COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

MINUTES

Three Hundred-and-Forty-sixth Meeting
Wednesday, 21 March 2007
ST 147  4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

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

Attendance:

Members
Bush, J.
Collins, J.
Cook, F.
Ewashen, C.
Habib, A.
Haines, V.
Hebert, M.
Herring, H.
Hodgins, D.
Johns, C.
Kallos, M.
Keenan, T.
Kertzer, A.
Kulchitsky, J.
Koshan, J.
Lipton, S.
Malkinson, T.

Regrets
Achari, J.
Azaiez, J.
Boyce, J.
Brennan, P.
Brown, C.
Budiman, A.
Chen, W.
Davidson, J.
Dyck, R.
Ellis, J.
Eslingers, L.
Este, D.
Evans, S.
Goddard, T.
Harrison, A.
Hawkes, R.
Herzog, W.
Kelly, R.
Kremer, R.
Landry, E.
Lytton, J.
MacIntosh, B.
Massey, K.
McCaugherty, D.
McKeeough, A.
Mains, P.
Milton, L.
Mitchell, D.
Mocquais, P.-Y.
Moorman, B.
Peers, D.
Reid, J.
Rohleder, T.
Rowney, J.
Salahub, D.
Sicotte, P.
Sigismund-Nielsen, H.
Simmins, G.
Stell, W.
Strzelecky, F.
Thompson, R.
Vinogradov, O.
Weingarten, H.
Wildering, W.
Young, L.

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

Guest
Dunscombe, P.

345.1.0  APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chair called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the agenda.

MOTION: KEENAN/KALLOS
That Council approve the agenda for the Faculty of Graduate Studies Council Meeting #346 of 21 March 2007

CARRIED

345.2.0  APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: KERTZER/SIDERIS
That Council approve the minutes of the Faculty of Graduate Studies Council Meeting #346 held 22 November 2006

CARRIED

345.3.0  MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

345.4.0  REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

The review of applications to the Open Scholarship Competition was completed this week and the Chair acknowledged the work of the reviewers. He also noted that initiatives that successfully reduced the workload of the reviewers had been put in place this year. The formal meeting to establish rankings is 29 March.

The Chair thanked the members of the Appeals Committee for their work.

The Academic Program Committee has reviewed and approved a number of new programs this year. The Chair asked that all members of Council review the Standing Committee positions that are becoming available this year, and forward nominations to Martha Stroud for consideration by the Striking Committee.

The Chair reviewed the many new appointments made at the senior level of the University this year, and explained the new organizational structure of the Provost’s Office.
Members of Council were urged to inform students about the special awards and bursaries available, and to ensure that students understand the deadlines for these awards. All the information is on the web at http://www.grad.ucalgary.ca/funding.aspx.

The Chair recommended a report from the Howe Institute, *Room at the Top: Strategies for Increasing the Number of Graduate Students in Canada*, at http://www.cdhowe.org/pdf/commentary_245.pdf. He noted that the conclusions drawn from the study indicated that better funding for graduate students was needed, a result that will surprise none at the University, but the discussion itself is interesting.

The Chair also mentioned a paper presented by AUCC to a Graduate Student Leadership Conference at the University of Waterloo in February 2007. This paper, which describes international university participation rates, degrees awarded relative to size of population, number of PhDs produced, etc., is not available on the web, but copies may be requested from the Dean of Graduate Studies’ office (mstroud@ucalgary.ca).

The Chair noted that more information about the recent budget and federal government support to postsecondary education may be found on the AUCC website (http://www.aucc.ca/).

345.5.0 REPORTS FROM ASSOCIATE DEANS

Mr Weiser reviewed Post Degree Continuous Learning activities over the past year. He described certificate and diploma programs currently in operation, and those that are under development and going through the approval process.

345.6.0 QUESTION PERIOD

Mr Woods asked if, given the paucity of academic jobs in Canada, we should continue to train large numbers of graduate students? The Chair responded that by 2010, an estimated 30,000 new university professors will be needed to replace retiring professors. Canada produces only 4,000 PhDs a year and only 30% of those stay in academia.

Mr Oetelaar noted that he had heard the same story since 1987 and that the situation had not changed in Canada to date. The Chair responded that job vacancies were field/discipline dependent. The Faculty of Graduate Studies is trying to increase the number of doctoral students within the graduate student population.

345.7.0 POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW POLICY

**MOTION: van der HOORN, WINCESTER**

That Faculty of Graduate Studies Council recommend to the Academic Program Committee of General Faculties Council approval of the Postdoctoral Fellow Policy as set forth in Attachment 346.7.0

CARRIED

The Chair reviewed the development of the postdoctoral fellow policy. Ms Mooibroek, Coordinator of the Postdoctoral Fellow Office, noted that the Tri-Councils were becoming increasingly more stringent about the treatment of the postdoctoral fellows they fund and that the University of Calgary would become less competitive in attracting postdocs unless it was in compliance with the Tri-Council guidelines. Official approval of this policy would enable the University to register postdocs and put together a professional development program for them.

Mr Woods expressed concern over the wording of several statements in the policy, which he felt promised things that could not necessarily be provided by the supervisor or faculty. He also expressed concern about approving a document that was still in draft format. He suggested obtaining legal advice before the document was formally approved. Mr Oetelaar noted that the issues for postdoctoral experience are different in different areas.

The Chair noted that this policy expresses general guidelines for the treatment of postdoctoral fellows. It sets up expectations and encourages cooperation from all parties involved. A registration system will give postdocs access to benefits that are applied only sporadically at the moment. The policy will be revised in light of comments made at this meeting, and a revised version circulated to Council. Legal advice will be taken before formal adoption of the policy.

Mr Ruparell asked if postdocs were eligible for top-up funding from the department. The Chair responded that they were, as long as the funding agency did not have rules against top-up funding.
345.8.0 ACADEMIC PROGRAM COMMITTEE

344.8.1 Physics and Astronomy: Radiation Oncology Diploma

MOTION: van der HOORN/OETELAAR
That the Faculty of Graduate Studies Council, on the recommendation of the Academic Program Committee, approve the proposal for a Post-doctoral Diploma in Radiation Oncology, as set forth in Attachment 346.8.1

CARRIED

Mr van der Hoorn introduced the first post-doctoral diploma at the University of Calgary. The program has been running successfully for some years; the diploma will formalize the credential and add some training in management. Dr Peter Dunscombe, director of the current program, was present to answer questions.

345.8.2 Graduate Division of Educational Research: Change of name of specialization from “Higher Education Administration” to “Higher Education Leadership”

MOTION: van der HOORN, WINCHESTER
That Faculty of Graduate Studies Council, on the recommendation of the Academic Program Committee, approve the proposal to change the name of the “Higher Education Administration” specialization to the “Higher Education Leadership” specialization

CARRIED

Mr van der Hoorn explained that a change of name was recommended to avoid confusion on the part of students. Most prospective students from the senior administration in colleges and technical colleges mistakenly apply to the “Educational Leadership” program, which focuses on K-12, and then have to transfer to a different specialization.

345.9.0 SCHOLARSHIPS

The Chair drew the members’ attention to the thirteen new scholarships, totaling over $60,000, listed. Mr Ruparell asked if, because most of the new scholarships are in the Medicine, Science and Engineering areas, a corresponding sum will be moved into the Humanities and Social Sciences area to create parity for students. The Chair said that, in general, the terms of reference of scholarships do not allow this to happen, but that Humanities and Social Sciences students tend to do well in the Open Scholarship Competition. Ms Robinson noted that University of Calgary scholarships are capped, so that students receiving $15,000 from one or more University of Calgary scholarship sources do not receive additional scholarships. An increase in the number of scholarships in one area tends to free up other scholarships for students ranking highly in the Open Competition.

345.10.0 OTHER BUSINESS

Ms Hebert noted that the new University of Calgary transcripts are printed in a 4 point text on a background of University crests, making them extremely difficult to read. Not only does this make assessing University of Calgary applicants for admission to graduate programs here a problem, it might prejudice other universities against University of Calgary applicants. The Chair promised to raise this issue with the Registrar, Ms Massey.

345.11.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.