

The University of Western Ontario
School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Graduate Education Council meeting

Tuesday, May 17, 2011

The meeting was held at 3:30 p.m. in Room 2130, Western Student Services

Attendees:

Linda Miller	Katy Fulfer	M. Randall
Michael Milde	Debbie Compeau	Eeva Munoz
Stephen Sims	Miriam Capretz	Alan Salmoni
Jan Polgar	Bob McMillan	Gaston Keller
Lorraine Davis	Nanda Dimitrov	Russell Poole
Andrew Watson	Melanie Caldwell	Mark Perry

Regrets: Gaston Keller, Jerry White

1. Approval of the Minutes of April 4, 2011

Approved with the following amendments

Amendments – Melanie Caldwell-Clark added to attendees (for April 4 and February 1 meetings)

2. Business arising from the Minutes

NONE

3. SGPS Announcements and Information (Linda Miller)

Western's Institutional Quality Assurance Policy (IQAP) was approved early this month. We will now begin the task of implementing the processes and tidying up the documents. The binders that were sent out to are now out dated due to the changes made during the approval process. A website is being developed that will hold the revised IQAP as approved and the accompanying information. We are working on templates for new programs, review of existing program, major modifications, etc. Once we have everything ready to go, we will send an email to let you know where the documents are housed.

Western had the honour of being the first university to submit a new program proposal to the Quality Council, once our IQAP was approved. The Director of the Quality Council indicated that the committee was not ready to review, as a result the proposal will be reviewed by the OCGS Council.

4. Reports from GEC Committees (Michael Milde, Stephen Sims)

▪ Academic Accommodations and Appeals (MM)

Our academic offense policy was held up at the Secretariats office on a technicality. This issue will be resolved and brought back to this group for information in September.

In the updated academic offense policy – one of the things that we noted that we noted was an academic offense related to research. The problem is the research policy has a reporting requirement that is different from the reporting requirement of the scholastic offense policy. Most Scholastic offenses are kept confidential while some research related offenses there are specific and sometimes agency specific reporting requirements. We will correct this issue and the policy will move forward.

▪ Policy, Regulations and Graduate Program Membership (MM)

6.04 Auditing Graduate Courses - (attached)

Approved as amended.

Graduate course delivered online may not be audited without special permission from program.

The thesis examination process is in the process of being reviewed – will be brought to GEC when ready.

Discussion

Funds for external examiners will continue to flow through SGPS. SGPS provides a travel allocation to the faculties. As a side note, you cannot charge thesis examiner expenses to the Tri-Council funds.

Ron will follow up with departments with a memo to show how the funds flow from SGPS to the departments.

- **Mentorship and Professional Development (SS)**
We are slowly revamping this committee. We are reducing the number of meetings to actually reflect the amount of work that is going on. We will meet two or three times a year as needed and update the GEC on any developments.

- **Operations/Agenda and Nominating (SS)**

Call for Nominations

We are grateful to Josh Morgan, who assembled a nice approach to turning over members of the GEC. This year we have members from Arts & Humanities, Music, FIMS, Law, Ivey, Schulich all coming to the end of their terms. Thank you to all for your contributions.

Nominations are

Faculty Members

Arts / Humanities (Debra Nousek)

Music (no rep) Kari Veblen volunteered to be the representative for faculty

FIMS – we do not yet have representative.

Law - Sam Trosow (strosow@uwo.ca)

Ivey – we do not have a replacement for the faculty

Schulich -Lina Dagnino –Physiology & Pharmacology (ldagnino@uwo.ca)

Grad Assistants

Engineering – Joanna Blom Mech & Material (jblom@uwo.ca)

Cheryl Harding -Physio Therapy (charding@uwo.ca)

No suggestions from the floor.

Student required Science (we do not have a rep)

Post Doc Fellow -one required (we do not have a rep)

Approved as presented

- **Scholarships and Funding (SS)**
We have not met – but we are in the process of finalizing the requirements for Trillium awarded.

4. Other business

OGS update – for the second year in a row there has been some confusion with the OGS staff and how the award announcements are being handled. OGS sent out announcements to students informing them that they have reviewed awards, only to send out announcements 24 hours later indicating that they did not win and to check with the program for the correct information.

We have been getting snippets of information from OGS and are working on getting the correct information.

We have put forward about 1400 applications. Normally we receive a list with our successful and unsuccessful applications as well as who is on the waiting list.

This year we received a list those who were the successful and who had accepted the award. We were expected a list of 1400, but received a list of about 200. We are receiving updates slowly. We will upload the data to people soft so you will have access to them. The payments will be issued next Tuesday for the student who started in May. We are still working with OGS to get the remaining information as soon as we can.

We spent a fair bit of time at the OCGS retreat talking about OGS, with any luck there will be considerable change. Dr. Sims is now on the OGS board. We have heard about one change. A student who isn't attending a university but is intending on applying to Graduate School and is applying for OGS has had to apply directly to OGS. Going forward, no one will be able to apply directly to OGS, if someone is not currently at a university and is applying to Graduate Programs, they must apply to that University which they intend to attend. The estimate is that our internal application numbers will go up about 10 %. More work will be added to the University, so we are saying if you are giving some of it to us, just give it all to us. We will keep you posted, but I expect the changes will be announced very late in the game and we won't know until shortly before the deadline.

Discussion regarding matching funds and OGST, etc.

Linda – we are pushing really hard to make matching funds for OGS, OGST and Trillium one of the campaign priorities for fund development. It nominally has been a priority but when we actually see what has been going on within each of the facilities, there has been very little new money raised for matching for scholarships.

We are pushing really hard and the Provost is pushing really hard on our behalf. I think you can rest assured that it is recognized that putting this onto the faculties is not the way we want to go. We want fund development to have responsibility for these funds. This year is particularly challenging because this is the year that the OGST scholarships were increased in number. We went from 2000 across the province to 3000. Our share typically is 10 % of the increase, a potential result of an additional 100 OGS awards coming to Western that haven't been on fund development radar. The Trilliums weren't on fund development radar either. It states in the term of OGS that operating dollars cannot be used for matching funds, so faculty budgets are clearly off limits. But the vulnerability is that any undefined funds that have been raised within your faculty may not be off-limits. I have made it very clear that we will not turn down any scholarship because of lack of funds from fund development and the provost is on board. We will find the money one way or another.

Motion to adjourn 4.17pm