

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND
Academic Council of the School of Graduate Studies
Minutes, March 23, 2015

PRESENT: Dr. F. Murrin (Chair), Dr. K. Side, Dr. S. Cadigan, Dr. S. Matthews, Dr. P. Coady, Dr. K. Arnold, Professor L. Wetsch, Dr. T. Seifert, Dr. T. Norvell, Dr. B. Roebothan, Dr. J. Doré, Dr. J. Weber, Dr. J.C. Loredano-Osti, Dr. K. Tahlan, Mr. B.K. Maity, Dr. P. Foley (teleconference), Mr. A. Johnson (Observer), Ms. L. Busby, Dr. E. Pittman

APOLOGIES: Dr. X. Li, Dr. D. Moralejo, Dr. C. Dyck, Dr. A. Mercier, Dr. B. LeFrancois, Ms. C. Walsh

1. MINUTES:

It was moved by Dr. Doré, and seconded by Dr. S. Matthews, that the minutes of the meeting held February 16, 2015, be approved. The motion

CARRIED

2. BUSINESS ARISING

- a. At the last meeting, the proposed new Master of Science in Agricultural, Forest and Environmental Science, was approved in principle to permit an external review. The review was conducted March 3rd and 4th, 2015. All documentation is anticipated so that the new program can be considered at the April 20th meeting of Academic Council.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

4. DEAN'S REPORT/REPORT OF SENATE

- a. At the March 10th, 2015, meeting of Senate, items from the School of Graduate Studies were approved as follows:
 - Nursing – calendar revisions
 - Computer Science – calendar revisions
- b. Congratulations are extended to Dr. Sean Cadigan, on his new appointment as Associate Vice President (Academic) Faculty Affairs *Pro Tempore*, effective May 4, 2015.
- c. SGS extended thanks to the GSU for the participation in a workshop during the Aldrich Conference, which dealt with external funding opportunities. The following presentations were given:
 - Dr. Murrin – NSERC
 - Dr. Side – SSHRC

- Dr. Booth – CIHR
- Ms. K. Lord – presented as a Vanier Scholar
- Ms. Heath - Ethics

d. Over the next couple of months, SGS will be attempting to fill the membership for Academic Council for the academic year 2015-2016. Once the representatives have been provided, the School will attempt to fill memberships on the Standing Committees of Council. We currently have many scholarship committee meetings, and the School is grateful to those who have agreed to serve in this capacity. Members of Council can contact the School if interested in serving on any of the Standing Committees. The Investigation Board is another important group that requires members. We have on it long serving members, and all are encouraged to consider serving.

5. REPORT OF THE GRADUATE STUDENTS' UNION

- a. Mr. Maity stated that he was not on the organizing committee for the Aldrich Conference, but he did attend. It was a success. The number of graduate students participating from the Grenfell campus this year, was larger over last year's numbers.

Dr. Side judged on March 21st, and Dr. Cadigan assessed one of the streams. Dr. Side also attended the Sunday morning interdisciplinary session which was vibrant and interesting.

6. STANDING COMMITTEES

- a. Academic Council Executive
- i) Education – Counseling Psychology Program

Education is requesting approval of the proposed revision to regulation 11.8.3., item 1, new item 'g', relating to a 'certificate of conduct', which would be required by students before participating in any courses that require contact with a vulnerable population (e.g., school system, community agency, clinical setting etc.).

It was moved by Dr. Seifert and seconded by Dr. Loredano-Osti, that the proposed revision be approved.

Discussion

Dr. Seifert stated that this certificate is not required for admission to a program, but rather for courses for which there is a requirement for working with clientele.

It was questioned if faculty checked for these certificates prior to students registering for such courses. Although it may not be possible to prevent students from registering for courses, students would be required to produce a certificate of conduct before being placed in the field. For internships, students would be required to produce the certificate before registering for the internship. The faculty are required to follow a code of ethics.

On the call for question, the motion

CARRIED

New item 11.8.3., item 1.g. will read:

A criminal record check or other screening procedures are not required as a condition of admission to the Counselling Psychology program. A student should, however, be aware that such record checks or other screening procedures are required by school districts, schools, community agencies, or other agencies that host counselling psychology students. Such agencies will not accept a student without a clean criminal record and vulnerable sector check or other screening procedures, which would prevent the student from completing a required component of the program. As a result, such a student may not be eligible for promotion or graduation.

It is the responsibility of the student to have such procedures completed as required and at his/her own expense. The Faculty of Education's Counselling Psychology program expects a student to provide evidence of a clean criminal record and vulnerable sector check before participating in any course or experience where direct contact with clients will occur.

The screening procedures of any given agency may change from time to time and are beyond the control of the University.

ii) Education – PhD Comprehensive Examinations

Education is requesting approval of the proposed revision to regulation 31.9.3., item 2.c. which revises the time frame for completion of the written component of the comprehensive examination from a two-day period to a three-week period. The current time frame causes much stress and anxiety, and faculty members have indicated that the current time frame has prevented students from presenting the best possible answers.

It was moved by Dr. Seifert and seconded by Dr. Cadigan that the proposed revision be approved. The motion

CARRIED

New regulation 31.9.3., item 2.c. will now read:

c. In preparation for the written comprehensive examination, the doctoral candidate and the supervisory committee will agree on the topics to be examined. The examination will be written over a three-week period.

iii) Special Topics Course – Business 9932

The Faculty of Business Administration is requesting approval to offer special topics course Business 9932 ‘University of the Arctic: Extractive Industries Network Seminar #1’ in accelerated format, for the period May 3-10, 2015.

It was moved by Dr. Arnold and seconded by Dr. Coady that the special topics course be approved for offering in an accelerated format. The motion

CARRIED

The Registrar’s Office will be notified of Council’s decision regarding this special topics course.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8. NOTICE OF MOTION

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned 4:25 p.m.

Faye Murrin, Dean *pro tempore*