Scime presented the following graduate scholarships for approval:

- The Roger G. Davis Ontario Graduate Scholarship
- The Susan Morag McNeill Cameron Memorial Ontario Graduate Scholarship
- The Raymond Darke MBA Bursary in Management Accounting

Dr. Welch moved, and Dr. Hayward seconded,

“that Graduate Council approve the Roger G. Davis Ontario Graduate Scholarship, the Susan Morag McNeill Cameron Memorial Ontario Graduate Scholarship, and the Raymond Darke MBA Bursary in Management Accounting, as described in the documents.”

Dr. Stroinska noted that the Susan Morag McNeill Cameron Memorial Ontario Graduate Scholarship is awarded to a student engaged in brain imaging research. She wondered whether students in the Cognitive Science of Language program could also qualify for this award. Mr.

Scime said the Cognitive Science program does not meet the criteria because the description is quite specific as to which programs the scholarship should be awarded.

The motion was carried.

VII. Department of Biology: Changes to Research Fields

Dr. Bédard reviewed the Department of Biology's proposal to reduce from four to three the number of research fields in its graduate program. Dr. Bédard said the change provides a more accurate description of the organization of research groups and follows the recommendation made by the OCGS external reviewers. The proposal was approved by the Faculty of Science Graduate Curriculum, Policy, Admissions and Study Committee by e-mail ballot conducted on October 6, 2009. The proposal will also be submitted to the Faculty of Science for approval on November 19, 2009.

Dr. Kehler moved, and Dr. Kevlahan seconded,

“that Graduate Council approve the proposal from the Department of Biology to reduce from four to three the number of research fields in its graduate program, as described in the document.”

The motion was carried.

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.