COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

MINUTES

Two Hundred and Fifty-third Meeting

Wednesday 18 November 1992

4 p.m.

D.J. Bercuson (Chair)


REGRETS: M. Davis, M. Rothery, C. Slagorsky, C. Triggle, D. Perron

VISITOR: W. Veale (for Item 253.5.2.1, New Programme Proposal Leading to the Degree of Master of Science in Physical Education)

253.1 Approval of Agenda

It was MOVED by D. McCullough, SECONDED by L.A. Knafla that the Agenda be approved.

CARRIED

253.2 Minutes of the Last Meeting

It was MOVED by R.D. Revel, SECONDED by A. Mehrotra that the Minutes of the Last Meeting be approved.

CARRIED

253.3 Minutes of the September 16, 1992, Meeting
It was MOVED by D. McCullough, SECONDED by L.A. Knafla, that the Minutes of the September 16, 1992, Meeting be approved.

CARRIED

253.4 Dean's Report

253.4.1 December Council Meeting - Time Change and Location Change

The Chairman announced that the December meeting of Council would be held on Wednesday, December 16, 1992, from 3 to 5 p.m. in Science B, Room 146.

Graduate Student Questionnaire. The Chairman briefly reported on the results of the Graduate Student Questionnaire as contained in the November 16, 1992, edition of the Gazette. He reported that the Faculty would be studying the results of the survey in greater detail in December and that a report would be disseminated campus wide sometime in January.

253.4.2 Questions

There were no questions.

253.5 Reports of Standing Committees of Council

253.5.1 Committee to Review Academic Regulations of the Faculty of Graduate Studies

A report dated September, 1992, to the Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies from the Committee to Review Academic Regulations of the Faculty of Graduate Studies had been distributed with the Agenda material. The Chairman invited R.R. O'Reilly (Chair of the Committee to Review Academic Regulations of the Faculty of Graduate Studies) to speak to the report.

R.R. O'Reilly outlined the mandate of the Committee and summarized previous reports of the Committee. R.R. O'Reilly summarized the recommendations of the committee, including editorial changes to the Calendar and procedural changes.

At the bottom of page 5 of the report, R.R. O'Reilly pointed out that the last paragraph should read "Students registered in any course-based programme...", not "Students registered in course-based any programme" as distributed.

In response to concerns raised by H. Buss, J. Eggermont, and L.A. Knafla regarding 3.17 of the report, R.R. O'Reilly agreed to delete the last two underlined sentences as a friendly amendment. Thus, the statement would read as follows: "The minimum residence requirement (see definition of the term "residence requirement, p.xx) for the Master of Arts and Master of Science degrees is two consecutive four month terms of full-
time study and research at The University of Calgary." The following two sentences have been deleted "A student who has completed an appropriate four year undergraduate programme or an Honours Degree programme usually can complete the degree requirements within one year. Students without such a background may be required to complete up to two years of full-time study."

G. Krivy queried section 3.12 (b) to amend the second sentence by adding the world "voluntarily", "A student who fails to re-register will be considered to have withdrawn voluntarily from the programme". It was his understanding that a student who failed to re-register would be required to withdraw. The Chairman was not aware of any change in policy.

Concerning section 3.23, G. Krivy wondered if the last sentence "Half of the course work must be completed within the first three years of registration." was a new regulation. It was pointed out that this regulation appeared in the current Calendar.

There was lengthy discussion regarding section 4, Procedural Changes. The current Calendar states "A probationary graduate student will not be allowed any grade of "B-" or lower". The Committee recommends the following text:

Probationary graduate students must be full-time registrants and are normally required to complete three full-course equivalents during the first two sessions of their registration. A probationary student who obtains a B- or lower grade in any course or half-course must withdraw from the Faculty. (The underlined word being added).

It was MOVED by R.R. O'Reilly, SECONDED by H. Buss that the following statement be adopted: "Probationary graduate students must be full-time registrants and are normally required to complete three full-course equivalents during the first two sessions of their registration. A probationary student who obtains a B- or lower grade in any course or half-course must withdraw from the Faculty."

L.A. Knafla spoke against the second sentence of the motion "A probationary student who obtains a B- or lower grade in any course or half-course must withdraw from the Faculty." He suggested that professors might inflate grades in order to avoid requiring a student to withdraw.

D.G. Hatt pointed out that a probationary student is a student who does not meet the qualifications for admission as a graduate student but, who, in the opinion of the Faculty of Graduate Studies merits the opportunity to prove ability during a first probationary year. In response to comments by L.A. Knafla, D.G. Hatt indicated that he hoped it was not the case that grades were given for anything other than merit. D.G. Hatt indicated that, if a B- grade is given to a probationary student, the department may
recommend to the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies that the student remain in programme. He stressed that the present system allows for flexibility.

In response to comments by E.D. Pask and K.G. DeLong, the Chairman indicated that exceptions to all regulations of the Faculty of Graduate Studies could be made upon the written recommendation by a department to the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. The Chairman indicated that such a statement need not be included in the Calendar.

M. Lazar indicated that he believed that regulations of the Faculty should be the same for all students, i.e., probationary, qualifying, or regular students.

In response to a query by E.A. Wilman regarding "to maintain a B average", D.G. Hatt indicated that graduate students were required to maintain a B average "within each registration year".

R.D. Revel spoke in favour of the O'Reilly/Buss motion. He believed that probationary graduate students should have more rigorous requirements than regular graduate students. He pointed out that the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies has the right to waive academic requirements and thus, for example, the wording may be required to withdraw or will be required to withdraw was not important. R.D. Revel agreed with D.G. Hatt's comments concerning grade inflation.

R.X. Ware spoke against the O'Reilly/Buss motion. He believed that probationary graduate students should have the same regulations as regular graduate students.

H. Buss indicated that, although her department did not accept probationary students as a practice, she indicated that they may in future and that applicants with "old" degrees and no recent references would likely be admitted as probationary students, although they would have achieved success in their professional careers.

The Chairman stated that, in virtually all cases where a student with an "old" degree failed to obtain a minimum grade point average of 3.0, he/she would likely take courses as an unclassified student and, on the basis of that performance, the department would or would not recommend admission. The Chairman noted that that was the common route for such students.

The Chairman clarified the different categories of graduate students. He indicated that a probationary graduate student is a student who does not meet the qualifications for admission as a graduate student but, who, in the opinion of the Faculty of Graduate Studies merits the opportunity to prove ability during a first probationary year. The Chairman indicated that a qualifying graduate student is a student who meets the qualifications for admission but who lacks the necessary background for a graduate programme in a chosen area of specialization.
In response to a suggestion by L.A. Knafla to amend the last sentence of the O'Reilly/Buss motion to read "A student who obtains a B- or lower grade in any course or half-course may be required to withdraw from the Faculty." (The underlined words replacing the word "must".), R.R. O'Reilly agreed with this suggestion and accepted it as a friendly amendment.

The Chairman indicated that, when a student obtains a grade of B- or lower, the department is required to advise the Faculty of Graduate Studies and to recommend to the Faculty that the student be allowed to continue in programme or not.

In response to a query by R.D. Revel regarding possible implications for appeals procedures in changing the word "must" to "may be required to" (Knafla friendly amendment), the Chairman indicated that he could not predict if there would be implications for appeals procedures.

G. Krivy pointed out that the Knafla friendly amendment changed the essence of the statement. The Chairman agreed and reversed his ruling.

It was MOVED by L.A. Knafla, SECONDED by E.D. Pask that the O'Reilly/Buss motion be amended to read "A student who obtains a B- or lower grade in any course or half-course may be required to withdraw from the Faculty." The underlined words replacing the word "must".

The question being called on the Knafla/Pask amendment, it was

DEFEATED

The question being called on the O'Reilly/Buss motion to adopt the following statement: "Probationary graduate students must be full-time registrants and are normally required to complete three full-course equivalents during the first two sessions of their registration. A probationary student who obtains a B- or lower grade in any course or half-course must withdraw from the Faculty", it was

CARRIED

R.R. O'Reilly reported that his Committee had been examining the question of residence requirements and full-time study requirements for graduate students. He indicated that the Committee had been requested to examine residence requirements by individuals within the university and outside, and particularly from the Senate. He reported that the Committee was examining all options with a view to clarifying and reinforcing residence requirements. R.R. O'Reilly reported that the Committee would be examining two discussion papers which would be distributed to members of Council. He invited members of Council to submit comments to himself or to D.J.
Bercuson regarding what should be included in the Calendar regarding residence and full-time study requirements for MA and PhD degrees.

The Chairman indicated that Council would be debating the very important issue of residence requirements, both from the perspective of pedagogy and the direction the graduate school should go in the future. He reported that there had been suggestions from within and outside the University that the times require some different approaches to the question of residence requirements. The Chairman stressed that Council would make a decision regarding the question of residence requirements and that, once that decision was made, the issue would be closed for sometime. He urged Council members to submit comments to himself or to R.R. O'Reilly.

253.5.2 Academic Programme Committee

D.G. Hatt, Chair of the Faculty of Graduate Studies Academic Programme Committee, reported that his Committee had been examining a number of new programme proposals; Master of Science in Physical Education (which was before Council), Master of Science in Nursing, and a Ph.D. in Social Work. He reported that the proposals for a Master of Science in Nursing and a Ph.D. in Social Work should be before Council in the next month or so. D.G. Hatt expressed thanks to an extremely hard working and very competent Committee. He reported that his Committee would be tackling shortly a proposal for a Master in Continuing Education and an Accelerated M.Eng. Cooperative Engineering programme.

253.5.2.1 New Programme Proposal Leading to the Degree of Master of Science in Physical Education

The Chairman welcomed W. Veale, Dean of the Faculty of Physical Education, who was present to answer questions regarding the new programme proposal leading to the degree of Master of Science in Physical Education. The proposal had been distributed and tabled at the 252nd meeting of Council held on Wednesday, October 7, 1992.

The Chairman invited D.G. Hatt, Chair of the Faculty of Graduate Studies Academic Programme Committee, to speak to this item. D.G. Hatt reported that the Master of Science in Physical Education proposal was a straightforward proposal. He indicated that the Faculty of Physical Education had been in existence for sometime and that it had been offering an MPE programme quite successfully for sometime. D.G. Hatt reported that the Faculty has a staff of over 40 full-time persons and, among them, are a fair number of world renowned and well published scholars. He further reported that the staff has quite extensive supervisory experience and many of them have cross-appointments, particularly with Medicine and Engineering. D.G. Hatt stated that the Faculty had recruited young staff with much scholarly productivity. He reported that his Committee was confident that the Faculty of Physical Education had a great deal of strength in its faculty members. D.G. Hatt reiterated that the
Faculty was "rich" in supervisory competence and that the Faculty was well endowed with resources and equipment.

D.G. Hatt indicated that the Academic Programme Committee had some concerns with the first draft of the proposal prepared by the Faculty of Physical Education. He reported that W. Veale and M. Lashuk had met with the Academic Programme Committee and, as a result of that meeting, the proposal had been amended and a final version had been submitted to the Academic Programme Committee. D.G. Hatt reported that the proposal has the full and unanimous recommendation of the Academic Programme Committee with no reservations whatsoever.

W. Veale thanked D.G. Hatt for his comments. He indicated that he would be pleased to answer questions regarding the proposal.

It was MOVED by D.G. Hatt, SECONDED by A. Mehrotra, that the New Programme Proposal Leading to the Degree of Master of Science in Physical Education be approved by Council.

The Chairman reported that, if approved, he would forward the proposal to the Vice President Academic for further University approval.

In response to a query by L.A. Knafla regarding funding for graduate students in the new programme, W. Veale pointed out that the Faculty would admit a small number of students to the programme (maximum six to eight). W. Veale indicated that an excellent supervisor would work with an excellent student. He assumed that an excellent supervisor would have external funds. He reported that the Faculty of Physical Education had changed dramatically in its research profile over the last few years. He indicated that the Faculty was optimistic that their supervisors would attract external funds to support graduate students. W. Veale indicated that students in this new programme would be eligible to apply for scholarships as well. He was pleased to report that the Faculty of Physical Education at The University of Calgary ranked in the top four of other Faculties of Physical Education across the country with respect to monies brought in for support of research or scholarship. With these kinds of developments and the kind of initiative and improvements that have been made in the Faculty of Physical Education over the last few years, W. Veale stated that he believed the Faculty could support graduate students in this new programme.

In response to a query by H. Wieser regarding the number of graduate courses a student would be required to take in this new programme, W. Veale indicated that the minimum number of courses would be two half courses, and the maximum, five half courses.

The question being called on the Hatt/Mehrotra motion to approve the New Programme Proposal Leading to the Degree of Master of Science in Physical Education, it was
The Chairman thanked W. Veale for attending.

253.5.3 Policy Committee

B.R. Gaines, Chair of the Faculty of Graduate Studies Policy Committee, reported that he would prepare a report regarding the tasks of the Policy Committee and distribute it to Council. He reported that his Committee would be examining such issues as interdisciplinary programs, admission requirements, and distance delivery education.

253.5.4 Graduate Student Funding Committee

D.J. Bercuson reported that H. Laue had been elected Chairperson of the Graduate Student Funding Committee. The Chairman indicated that the Committee would be examining the means to operationalize the recommendations which were adopted regarding the Women in the Nineties recommendations and the category regarding heavy caring duties. He reported that H. Wieser would be preparing draft principles which would be circulated to the Committee. The Chairman further reported that the Committee would also be examining the question of GRS/GA(T) eligibility, i.e. should there be some limit to the number of courses which are being taken by students who hold GA(T) or GRS?

253.6 Fee Remission Report

The Fee Remission report had been distributed at the April 15, 1992, meeting and at the September 16, 1992, meeting of Council. A response to the Fee Remission report from the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) had been distributed with the Agenda material. The Chairman reported that he had not received any written Notices of Motion regarding the Fee Remission report.

The Chairman reported that the question of the continuing fee was being examined by the Registrar. G. Krivy reported that, at the request of the Vice President Finance, he had been working with the Faculty of Graduate Studies and the Faculty of Environmental Design in examining the fee structure in graduate programs. He indicated that the Faculty of Graduate Studies had been helpful in compiling information regarding fees at other Western Canadian universities. G. Krivy was hopeful that suggestions would be available in February but, in actual fact, the suggestions would be forwarded to the Budget and Finance Committee of the Board of Governors who deal with the actual fee structure at the University.

The Chairman noted that the GSA had not endorsed the Fee Remission report as outlined in M. Lazar's memo of November 4, 1992. Given the fact that the GSA had serious questions about continuing fees, the Chairman suggested that the GSA move to table
the Fee Remission document until such time as information becomes available from the Registrar regarding the study of graduate fees. The Chairman invited members of Council to debate the Fee Remission report before the tabling motion was put.

In response to a query by R.D. Revel, G. Krivy indicated that the graduate fees at The University of Calgary were approximately 50% lower than at other Western Canadian universities.

L.A. Knafla reported that his Department had discussed the issue of fee remission and suggested that the possibility of creating tuition scholarships be explored, instead of the current fee remission policy.

In response to a suggestion by H. Wieser, the Chairman requested members of Council to submit in writing Notices of Motion in advance in order that these Notices may be distributed to members of Council in preparation for the debate on fee remission.

It was MOVED by M. Lazar, SECONDED by A. Wennekers that the Report entitled Fee Remission at The University of Calgary in Perspective, dated April, 1992, and the memo from the Graduate Students' Association dated November 4, 1992, be tabled until a report from the Registrar regarding fees becomes available.

CARRIED

253.7 Appeals Panel

A 1992-1993 Appeals Panel Membership List had been distributed with the Agenda material for information.

253.8 Other Business

There was no other business.

253.9 Adjournment

It was MOVED by H. Konrad, SECONDED by J. Eggermont that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.