

**MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND**  
**Academic Council of the School of Graduate Studies**  
**Minutes, Meeting of January 21, 2019**

**PRESENT:** Dr. A. Surprenant (Chair), Dr. D. Farquharson, Dr. N. Kennedy, Dr. P. Coady, Dr. R. Shannahan, Dr. R. Joy, Dr. H. Zhang, Mr. D. Howse, Dr. J. Doré, Dr. N. Cook, Dr. D. Moralejo, Dr. H. Liu, Dr. J. C. Loredano-Osti, Dr. K. Tahlan, Dr. C. Bottaro, Mr. A. Alkasasbeh, Mr. A. Hossain, V. Campbell, V. Kavanagh, Dr. M. Liboiron, Dr. E. Pittman

**APOLOGIES:** Mr. A. Kim, Dr. M. Gardner, Dr. S. McConnell, Dr. R. Klein, Dr. C. Daley, Ms. S. Jamil, Dr. E. Haven, Mr. M. Auf

**1. MINUTES**

It was moved by Mr. Howse, and seconded by Mr. Alkasasbeh, that the minutes of the meeting held December 17, 2018, be approved with one revision: include V. Kavanagh under the list of attendees. The motion

**CARRIED**

**2. BUSINESS ARISING**

**3. CORRESPONDENCE**

**4. DEAN'S REPORT/REPORT OF SENATE**

- a) The Chair welcomed new members to council: Mr. A. Hossain (Graduate Student Rep), Dr. N. Cooke (Music), Dr. C. Bottaro (Chemistry), and Dr. Helen Zhang (Engineering), who has also agreed to serve as a member of the Academic Council Executive.
- b) A request was forwarded to the VPC for an increase in budget for fellowships. Carol Sullivan assisted with putting together the numbers and we will remain optimistic until we hear further. SGS anticipates a slight decrease in enrolment for in-program, research-based graduate students due to retirement of faculty members. However, we do anticipate an increase in new faculty over the next several years. There is, however, an anticipated increase in course-based masters and part-time graduate students by approximately 1%-2% for Fall 2019.
- c) MUNFA will be voting on a proposal soon. If approved, one issue in the proposal that will be important to SGS is reconsidering Teaching equivalencies across campus. When this committee is appointed, SGS anticipates that this office will be asked to sit as a member given that graduate teaching and graduate supervision is huge. If this is the case, we will be asking for advice.

5. REPORT OF THE GRADUATE STUDENTS' UNION

- a) Mr. Alkawasbeh informed members that the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Aldrich Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Conference, Researchers as Innovators, will be held March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The GSU will be looking for faculty support, and requests that Faculty encourage students to participate. Grenfell campus will also have a contingent of students participating in the Aldrich Conference again this year.
- b) Student Wellness Workshop – Supervisor Relationships and Their Impact on Mental Wellness - February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019, GSU Boardroom (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor – Feild Hall) – Dr. Arn Keeling will facilitate this workshop.

6. a) Academic Council Executive

i. Psychology

The Department of Psychology is requesting approval of revisions to section 4.8.2 governing the PhD and PsyD Comprehensive Examination Committees (reducing number of voting members for the PsyD committee to three (the Chairperson, supervisor, and the Associate Vice-President (Academic) and Dean of Graduate Studies will not vote); sections 25.20 and 34.32 governing the M.Sc. and PhD. Programs in Psychology, to eliminate any application requirements from the calendar. and removes reference to the GRE; and under the Courses listing (34.32.3 – title change to course 6404 which reflects a change in the title of the Master's program that was approved in the past, but missed in this title.

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

Discussion:

A short discussion ensued where there was support for, and against, the reduction in number of voting members. The Chair indicated that this request is being put forward because of accreditation issues. There will remain three faculty members to vote.

On the call for question, the motion (one opposed/two abstentions)

CARRIED

4.8.2 Ph.D. and Psy.D. Comprehensive Examination

- 1. The candidate shall submit to a comprehensive examination, which may be written or oral or both as determined by the academic unit. Candidates shall normally take the examination no later than the end of the seventh semester in the doctoral program. Unless an extension is approved by the

- Dean of Graduate Studies, failure to take the examination at this time will result in the termination of the candidate's program.
2. This examination, whether written or oral, shall be conducted by a Committee appointed by the Dean of Graduate Studies on the recommendation of the academic unit. It shall consist of the Head of the academic unit (or delegate) who shall be the Chairperson, the candidate's Supervisor [or, where a Supervisor has not yet been appointed, the Graduate Officer or Chair of the Graduate Studies (or equivalent) Committee], the Dean of Graduate Studies (or delegate), and at least three other members, the total voting members to be an odd number. For candidates in the Ph.D. program, all AH-members of the Committee including the Chairperson, but excluding the Dean of Graduate Studies, shall be voting members. For candidates in the Psy.D. program, the voting members of the committee shall be clinical psychologists, but will not include Chairperson, the Supervisor, or the Associate Vice-President (Academic) and Dean, Graduate Studies.
  3. In this examination, the candidate must demonstrate a mastery of those sub-disciplines appropriate to the candidate's research area, as defined by the academic unit in which the candidate is a student. Therefore, in order to be eligible to sit the examination, all course requirements must normally be completed. The sub-disciplines upon which the candidate will be examined should be made known to the candidate no later than three months prior to the examination. The candidate must further be able to relate the specialization of the candidate's research to the larger context of these sub-disciplines.
  4. In cases where there are multiple parts to a comprehensive exam, including written and oral parts, a candidate must satisfy all parts of the examination to obtain a pass. The requirements to advance to a later part of the examination are specified in the Degree and Departmental regulations or by the appropriate academic unit.
  5. Members of the Comprehensive Examination Committee shall decide the results of the comprehensive examination as indicated in a.-d. below:
    - a. The category of 'pass with distinction' will be awarded to candidates who demonstrate superior knowledge of their chosen field. This category requires unanimous support of the Comprehensive Examination Committee.
    - b. The category of 'pass' will be awarded to candidates who demonstrate an acceptable knowledge of their chosen area and requires a simple majority vote.
    - c. The category of 're-examination' selects those candidates with an understanding of their research area that lacks sufficient depth and scope as indicated by a simple majority of the Comprehensive Examination Committee. Only one such re-examination is possible and students in this category are not eligible for the award of 'pass with distinction'. If a re-examination is to be held, it must be conducted not less than one month and not more than six months after the first examination. The decision of the voting members of the Committee following this re-examination can only be 'pass' or 'fail' decided by simple majority. Failure will lead to immediate termination of the candidate's program. There is no option for further re-examination.
    - d. Students awarded a 'fail' are deemed, by unanimous vote of the Comprehensive Examination Committee, to be unable to demonstrate an adequate understanding of their research area. The candidate's program is terminated. A simple majority vote will default to the award of 're-examination'.
  6. The Chairperson of the Comprehensive Examination Committee shall report to the Head of the academic unit who shall report to the Dean. The result of the comprehensive examination(s) shall be reported to the candidate by the Dean.

## 25.20 Psychology

[www.mun.ca/sgs/contacts/sgscontacts.php](http://www.mun.ca/sgs/contacts/sgscontacts.php)

[www.mun.ca/science](http://www.mun.ca/science)

[www.mun.ca/psychology](http://www.mun.ca/psychology)

The Degree of Master of Science is offered in Experimental Psychology. The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy is offered in Experimental Psychology. Interested students may wish to consult the sections in the Calendar describing the **Master of Applied Psychological Science (Co-operative)** and the Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Cognitive and Behavioural Ecology programs.

### Applications

~~All applicants are required to submit results from the General section of the Graduate Record Examinations.~~

~~At least one letter of reference should come from someone who is familiar with the applicant's research capability.~~

## 34.32 Psychology

[www.mun.ca/sgs/contacts/sgscontacts.php](http://www.mun.ca/sgs/contacts/sgscontacts.php)

[www.mun.ca/science](http://www.mun.ca/science)

[www.mun.ca/psychology](http://www.mun.ca/psychology)

The Degree of Master of Science (M.Sc.) is offered in Experimental Psychology. Interested students should also see the **Master of Science in Cognitive and Behavioural Ecology**. The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy is offered in Experimental Psychology. Interested students may wish to consult the section in the Calendar describing the **Doctor of Philosophy in Cognitive and Behavioural Ecology program**.

### 34.32.1 Admission

~~1. All applicants are required to submit results from the General section of the Graduate Record Examinations. An applicant must hold either a Master's Degree or an Honours Bachelor's Degree with first class standing to be considered for admission.~~

~~2. At least one letter of reference should come from someone who is familiar with the applicant's research capability.~~

### 34.32.2 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 1 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 2 consists of an oral defence 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.

### 34.32.3 Courses

A selection of the following graduate courses will be offered to meet the requirements of candidates, as far as the resources of the Department will allow.

- 6000 Advanced Statistics in Psychology
- 6001 Research Design
- 6010 Colloquium Series in Psychology (repeatable, non-credit)
- 6100-6130 Special Topics in Experimental Psychology
- 6200 Learning I
- 6201 Learning II
- 6203 Behavioural Pharmacology
- 6210 Behavioural Analysis of Toxins
- 6351 Behavioural Ecology and Sociobiology (*cross-listed as CABE 6351*)
- 6400 Theory and Methods in Social Psychology
- 6401 Social Cognition
- 6402 Group Processes
- 6403 Program Evaluation and Applied Research
- 6404 Project in Applied ~~Social Psychology~~ Psychological Science (*This course is open only to students in the Master of Applied ~~Social Psychology~~ Psychological Science.*)
- 6500 Developmental Psychology I
- 6501 Developmental Psychology II
- 6502 Developmental Changes During Old Age
- 6700 Perception
- 6710 Human Information Processing
- 6720 Human Memory
- 6800 Behavioural Neuroscience I
- 6801 Behavioural Neuroscience II
- 6810 Psychometrics
- 6910 Personality
- 6990 Doctoral Seminar I
- 6991 Doctoral Seminar II
- 6992 Doctoral Seminar in Cognitive and Behavioural Ecology (*cross-listed as CABE 6992*)
- 699A/B Core Graduate Seminar in Psychology

## 7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### a) SGS Diversity Statement

This statement was approved by our Academic Council November 19, 2018. The Chair is asking members to consider ways to operationalize these principles, and would propose the forming of an ad-hoc committee of Academic Council on Diversity. This committee would work on terms of reference; composition of the Committee; and if there should be sub-committees to look at different issues – and to eventually have this committee as a Standing Committee of Academic Council.

It was moved by Dr. Loredo-Osti, and seconded by Dr. Coady that an ad-hoc committee be appointed.

We are sensitive to the labour that is given to diverse faculty and students, and we will ask for volunteers for members of the first ad-hoc committee, ensuring the committee has a diverse representation. There will also be public discussions in the forms of a workshop, or town hall, to ensure broader community input.

It was also acknowledged by V. Campbell that it was great to see SGS bringing forward the issue of operationalizing this Diversity statement.

b) Strategic Enrolment Management

SGS has been updating and revising the Enrolment Management plan and it will be circulated in the near future. It is a road map for moving forward, not only for recruiting, but also for when students arrive here at Memorial.

Dr. Surprenant will also be speaking to individual Faculty Councils regarding the Strategic Enrolment Plan over the next 1-2 semesters.

8. NOTICE OF MOTION

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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Aimée Surprenant, Chair

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Echo Pittman, Secretary