COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

MINUTES

Two Hundred and Seventy-third Meeting

Wednesday 15 February 1995

ROOM ST 147

4 p.m.

D. Bercuson (Chair)


REGrets:  A. Bulloch, J. Henning, F. Johnson, G. Krivy, A. McEwen, C. Slagorsky, L. Tutty

FGS STAFF:  L. von Wolzogen

RECORDING
SECRETARY:  M. Chandler

273.1 Approval of Agenda

It was MOVED by B. Langan, SECONDED by R. Rowe that the Agenda be approved.

CARRIED

273.2 Minutes of Meeting 272

It was MOVED by J. Paterson, SECONDED by A. van Herk that the minutes of Meeting #272 be approved.

CARRIED
273.3 **Chairperson's Report**

273.3.1 **Appointment of Gilles Cloutier**

The Chair announced the appointment of Dr. Gilles Cloutier, former president of the Alberta Research Council and former rector of the University of Montreal, to head a province-wide consultation process on university research. The Chair noted that this was an important move on the part of the provincial government and a sign of increasing government commitment to research. He also commented that the Faculty of Graduate Studies was cooperating fully with the Vice-President (Research) and also with the Faculty of Graduate Studies at The University of Alberta in order to coordinate a response.

273.3.2 **Faculty of Nursing Alumni Bursary**

The Chair announced that the Faculty of Nursing Alumni Bursary closing date had changed from 30 May to 1 February to order to bring it in line with other scholarships.

273.3.3 **Special Meeting of Council - March 8**

The Chair reminded Council of the Special Meeting of Council to be held on March 8 from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m in Room ST 145. He noted that the meeting would commence with a special announcement by President Fraser and urged all Council members to attend.

273.3.4 **Gender Research Symposium**

The Chair reminded Council of the Gender Research Symposium to be presented by the Graduate Women's Network and the Faculty of Graduate Studies on March 8 from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. in Room MSC 275.

273.3.5 **FGS Carryover**

The Chair noted that a substantial portion of this year's carryover would be used to defer tuition fees on a per application basis. As soon as the actual amount was known, a memorandum would be sent out to departments.

273.4 **Notice of Motion for March Council Meeting on Revised Appeals Process**

R. Revel indicated that the Policy Committee of FGS had redrafted the Appeals Procedures based on a one panel appeal process. He noted that the Policy Committee had addressed the majority of the questions and concerns that had been put to it. Even those in favour of a two panel appeal process would find most of their concerns addressed. He requested that any further comments be sent to him within the next two weeks.

D. Woods observed that he did not see a mechanism in place for deciding if the appeal was frivolous.
W. Zwerman expressed some concern with the role of the Ombudsperson. He indicated that a conflict of interest could arise if the Ombudsperson acted as an advocate for the appellant yet had the authority to select the Appeal Panel. He also expressed serious concern with the fact that five Appeals Panels could be running concurrently.

R. Revel indicated that the Ombudsperson was to be a neutral person and was in no way to act as an advocate.

In response to a query, W. Zwerman indicated that last year the majority of appeals were dealt with informally. He also requested clarification as to whether appeals related to course grades would also be heard by the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

The Chair indicated that the idea of the Faculty of Graduate Studies hearing appeals related to course grades would probably not receive a favourable response from other Deans.

A. van Herk noted that there was no mechanism for addressing appeals against admissions.

The Chair observed that the University of Alberta did not hear appeals against admissions.

S. Stone-Blackburn noted that although there were actual cases where the Faculty of Graduate Studies was the respondent, the step-wise guide always named the Home Faculty as the respondent. R. Revel indicated that he would amend the step-wise guide accordingly.

Two straw votes were taken. The first straw vote asked Council whether they believed that the Faculty of Graduate Studies should hear appeals against grades in courses. The vote was unanimously against this. The second straw vote asked Council as to whether they preferred one panel hearing all appeals or two panels - one panel hearing appeals of a substantive nature and one panel hearing appeals of a procedural nature. A majority of Council favoured a one panel process. Four Council members favoured a two panel process.

R. Revel stated that the next revision would make clear that the Faculty of Graduate Studies would not hear appeals against grades in courses. He drew to Council's attention that at the next Council meeting he would move that the revised appeals procedures be approved.

273.5 Task Force on Gender Issues

The following individuals were nominated to serve on the Gender Focus Group.

R. James Brown, Geology and Geophysics
M. Joy, Religious Studies
H. Meynell, Religious Studies

It was MOVED by H. Wieser and SECONDED by A. van Herk that nominations cease.

CARRIED
The following individuals were elected to serve on the Gender Focus Group.

R. James Brown, Geology and Geophysics
M. Joy, Religious Studies

The Chair announced that the Graduate Students' Association had appointed David MacCarthy and Sarah Bates to sit as their representatives on this group. He also noted that the Gender Focus Group, chaired by S. Stone-Blackburn, would report to Council in May.

273.6 Graduate Student Survey Report Committee

The following individuals were nominated to serve on the Graduate Student Survey Report Committee.

T. Barber, Religious Studies
G. Osborn, Geology
N. Waters, Geography
D. Woods, Microbiology

It was MOVED by L. Knafla and SECONDED by S. Drabek that nominations cease.

The following individuals were elected to serve on the Graduate Student Survey Report Committee.

T. Barber, Religious Studies
N. Waters, Geography
D. Woods, Microbiology

The Chair announced that the Graduate Students' Association had appointed J'Val Steward as their representative on this committee. He also noted that this committee, chaired by S. Stone-Blackburn, would report back to Council by May. He urged Council to direct comments and suggestions for action to S. Stone-Blackburn by mid March.

273.7 PhD in Religious Studies Proposal

S. Stone-Blackburn noted that the Academic Program Committee of the Faculty of Graduate Studies had approved the PhD in Religious Studies Proposal last spring and had then sent the proposal to Dr. Gooch of the University of Toronto for his recommendations. Dr. Gooch was familiar with the Department of Religious Studies because he had reviewed the Masters program in 1992 and had given an excellent analysis at that time. S. Stone-Blackburn informed Council that the package sent to Council members with the agenda consisted of the proposal, Dr. Gooch's response, and the department's response to Dr. Gooch. She commented that the Academic Program Committee had taken all of the documentation into consideration and was strongly in favour of the proposal with one modification suggested by Dr. Gooch and agreed to by the Department, namely that the number of students admitted each year was to increase. With that change in mind, the Academic Program Committee was unanimously in favour of the PhD in Religious Studies being accepted.
S. Stone-Blackburn welcomed Dr. W. McCready, Department Head of Religious Studies, who had been invited to attend Council in order to answer any questions Council might have regarding the proposal.

In response to a query, W. McCready assured Council that the proposed program (including the increase in number of students) could be accommodated within the existing budget. In response to another query, he indicated that the department did not foresee any difficulty in recruiting students. He observed that The University of Calgary would be the only university west of Winnipeg to offer a PhD in Religious Studies. He also noted that departmental members had active interest and involvement in Asia and that this market had not been catered to in central Canada.

There was some debate among Council members as to the impact that a new program would have on the finite pool of financial resources for graduate students.

The Chair stated that budgetary matters were not the purview of the Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. He noted that the primary role of this Council was to accept or reject the proposal on the basis of its academic and scholarly merit.

It was MOVED by S. Stone-Blackburn and SECONDED by L. Eslinger that the Proposal for a PhD in Religious Studies be accepted.

CARRIED

273.8 Adjournment of Meeting

There being no other business, it was MOVED by L. Knafla and SECONDED by D. McKerlie that the Meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED