

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND
Academic Council of the School of Graduate Studies
Minutes, May 19, 2015

PRESENT: Dr. F. Murrin (Chair), Dr. C. Dyck, Dr. S. Matthews, Dr. P. Coady, Dr. T. Seifert, Ms. C. Walsh, Dr. B. Roebathan, Dr. J. Doré, Dr. D. Moralejo, Dr. J.C. Loredó-Osti, Dr. A. Mercier, Ms. K. Lord, Dr. P. Foley (teleconference), MR. A. Johnson (Observer), MS. L. Busby, Dr. E. Pittman

APOLOGIES: Dr. K. Side, Dr. J. Weber, Dr. K. Tahlan, Dr. D. Farquharson, Dr. K. Arnold, Dr. K. Szutor, Dr. L. Wetsch

1. MINUTES:

It was moved by Dr. Roebathan, and seconded by Dr. Seifert, that the minutes of the meeting held April 20, 2015, be approved. The motion

CARRIED

2. BUSINESS ARISING

At the last meeting of Council, the School of Graduate Studies' Strategic Enrolment Management document was presented to members for information and comment. This document reflects those things that are in-progress or being implemented.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

4. DEAN'S REPORT/REPORT OF SENATE

- a) At the last meeting of Senate, April 14th, there were no items for consideration from Council. There was much discussion, however, regarding the budget. The Senior Administration are aware of the graduate level issues regarding the budget.
- b) Dr. Murrin and Ms. Sullivan, Manager of Fellowships and Awards in the School of Graduate Studies, visited the Grenfell Campus on May 14th. Thanks are extended to all involved for making the visit so enjoyable. The campus is expanding with new labs that will support the proposed new Master of Science program that is on the agenda for approval today.

5. REPORT OF THE GRADUATE STUDENTS' UNION

There was no report from the GSU at today's meeting.

6. STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Academic Council Executive

Psychology – Calendar Revisions

The Department of Psychology is requesting approval of the proposed revision to regulation 31.31.2. governing the Ph.D. comprehensive examination. The new comprehensive will be called a literature review and the topic can be similar to the thesis topic but much broader in scope.

It was moved by Dr. Loredano-Osti, and seconded by Ms. Lord, that the proposed revisions be approved. The motion

CARRIED

Regulation 31.31.2 will now read:

31.31.2 Program of Study

1. An applicant must hold either a Master's Degree or an Honours Bachelor's Degree with first class standing to be considered for admission. The program of study will be specified at the time of admission. Decisions on (a) whether to include courses in the program, and if so, (b) which specific courses are to be included will be based on the student's background and the proposed thesis topic.
2. Comprehensive Examination. The Ph.D. comprehensive in Experimental Psychology shall be taken during the first year of the student's program. The examination will consist of two parts. Part I consists of a broad review of the literature that normally pertains to the topic of the thesis area. The literature review should incorporate theoretical, methodological, and empirical findings. Part II consists of an oral defense of the literature review. The comprehensive exam aims to ensure that the student is knowledgeable about the range of theories, methodologies, and empirical findings that are fundamental to the chosen field of study.

b. Proposed New Master of Marine Studies Program – New Option

The Marine Institute Academic Council is recommending approval of the proposed new option – Master of Marine Studies (Marine Spatial Planning and Management). This item requires approval in principle to permit an internal review.

It was moved by Dr. Doré, and seconded by Dr. Dyck, that the proposed new option be approved in principle to permit an internal review. The motion

CARRIED

c. Proposed New Master of Science in Boreal Ecosystems and Agricultural Sciences

Members reviewed the Review Committee Report, the proponents response to the report, and the revised proposal.

It was moved by Dr. Doré and seconded by Dr. Seifert that the proposed new program be approved, and forwarded to Senate for approval.

Discussion:

Members agreed that the following minor issues should be addressed and then sent for Senate approval:

- BEAS 6001 – if it is a course to be offered over two-semester it should read as a linked course ie 600A/B or 601A/B and that if no grade is to be issued for the ‘A’ portion, that a grade of NC (No Grade Expected) will be assigned to the ‘A’ portion, with a final grade issued following successful completion of the ‘B’ portion of the course;
- Course forms with signatures required
- 6000, 6031 and 6050 are indicated as special topics on the form, however the number issued for each are not within the block of special topics number range (6050-6150). They should be indicated as either a regular course, or the number needs to coincide with the block of special topics numbers;
- Contact hours vary from 36-42, up to 60 contact hours.

Postscript Note: All issues were addressed and new course forms submitted with signatures for distribution to the members of Senate.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Doré indicated that there have been discussions in Medicine regarding the embargo of theses and the time frame for which one can opt for, which is one year. Some of the top journals are questioning whether or not they will accept manuscripts when it is pre-published because the theses are available on-line. It was noted that embargos have been given to theses for up to three years, with a rationale provided.

8. NOTICE OF MOTION

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned 4:35 pm.

Faye Murrin, Acting Chair