

UGMS Committee

Minutes

DATE & TIME: Wednesday, March 5, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.

PLACE: Professional Development and Conferencing Services Boardroom

PRESENT: Ms. L. Glynn (Chair), Drs. N. Bandrauk, A. Dorward, S. Moffatt, D. Allison, J. Kibble, D. MacPhee, G. Farrell, D. Boone, A. Goodridge, S. Shah, Ms. S. Ackerman, Ms. E. Hillman, Mr. G. Beckett, Mr. A. Kennedy (Student Representative) and Mr. J. Thorburn (Student Representative)

Review of Minutes of February 6, 2008

MACPHEE/MOFFATT

THAT the minutes be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

New Business

Summative Assessment Policy

The policy recommendation for summative assessment was circulated for review and discussion. The following issues were noted:

Section 2

- The UGME Office will be the central office for administration of examinations.
- There should be a central office where exam questions are stored.
- At some point in time information may have to be provided with regards to how a particular grade was decided upon.
- Concern was expressed with regards to the intellectual property rights of questions and it was clarified that this issue is being dealt with at another level that may help with this as well.

Appendix B

- Item viii will be changed to read “Students are to leave books, bags, coats, etc in lockers or other safe place *within* the room”.
- Item x will be changed to read “...are not permitted (*exception will be in advanced consultation with and at the discretion of the Course/Subject Char or the invigilator*)”.
- Item xi will be changed to read “...once they enter the exam room (*exception will be in advanced consultation with and at the discretion of the Course/Subject Char or the invigilator*)”.
- Item xiv will be changed to read “...NOT allowed (*exception will be in advanced consultation with and at the discretion of the Course/Subject Char or the invigilator*)”.
- Item xcii will be changed to read “...[Extension of examination time is normally given at the recommendation of the Blundon Centre to students who are registered.]”

Section 4

Dr. Goodridge reviewed his e-mail circulated previously to the members of the Committee regarding his objection to the requirements for a pass outstanding grade. He expressed concerns regarding the lack of fairness because student can complete difficult courses and not get recognized for an outstanding performance because the standard deviation, etc. is low for that particular course. He felt that outstanding performances should be recognized in each examination and consistency should be recognized throughout all courses.

It was noted that the problem to be addressed with this type of policy is the arbitrariness of awarding pass outstanding grades. As well, with the new system there would be less fails and borderlines which would be to the benefit of students.

Some members also felt that the student performance report (formerly the dean’s letter) should define what a pass outstanding grade is. As well, a new system should be consistent and should be a model that people from outside this university will understand.

Section 5

- Item ii should be changed to reach “...if student evaluation scores related to summative assessment are below 3 or if average reliability...”

After some further discussion the following motion was made:

THAT the Summative Assessment Policy for Pre-Clerkship Courses should be approved in principle with the changes incorporated as outlined.

CARRIED
(5 For, 3 Against)

Dr. Kibble will make the changes as discussed and will bring a revised document back to the next meeting.

Proposed Changes to Promotions Policy

The document was reviewed by Committee members and there was some discussion. Some members didn't feel comfortable enough to vote on the policy until it has been presented to the students.

It was pointed out that this new policy would be more generous for the students, however, it was decided that this matter would be tabled until the next meeting and if the matter needed to be dealt with more urgently, a special meeting would be called.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Ms. L. Glynn
Chair

LG/mjm