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Agenda: Faculty of Business Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee, September 17, 2012

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September 12, 2012

To : Members of the Faculty of Business Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee

From : Medy Espiritu
Assistant Secretary and SynApps System Administrator

The next meeting of the Faculty of Business Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee will be held on **Monday, September 17, 2012** at **10:30 a.m.** in **MUSC-318**.

Agenda

I. Minutes of the meeting of February 16, 2012

II. Business arising

III. MBA Student Academic Assessment

IV. Other business

FACULTY OF BUSINESS GRADUATE CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 16, 2012, 10:00 AM
MUSC-224

PRESENT: Dr. J. Medcof (Chair), Dr. N. Agarwal, Ms. S. Baschiera (Secretary), Dr. D. Goellnicht, Dr. K. Hassanein, Dr. M. Head, Dr. B. Honig, Mr. R. Khokhar, Ms. J. McCleary, Ms. I. Piatek, Dr. M. Ryder, Dr. S. Sarkar, Mrs. M. Espiritu (Assistant Secretary)

BY INVITATION: Dr. E. Hassin, Dr. P. Wakefield

REGRETS: Dr. M. Parlar

With approval from the members, the committee revised the order of the agenda for discussion.

I. Minutes of meeting

On a motion by Dr. Hassanein, seconded by Dr. Head, the Faculty of Business Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee approved the minutes of the meeting of March 9, 2011.

II. Business arising

There was no business arising from the previous meeting.

III. Health Management

The following Health Management courses: *700 – Health Systems and Policy; *705 – Evaluating Sources of Evidence for Management and Evaluation; *706 – Health Management Foundations I; *707 – Health Management Foundations II; *708 – Leadership in Health Organizations; and *730 – Scholarly Paper are already listed in the 2011-2012 Graduate Calendar. However, these courses were not submitted to the Faculty of Business Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee for approval—these courses were approved only at the Faculty of Health Sciences Graduate Policy and Curriculum Council last year.

Dr. Head moved, and Mr. Khokhar seconded,

"that the Faculty of Business Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee approve the changes for the Health Management courses *700, *705, *706, *707, and *730, as described in the documents."

The motion was **carried**.

IV. Strategic Management Leadership and Health Services Management

The Strategic Management Leadership and Health Services Management area has proposed two new courses: *C700 – Introduction to Health Management, and *M758 – Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility.

Dr. Ryder moved, and Dr. Head seconded,

"that the Faculty of Business Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee approve courses *C700 – Introduction to Health Management, and *M758 – Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility, as described in the documents."

The motion was **carried**.

V. Human Resources and Management – Ph.D. program

Dr. Agarwal reviewed the proposed curriculum changes from the Human Resources and Management Area.

Change in course requirements
The proposed change will require students to take 9 courses: *B790, *B791, *B792, *B793, *B794, *B795, *B796, *B797, and *B798. Additional courses may be required based on the student's background.

Change in comprehensive examination procedure
The proposal will add an oral component to the comprehensive examination in the Management of Organizational Behaviour and Human Resources (MOBHR) field. The proposed change will provide an opportunity to examine the student's breadth of knowledge in an interactive setting.

In addition, the Human Resources and Management area proposed the following new courses and changes to existing courses:

*B790 – Management Theory – change in course number from *B778 to *B790
*B791 – Field Survey: Organizational Behaviour and Organization Theory – new course
*B792 – Field Survey: Human Resources and Industrial Relations – new course
*B793 – Applied Multivariate Statistics – change in course number from *B782 to *B793
*B794 – Research Methods and Design – change in course number from *B780 to *B794
*B795 – Research Issues: Organizational Behaviour and Organization Theory – new course
*B796 – Research Issues: Human Resources and Industrial Relations – new course
*B797 – Research Project Course I – new course
*B798 – Research Project Course II – new course
*B799 – Selected Topics in Management of Organizational Behaviour and Human Resources – change in course number from *B783 to *B799

*B779 – Research Issues I – course cancellation
*B781 – Research Issues II – course cancellation

A change in the calendar description of the Ph.D. degree was also proposed.

Dr. Head moved, and Dr. Hassanein seconded,

"that the Faculty of Business Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee approve the proposed curriculum changes from the Human Resources and Management area, as described above."

The motion was **carried**.

VI. New program – Master of Finance

Dr. Medcof referred the members to the document and said that the proponents of the program had discussions with the Dean of Science because the Department of Mathematics & Statistics will be involved in the new program. Dr. Medcof pointed out that the six faculty members from the Department of Economics listed in the document will be removed since the Economics department will no longer be involved. The faculty members with an economics background from the Finance area will teach the courses that will be offered by the program. He said the program may decide in future if they want to hire Social Sciences faculty members to teach some courses. The Master of Finance is a cost-recovery program that will admit 20-25 students per year. The program will use classroom facilities at both the McMaster campus and the Ron Joyce Centre. In response to a question, Dr. Medcof explained that the proposed tuition fee of $12,000 per term is the same for both domestic and international students. He said this would allow students to obtain a Master of Finance degree at a cost similar to the MBA degree.

Dr. Sarkar moved, and Dr. Ryder seconded,

"that the Faculty of Business Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee approve the proposed Master of Finance program, as described in the document."

The motion was **carried**.

VII. New course: *F735 – Financial Modelling

The Finance and Business Economics area has proposed a new course, *F735 – Financial Modelling. The course will complement the list of theory and case-based courses to prepare students for co-op and job opportunities after graduation.

Dr. Sarkar moved, and Mr. Khokhar seconded,

"that the Faculty of Business Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee approve the new course, *F735 – Financial Modelling, as described in the document."

The motion was **carried**.

VIII. Proposed change in the Minor program of the Accounting and Financial Management Services

The Accounting and Financial Management Services area has proposed adding an elective course, *A727 – Financial Fraud and Market Surveillance, to its Minor program to provide students in the program an in-depth study of the effect of financial reporting and fraud on the capital markets.

Dr. Honig moved, and Dr. Hassanein seconded,

"that the Faculty of Business Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee approve the change to the Minor program of the Accounting and Financial Management Services area, as described in the document."

The motion was **carried**.

IX. Valuation Courses

There was a proposal to change the course description for *V700 – Strategic Business Analysis and Valuation to clarify that the course focuses on the valuation of private companies and their unique institutional issues. A change in course description for *V703 – Financial Modelling and Valuation was also proposed and will be cross-listed with *F735.

Dr. Hassanein moved, and Dr. Ryder seconded,

"that the Faculty of Business Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee approve the proposed changes for courses, *V700 and *V703, as described in the documents."

The motion was **carried**.

X. MBA Grade Scale Conversion

Dr. Head reviewed the proposal to change the MBA 9-point grading scale to a 6-point grading scale to align itself with the other graduate programs at McMaster. The new grade scale will apply to all MBA students as of September 2012. The MBA program has been working with the School of Graduate Studies and the Centre for Leadership in Learning to address any issues that may arise in the conversion. Dr. Head further explained that University Technology Services and the Registrar's Office will assist the MBA program in revising the notation on the transcripts to reflect the new grading system.

Dr. Head moved, and Dr. Ryder seconded,

"that the Faculty of Business Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee approve the proposal to change the MBA grade scale conversion effective September 2012, as described in the document."

In response to a question, Dr. Head explained that the admission requirements and the formal academic reviews for the MBA program will remain unchanged.

The motion was **carried**.

XI. GRE as an alternative to GMAT

Dr. Head explained that the MBA program has proposed the GRE to be an alternative to the GMAT for assessing its applicants starting September 2012. Dr. Head further explained that the GRE is offered at more locations and the fee to take the test is less expensive than the GMAT. Unlike GMAT, the GRE does not provide a total score; however, Dr. Head explained that GRE has developed a tool that is capable of predicting a GMAT score based on GRE verbal and quantitative scores.

Dr. Head moved, and Dr. Hassanein seconded,

"that the Faculty of Business Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee approve the proposal of the MBA program to allow the GRE to be an alternative to the GMAT for assessing the MBA applicants effective September 2012, as described in the document."

The motion was **carried**.

XII. TOEFL requirement for Ph.D. program – Section 2.1.9 of the Graduate Calendar

Dr. Medcof informed the Council that the Faculty of Business has requested adding a statement to section 2.1.9 of the Graduate Calendar to clarify the TOEFL requirements for admission to its graduate programs.

XIII. New course: *D700 – Case Analysis and Presentations

The Faculty of Business has proposed a new course, *D700 – Case Analysis and Presentations. Dr. Head explained that the course does not belong to any particular area within the Faculty of Business, and will be offered through the Office of the Associate Dean as a faculty-wide course.

Dr. Head moved, and Dr. Hassanein seconded,

“that the Faculty of Business Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee approve the new course, *D700 – Case Analysis and Presentations, as described in the document.”

The motion was **carried**.

XIV. Change in course title and description

A change in course titles and descriptions has been proposed for courses, *O711 – Risk Models in Operations Management and *O721 – Materials Management and Production Planning.

Dr. Hassanein moved, and Dr. Head seconded,

“that the Faculty of Business Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee approve the proposed change in course titles and descriptions for *O711 and *O721, as described in the document.”

The motion was **carried**.

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Proposal for changes in MBA student academic assessment

The MBA program has moved from a 9-point to a 6-point Grade Scale as of the Fall 2012 term. The following 6-point MBA Grade Scale that approved by Graduate Council during its March 2012 meeting:

Grade (Points)
A+ (12)
A (11)
A- (10)
B+ (9)
B (8)
B- (7)
F (0)

This shift to a 6-point Grade Scale has helped to align the MBA program with other graduate programs at McMaster. This proposal seeks to further align our MBA program with other graduate programs in terms of student assessment procedures. Such alignment will help to facilitate student mobility across graduate programs at McMaster and to alleviate the grading issues in our current joint programs in which students from other Faculties take our MBA courses.

To summarize, the current MBA assessment process is:

- Formal reviews at the end of 10, 15 and 20 courses
- Cummulative grade point (CGP) value calculated (sum of grade points over all courses taken to that point, including failures) and compared to a required grade point (RGP) value. RGP is calculated by multiplying 5 (B on the 9-point scale) times the number of courses taken to that point.
- At each point of formal review, a student with CGP equal to or greater than his/her RGP is considered to be in good standing. A student whose CGP is no more than five grade points below his/her RGP is permitted to continue. A student whose CGP is more than five grade points below his/her RGP is ineligible to continue in the program. If ineligible to continue, a student must sit out 2 terms before submitting a formal petition if he/she wishes to be reconsidered for admission by the Graduate Admissions and Study Committee.
- No more than 3 failing grades allowed.

Proposed MBA assessment process:

- A review is only triggered by a failing grade (below B-). If the average of the courses taken to this point (excluding the failing grade) is at least 8.5 (between B and B+), the student is permitted to continue. If the average of the courses taken to this point (excluding the failing grade) is less than 8.5, the student may submit a formal petition to be reconsidered for admission by the Graduate Admissions and Study Committee. There is no minimum number of terms that the student

must sit out before submitting this formal petition.

- No more than 1 failing grade is allowed. A student is ineligible to continue if a second failing grade is received. There is no avenue for reconsideration after the second failure.
- CGP and RGP value will no longer be calculated and shown on transcripts as of September 2012. Internally, average grade point values will be calculated to determine Dean's Honour students (must have a minimum 10.5 average grade point to be placed on the Dean's Honour list after completing 10 or 20 courses) and for the determination of certain awards/scholarships.

Transition from the old to the new assessment process:

- There is no grandfathering of the old grade scale for in-course students. All students are assessed on a 6-point grading scale as of September 2012.
- In the spirit of doing in-course students "no harm" by changing the assessment process mid-program, these students will be allowed up to 3 failures until their degree is complete (as per the policy that was in place when they joined the program). However, each failure will trigger a review as outlined above. The review will apply only to courses completed under the new 6-point grading scale. If the average of the courses (excluding the failing grade) under the 6-point grading scale (i.e. as of Fall 2012) is at least 8.5 (between B and B+), the student is permitted to continue. If the average of the courses taken to this point (excluding the failing grade) is less than 8.5, the student may submit a formal petition to be reconsidered for admission by the Graduate Admissions and Study Committee. There is no minimum number of terms that the student must sit out before submitting this formal petition.
- In total, there are 3 students that are ineligible to continue (ITC) as of September 1, 2012 (2 from the winter 2012 term and 1 from the spring 2012 term). These students may submit a formal petition to be reconsidered for admission by the Graduate Admissions and Study Committee at the end of the fall 2012 term. The previous stipulation of sitting out two academic terms would not apply to the one ITC student from the spring 2012 term.