Minutes of the Graduate Education Council Meeting

Date: May 5th, 2015

The Meeting was held at 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm in Room 1N05 International and Graduate Affairs Building

Attendees:

Amit Chakma    Linda Miller    Carol Beynon
Peter Simpson  Malcolm Ruddock  Matt Dumouchel
Rebecca Waldie  Cristine De Clercy  Jaime Brenes Reyes
Aisha Haque    Jason Brown     Doug Jones
Kristen Reilly  Paul Ragogna   Arzie Chant
Ron Wagler      Kamran Siddiqui  Catherine Nolan
Robert Wood    Eric Smiley     Nandi Bhatia
Ruth Martin    Cheryl Harding  Susan Scollie
Greg Kopp       Erika Chamberlain  Jiro Inoue
Chantal Lemire  Alison Shott   Alison Allan
Pam Bishop     Andrew Johnson  Katie Merchant
Matt Thomson    Paula Menzies Cameron  Pam McKenzie
Margret McGlynn  Liwen Vaughan  Catherine Steeves
Melanie Caldwell

Regrets:

Carol Jones  Joanna Quinn  Candace Loosley  Aaron Simkovich
Randal Graham  Lizhen Guo  Estee Fresco  Maya Kumar
Julie Shang  Nanda Dimitrov  Shirley Wales

1. Approval of the Minutes of December 9th, 2014 (attached)
   The Minutes of the meeting were approved as circulated with some further discussion regarding Membership.
   Clarification: Supervision membership requires a faculty appointment which can be an adjunct appointment.

2. Business arising from the Minutes (Carol Beynon)
   2.1 Living Well @ Western: Wellness Wednesdays
      - Launched for Graduate Students, started in April including Pet Therapy, Wellness Walks, and Music in the Atrium. Living Well at Western is also doing Yoga every Wednesday, everyone is welcome.

A reminder, please sign the Council Attendance Sheet before leaving the meeting
3. Reports from GEC Committees (Peter Simpson, Carol Beynon)

i. Operations/Agenda and Nominations (Peter Simpson)

   Recommended that the Graduate Education Council accept and approve the following membership for GEC

   a. Graduate Chair Representative July 2015 - June 30 2018) (3 year term)
      • Tilottama Rajan
      • Rod Dekoter *(Rod Dekoter has since noted that he is unable to serve. A new nomination to come forward at the next meeting)*

   Acclamation

   b. Faculty Representatives (July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2018) (3 year terms)
      1. Arts & Humanities – Jan Plug
      3. Engineering – To be confirmed
      4. Science – Elizabeth Webb
      5. Social Science – To be confirmed

      • Kamran Siddiqui, Faculty Representative
      • Chantel Lemire, Graduate Student Representative

      (Nominees from the floor)
      [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/senate/cttees/supr-g.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/senate/cttees/supr-g.pdf)

   Acclamation

ii. Academic Policy and Regulations Committee Report (Carol Beynon)

   - No additional information brought forward from the Policy Committee
   - Update on revised graduate membership process that was approved through GEC in December and brought forward to UWOFA. Three slides were shown that reviewed membership categories; current memberships will be transferred over to the new process.

iii. Postdoctoral Committee Report (Peter Simpson)

   - Canadian Survey of Postdoctoral fellows was conducted with three main concerns brought forward: remuneration; concern re status as neither faculty, student or staff, lack of preparation for careers outside academia.

   To help address not being well prepared for life outside of academia Western has developed a Professional Development program that will launch July 1/2015. A round table for discussion has been set up in June to discuss the content of the Professional Development program. A major push will be in collaboration with supervisors to create with their students a training plan at the beginning to help guide students with their career plan.

   - Research Forum to be held May 7 from 9:00 – 5:30 in the Great Hall; 3:30-5:00 is the Three Minute Research talks for PostDocs and a reception to follow in the Great Hall
iv. Mentorship and Professional Development Committee Report
  - No report at this time
  - A sincere thank you to the Teaching Support Centre for everything they do.

4. GPS Announcements and Information (Linda Miller)
  - PowerPoint presentation highlighting enrolment growth in graduate studies over the last decade, including increased number of programs and funding
  - Set stage for dialogue with President Chakma for remainder of meeting

5. Dr. Amit Chakma, President, Western University
  - Open discussion related to Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

6. Other business
  - The versatile PhD program Western has subscribed to for the last two years but is not being well used we are going to try for one more year.
  - My Grad Skills is another program that is being used Western has topped the charts for students accessing the modules. Dr. Miller added that OCGS responded to the need for online course development, and they put forward an initiative to develop online research methods and data analyst modules that could be accessible to all graduate students across Ontario.
  - Follow up to Policy, there has been some questions regarding why the policy committee has not met, please note that nothing has been brought forward to the Policy Committee or GEC to work on please bring forward any items you feel that need to be looked at.