COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

MINUTES

Three Hundred-and-Forty-fifth Meeting
Wednesday, 22 November 2006
ST 147 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Chair: W. L. Veale, Dean
Recording Secretary: Martha Stroud

Attendance:

Members
Boyce, J.
Brennan, P.
Carreiro, L.
Collins, J.
Cook, F.
Haines, V.
Johns, C.
Joldersma, H.
Kertzer, A.
Koshan, J.
Kraay, H. (for F. Towers)
Kreber, R.
Lipton, S.
Malkinson, T.
McCaugherty, D.
A. McKeough

Regrets
Mocquais, P. Y.
Moorman, B.
Oetelaar, G.
Pounder, A.
Rohleder, T.
Shimizu, G.
Sicotte, P.
Sideris, M.
Stell, Wm
van der Hoorn, F.
Wieser, H.
Wildering, W.
Williams, M.
Woods, D.
Young, L.

Faculty of Graduate Studies Officers
Robinson, G.
Stroud, M.

Guests
Lucas, A.
Toohey, P.

Regrets
Achari, J
Azaiez, J.
Brown, C.
Bush, J.
Chen, W.
Davison, J.
Dyck, R.
Edwards, M.
Este, J.
Eslinger, L.
Potter, M.
Evans, S.
Ewashen, C.
Goddard, T.
Hawkes, R.
Hebert, M.
Herring, H.
Herzwg, W.
Hodgins, D.
Kallos, M.
Keenan, T.
Krebes, E.

345.1.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA
The Chair called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the agenda. Ms Carreiro requested that a discussion of procedures for interdisciplinary programs be held under “Other Business”.

MOTION: KERTZER/MOCQUAIS
That Council approve the agenda for the Faculty of Graduate Studies Council Meeting #345 of 22 November 2006 as amended

CARRIED

345.2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: JOLDERSMA/MOCQUAIS
That Council approve the minutes of the Faculty of Graduate Studies Council Meeting #345 held 18 October 2006

CARRIED

345.3.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
There were no matters arising.

345.4.0 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR
The Chair reported on a speech at the recent Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) meeting in Quebec City. Andrejs Rauhvargers, Secretary General of the Latvian Rectors’ Council and a member of the Steering Committee for Higher Education and Research of the Council of Europe, talked about the Bologna Process and its Qualifications. He noted that the Bologna Accord, with 42 countries involved, commits these countries to transparency against a set of common standards for their degrees so that comparisons can be made between degrees from different countries. It does not commit these countries to an identical degree pattern, and therefore each degree must continue to be evaluated separately against the degrees of the home institution when considering candidates for graduate school.

An advertisement for the position of Vice-Provost/Dean of Graduate Studies has been published and circulated.

Permission to develop a university-wide policy for Postdoctoral Fellows, based on the Tri-Council
Statement of Principles for Postdoctoral Fellows, has been approved by the Provost. The Research Development and Policy Committee strongly supports this procedure.
At the CAGS meeting, it was noted that at all institutions the problem of falsification of documents is increasing rapidly.
The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine has received $64M in capital support from the provincial government. It will be some time before the Faculty has a graduate program and in the meantime, graduate programs in Medical Science and Biological Sciences, and perhaps others, will support new faculty in Veterinary Medicine until a formal graduate program has been approved.

345.5.0 REPORTS FROM ASSOCIATE DEANS
Mr Sideris announced that the NSERC Committee had chosen 124 applications, 62 doctoral applications and 62 Master’s applications, from the 173 applications submitted, to fill the University’s quota. He noted that the Committee had many concerns regarding the departmental ranking and asked Graduate Coordinators to ensure that the applications are all well reviewed before they are sent to the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

345.6.0 QUESTION PERIOD
Mr Thompson asked if the punishment for falsification of documents – immediate withdrawal from the program, no further admission to the University, and placement on a cross-Canada list – was not too severe. The Chair indicated that the recent case in Mr Thompson’s department was very complicated and his decision was based on advice from the University’s lawyers. Most cases are very straightforward. The Chair believes that the current policy continues to be valid and will discuss the issues with the FGS Executive. Mr Shimizu noted that at the Department of Chemistry’s recent retreat it became obvious that recruitment is the Department’s number one problem. He asked if the Dean’s Research Excellence Award could be extended to students receiving provincial awards. The Chair replied that he would like to be able to do this but does not have the budgetary resources.

345.7.0 ELECTION
The Chair explained that the representative to the SSHRC sub-committee of the University Research Grants Committee, Ms Yvonne Hebert, had resigned. Mr John Boyce, from Economics, was elected to replace her.

345.8.0 ACADEMIC PROGRAM COMMITTEE
344.8.1 Greek and Roman Studies: Doctoral Program
MOTION: van der HOORN/Pounder
That the Faculty of Graduate Studies Council approve the proposal for a doctoral degree program in Greek and Roman Studies and recommend it for forwarding to General Faculties Council’s Academic Program Committee
CARRIED
Mr van der Hoorn, Chair of the Academic Program Committee, introduced Mr Peter Toohey, Head of Greek and Roman Studies, and explained that the doctoral program has run successfully informally for several years through special case admissions. Mr Veale explained that in areas where there is no formal program but supervisory capacity exists, supervisors can make a special case for each potential student to the Faculty of Graduate Studies, but that this is a cumbersome process and makes it difficult to publicize the program. In response to the question of whether the area of study for the program should be “Greek and Roman Studies” or two separate areas, Mr Toohey responded that students were happy with the area of studies being “Greek and Roman Studies” and that they would each have a more specific specialization on their parchments. Ms Lipton noted that the Library had sent a letter of support, but indicated that further resources would be needed to provide appropriate library support for the doctoral program.

345.8.2 Law: Course-based LLM and Graduate Certificate
MOTION: van der HOORN/KOSHAN
That Faculty of Graduate Studies Council approve the proposal for a course-based LLM degree program and recommend it for forwarding to General Faculties Council’s Academic Program Committee
CARRIED
Mr van der Hoorn introduced Mr Al Lucas, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Law, and explained that the Graduate Certificate was a Post-Degree Continuous Learning (PDCL) certificate that had been approved by the PDCL Coordinating Group. The laddering aspect, giving course credit for certificate programs in the proposed course-based Master’s program, had been approved by the FGS Academic Program Committee, and no further approval from FGS was necessary. In response to a question, Mr Lucas noted that all graduate funding would be directed to thesis students, not to students in the course-based program.
345.9.0 SCHOLARSHIPS
The Chair drew the members’ attention to the five new scholarships listed.

345.10.0 OTHER BUSINESS

Interdisciplinary Programs
Ms Carreiro drew Council’s attention to the problems created admitting interdisciplinary students before negotiating space and facilities for them with the disciplinary programs. The Chair emphasized strongly that arrangements must be made as part of the admission decision – if the facilities are not available, the student should not be admitted. The primary supervisor has the main responsibility for ensuring that the prospective student will have appropriate facilities for his/her program. Department Heads, Graduate Coordinators and Supervisors should be involved in the negotiations of facilities for students in interdisciplinary programs and specializations. The Chair noted that there are bound to be difficulties over the next few years to integrate interdisciplinary work, and all universities are reporting similar problems, but hopes that with tolerance and good will, workable solutions will be found.

No new Open Scholarship Competition quotas will be created. Students in interdisciplinary studies will have to compete within the current quota system.

345.11.0 ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.