

**MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND**  
**Academic Council of the School of Graduate Studies**  
**Minutes, October 20, 2014**

PRESENT: Dr. F. Murrin (Chair), Dr. K. Side, Dr. S. Matthews, Dr. K. Arnold, Professor L. Wetsch, Dr. T. Seifert, Dr. L. Lye, Dr. T. Norvell, Dr. S. MacKinnon, Ms. C. Walsh, Dr. B. Roebathan, Dr. J. Doré, Dr. D. Moralejo, Dr. J.C. Loredosto, Dr. K. Tahlan, Ms. A. Latour, Mr. H. Al-alaily, Ms. K. Lord, Ms. L. Busby, Dr. E. Pittman

APOLOGIES: Dr. D. Farquharson, Dr. B. LeFrancois, Dr. X. Li, Dr. P. Coady, Dr. A. Mercier, Dr. M. Volk

The Chair informed members that a member of Council has asked that we use the microphone when speaking. Broadcasting will not be heard as it goes directly to that member's receiver.

The following new members attending Council were welcomed:

Paul Foley – Grenfell

Kapil Tahlan – Biology

Scott MacKinnon – Human Kinetics and Recreation – new Secretary to Council for Fall 2014.

Sonja Knutson, Director of the International Centre attended Council to speak to item 7.a. of the agenda. She was in attendance to give a presentation on the Strategic Internationalization Plan 2020.

1. MINUTES:

It was moved by Dr. MacKinnon, and seconded by Mr. Al-alaily, that the minutes of the meeting held September 15, 2014, be approved as circulated. The motion

CARRIED

2. BUSINESS ARISING

3. CORRESPONDENCE

4. DEAN'S REPORT/REPORT OF SENATE

- a. The following items of business were approved at the October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of Senate:
- Engineering – Calendar Revisions
  - Education – New Course

- Intellectual Property Policy (recommending that the Policy be rescinded, with guidelines to be put in place) – This item of business will be considered at the Board of Regents meeting scheduled for December 4, 2014.
- b. Convocation was a success. It was nice to see the PhD's on stage. Dr. Side assisted with hooding the graduates at Friday night's session.
- c. For information, the updated guidelines and policy for Postdoctoral Fellows is now on-line.

5. REPORT OF THE GRADUATE STUDENTS' UNION

- a. Mr. Al-alaily presented the GSU report. The President of the GSU resigned. A new President should be assigned by October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

6. STANDING COMMITTEES

- a. Academic Council Executive

- i) Earth Sciences – Calendar Revision

The Department of Earth Sciences is requesting approval of the proposed revision to regulation 25.11.2 and 31.8.2., which will revise the listing of new course EASC 6105 'Advanced Field Course in Applied Geophysics', to now read EASC 6105 'Advanced Course in Applied Geophysics (may be offered in accelerated format).

It was moved by Dr. MacKinnon, and seconded by Dr. Arnold, that the proposed revision be approved. The motion

CARRIED

- ii) Anthropology – Calendar Revisions

The Department of Anthropology is recommending approval of the proposed revision to regulation 30.1.1., which increases the number of courses that Doctoral students are required to complete in the first year of study, from two to four courses.

It was moved by Dr. MacKinnon and seconded by Ms. Lord, that the proposed revision be approved.

Discussion:

A concern raised by Kat Lord was the time to completion for graduate students on campus, with the adding of two additional courses, rather than refining the comprehensive examination. The rationale provided was understandable, but the question asked was if there was consultation with the graduate students regarding this.

It was noted that attrition is not a concern here. It was also noted that there may be more courses in regard to increasing the number of required courses from two to four, but it is not excessive.

Ms. Lord also noted that more open discussions need to be had regarding comprehensive examinations. Some students feel stuck in the process and it is believed that some issues stay at the departmental level rather than at the higher levels. Dr. Murrin stated that we are open to better ways to do comprehensive examinations but sometimes it is difficult to apply general rules when there is a variety of ways that comprehensives are offered.

On the call for question, one opposed, the motion

CARRIED

Regulation 30.1.1. will now read:

Students will normally be required to successfully complete ~~two~~ four courses during their first three semesters in the program: Anthropology 6300 and 6890, and two other courses, to be determined by the supervisory committee. The supervisory committee may require the candidates to complete additional graduate courses.

iii) Folklore MA – Calendar Revisions

The Department of Folklore is requesting approval of a calendar revision to regulation 8.12.2.c.i, to insert the word ‘normally’ in the description of required courses, outlined in the program of study for the M.A. with Public and Applied Folklore Co-Operative Education Work Term. This will allow more flexibility when required.

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

CARRIED

Regulation 8.12.2.c.i. will now read:

**M.A. With Public and Applied Folklore Co-operative Education Work Terms:**

- i. Students choosing to do the M.A. with Public and Applied Folklore Co-operative Education option must normally complete a minimum of 24 credit hours plus two co-operative education work terms. Normally, ~~the~~ required courses are:

iv) Folklore PhD – Calendar Revisions

The Department of Folklore is requesting approval of calendar revisions to regulation 31.14.1., item 4, governing comprehensive examinations, which clarifies that there is an option of re-examination for comprehensive examinations.

It was moved by Dr. MacKinnon, and seconded by Dr. Doré, that the proposed revision be approved. The motion

CARRIED

Regulation 31.14.1., item 4.a, will now read:

The Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination shall be administered in accordance with General Regulations, Comprehensive Examinations. Candidates will prepare for three examinations by undertaking supervised readings in three fields decided by the Comprehensive Examinations Committee. The basic principle is to integrate knowledge within specific areas of folklore and folklife scholarship. The examination normally will be written with the format to be determined by the Comprehensive Examination Committee in consultation with the student. Assessment will be based on the examination of three papers each of one week duration or three open book examinations each of eight hour duration. The Committee will recommend to the Dean of Graduate Studies a grade of ~~PAS (pass), FAL (fail), or PWD (pass with distinction)~~. The committee will recommend to the Dean of Graduate Studies a grade of PWD (pass with distinction), PAS (pass), REX (re-examination), FAL (fail).

v) History MA – Calendar Revisions

The Department of History is requesting revisions to regulation 8.16.1., which clarifies that students must successfully complete HIST 6190 prior to taking HIST 6200; and students will need to successfully complete HIST 6200 before writing the Major Research Paper or thesis. This will ensure that students complete the courses in the logical sequence.

It was moved by Dr. MacKinnon, and seconded by Dr. Doré, that the proposed changes be approved. The motion

CARRIED

Regulation 8.16.1. will now read:

**8.16.1 Program of Study**

1. The Department of History offers M.A. programs in a broad range of geographical and thematic areas. Students in the M.A. program will choose a thesis or non-thesis option.
2. M.A. candidates who choose the non-thesis option shall complete a minimum of 24 credit hours, 18 of which shall normally be 6190, 6200, and 6999.
3. M.A. candidates who choose the thesis option shall complete 9 credit hours, 6 of which shall normally be 6190 and 6200, plus a thesis.

4. Students will be required to successfully complete HIST 6190 prior to taking HIST 6200.
5. Students will be required to successfully complete HIST 6200 before writing the Major Research Paper or thesis.
6. Where a student's major research project requires him or her to read a language other than English, he or she must demonstrate a reading knowledge of this language through an exam or other method subject to the approval of the Graduate Committee.

vi) Political Science MA – Calendar Revisions

The Department of Political Science is requesting approval of a revision to regulation 7.19.1. which alters the course requirements for the Master of Arts Program, to allow students greater flexibility in course selection.

It was moved by Dr. MacKinnon and seconded by Dr. Matthews, that the proposed revisions be approved. The motion

CARRIED

Regulation 7.19.1. will now read:

**8.19.1 Program of Study**

The Degree of Master of Arts is offered in Political Science by full-time and part-time study.

The degree of Master of Arts (M.A.) in Political Science may be taken by course work and thesis, course work and internship, or course work and research paper. The thesis, internship, and research paper options are available to full-time students. The M.A. with thesis is a two-year program. The internship and research paper options are one year programs for full-time students. The thesis and research paper options are open to part-time students.

**1.M.A. with Thesis:**

- a. Students choosing the M.A. with thesis must normally complete a minimum of 12 credit hours in political science graduate program courses. These 12 credit hours are from required courses: 6000, 6010, and 2 subfield surveys (two of 6100, 6200, 6300, 6400, 6500, 6600, or 6700). 3 credit hours must be attained from either POSC 6000 or 6010. Further courses beyond the minimum number may be required, depending on the background and needs of the student.
- b. Each student choosing the thesis option will submit a thesis on a subject that has been approved by the supervisory committee of the Department.

- c. Students applying for the thesis option must submit a brief (one page maximum) statement of their research interest with their application.

**2.M.A. with Internship:**

- a. Students choosing the M.A. with internship must normally complete a minimum of 24 credit hours in political science graduate program courses. ~~Twenty-one credit hours are from required courses: 6000, 6010, 6030, 6031, 6790, and a subfield survey (one of 6100, 6200, 6300, 6400, 6500, 6600, or 6700).~~ 12 credit hours must be attained from POSC 6030, 6031, and 6790. 3 credit hours must be attained from either POSC 6000 or 6010. Further courses beyond the minimum number may be required, depending on the background and needs of the student.
- b. Each student choosing this option will complete, normally in the Spring semester, a one-semester, full-time internship, 6030, with a political organization, government agency, or voluntary agency. Students registering for 6030 must also register for its co-requisite, 6031. The placement must normally be selected from a list of approved organizations that is maintained by the Department.

**3.M.A. with Research Paper:**

- a. Students ~~who choose~~ choosing the M.A. with research paper ~~option shall~~ must complete a minimum of 24 credit hours in political science graduate program courses, fifteen of which shall normally be 6000, 6010, and 6999. 9 credit hours must be attained from POSC 6999, 3 credit hours must be attained from either POSC 6000 or 6010.
- b. The selection of a topic for the research paper must be approved by a faculty supervisor who will be chosen in consultation with the Department Head. The paper will be graded by the supervisor and one other member of the faculty, either from within the Department or the Department of a cognate discipline.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Presentation – Strategic Internationalization Plan 2020

On behalf of Dr. Gosine, Vice President (Research) *pro tempore*, Sonja Knutson, Director of the International Centre, and Special Advisor to the President on International Affairs, gave a presentation on the Strategic Internationalization Plan 2020. The overview included the recommendations and actions of this document.

Discussion

The purpose of the presentation is to receive input from the University community, with a timeline of January 2015 to launch this paper and its goals. This document is especially important to SGS, with its anticipation of growing its international cohort.

Ms. Lord extended compliments for putting together this document, as it is important, but did express that many of the goals cannot be reached. She expressed how many international students do not feel welcomed, outside of MUN. A hospitable climate does

not exist. Many businesses do not understand diversity. Sidewalk clearing during the winter months is an issue as most international students do not have cars. Many who come here cannot wait to leave the Province.

Ms. Knutson pointed out that her office works with the community and when this plan is implemented, there will be more trained intercultural staff. They are seeing it from another's viewpoint and how to act better and see the world through a different lens.

Ms. Lord was asked to suggest other language throughout this document, if this is not coming through in the existing one. Comments will be received until October 28<sup>th</sup>.

- b. Dr. Doré presented a motion regarding Intellectual Property, that was mentioned in item 4. of the agenda: specifically for Academic Council to allow academic units to develop their own best practices /guidelines relating to Intellectual Property.

The Chair indicated that it would be preferred if they could meet in the first instance regarding this issue, given that the School of Graduate Studies is preparing guidelines to govern Intellectual Property, following the rescinding of the existing SGS policy. The general guidelines would complement the University policy governing Intellectual Property.

- 8. NOTICE OF MOTION
- 9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned 4:50 pm.

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Faye Murrin, Acting Chair

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Scott MacKinnon, Secretary