

**JOINT FACULTIES OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES GRADUATE CURRICULUM  
AND POLICY COMMITTEE  
OCTOBER 13, 2010, 2:00 P.M.  
MUSC-230**

**PRESENT:** Dr. M. Hatton (Chair), Ms. S. Balkwill, Dr. L. Campbell, Dr. L. Finsten, Dr. P. Graefe, Dr. L. Magee, Dr. E. Service, Dr. L. Platt, Mr. P. Self, Ms. M. Verhey, Dr. D. Wright, Mrs. M. Espiritu (Assistant Secretary)

**BY INVITATION:** Dr. M. Ahmed, Dr. J. Fox, Dr. G. Moyal

**REGRETS:** Dr. G. Kehler, Ms. K. Ducak

---

I. Department of Sociology – Changes to the M.A. and Ph.D. Programs

Dr. Fox explained that the current calendar wording does not reflect the department's existing practices concerning its M.A. and Ph.D. programs. The proposed changes will reflect the long-standing practices of the Department of Sociology as outlined in their Graduate Handbook and the 2006 OCGS appraisal report. Dr. Fox referred to the documents and briefly reviewed the recommended changes for the M.A. and Ph.D. programs.

M.A. program

- clear identification of methods courses (Sociology \*740, \*742, and \*743);
- limitations on the number of courses that may be fulfilled by a Supervised Research Course (Sociology \*730);
- limitations on the number of courses that may be taken at the 600-level;
- limitations on courses that may be taken outside the department;
- set schedule for courses and proposal so that students can switch to the coursework option at the end of term 1 with no loss of time.

Ph.D. program

- minimum grades for theory and method courses to meet the theory, quantitative, and qualitative or historical methods requirement;
- no courses at 600-level except Sociology \*6Z03;
- limitations on courses that may be taken outside of the department;
- schedule clarifications.

Dr. Finsten moved, and Dr. Service seconded,

**“that the Joint Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee approve the proposed changes to the M.A. and Ph.D. programs in the Sociology Department, as described in the documents.”**

The motion was **carried**.

II. **New program: Ph.D. French**

Dr. Ahmed explained that the program's objective is to prepare candidates in teaching and research, as well as a career that requires knowledge of Francophone languages, cultures, and literatures. She further said students in the program will acquire skills that are necessary for careers in international relations, diplomatic service, and NGO administration. Dr. Ahmed stated that the new Ph.D. program has three fields: Francophone Theories, Languages and Literatures of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century; Colonial and Post-colonial Contexts in the Francophone World; and Discourse and Representation of the *Ancien Régime* and 19<sup>th</sup> Century. In addition, Dr. Ahmed briefly reviewed the program's admission and course requirements.

Dr. Wright moved, and Dr. Platt seconded,

**“that the Joint Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee approve the proposed Ph.D. in French program.”**

After the discussion, the members made the following comments:

Page 26 – course work: *“Students must maintain a minimum average of A- in all of their courses...”* There was a general comment that the minimum A- average is a higher standard than any existing graduate programs at McMaster. It was then decided to change the A- to a B+.

There was a comment in relation to the statement *“that students in the program must finish their course requirements within 12 months of starting the program.”* In particular, committee members expressed their concerns regarding students who cannot complete the program within the specified time limit due to some extenuating circumstances. It was decided that adding the word *“normally”* to the statement would address and resolve this issue.

The motion was **carried** (subject to the amendments proposed by the committee).

There was no other business, and the meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.