

Minutes of Graduate Education Program Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 25, 2016
11:00 am – 12:30 p.m.
Room 1210

Present: R. Macgregor (Chair), M. Battistella, R. Bendayan, H. Boon, R. Bonin, S. Cadarette, T. Chalikian, T. Chan, C. Cummins, C. Dojo Soeandy, P. Lee, M. Macdonell, L. MacKeigan, L. McCarthy, S. Pang, E. Paradis, C. Serpe, B. Sproule, A. Thompson.

Regrets: C. Allen, C. De Angelis, P. Grootendorst, J. Köhler, L. Kotra, A. Taddio, J. Uetrecht, P. Wells

N.B. Quorum was not met; therefore, items for approval were discussed but not voted on.

1. Review of Minutes from November 12, 2015 meeting

There were no changes suggested to the meeting minutes from November 12, 2015.

2. Items for Approval

a) Renaming of one of the fields (minor modification)

At the previous Graduate Education Committee Meeting, a discussion took place regarding the renaming of the graduate fields to more accurately reflect the research carried out within each.

A proposal was put forth to rename the 'Pharmaceutics and Pharmacokinetics' field to 'Biomolecular Pharmaceutical Sciences' while maintaining the other two fields as 'Clinical, Social, and Administrative Pharmaceutical Sciences' and 'Molecular Pharmacology and Toxicology'. The intention was to have a proposal ready for March 2016 for approval, which would then be submitted to the School of Graduate Studies' (SGS) in time for the next calendar publication. This change would allow for Dean Boon to appoint two coordinators: one for the Clinical, Social, and Administrative Pharmaceutical Sciences' field and the other for the newly named 'Biomolecular Pharmaceutical Sciences' field. This would also give the Faculty a solid direction for marketing and recruiting for the Graduate Department.

The long-term goal is for the 'Molecular Pharmacology and Toxicology' field to be removed completely and the areas of research that fall under that umbrella to be covered by the renamed field, 'Biomolecular Pharmaceutical Sciences'. There would then be two distinct fields under which the various areas of research in the Graduate Department would be listed.

After a discussion, it was decided that the approach to restructuring and renaming the field would be reconsidered and brought forward at the next Graduate Education Committee meeting.

b) Advisory Committee Membership

In November, 2014 the Department held a Graduate Faculty Retreat at which a change to the number of Advisory Committee members was voted on. A majority voted in favour of reducing the number of Advisory Committee members for MSc students to two (supervisor and one internal member) and for PhD students to three (supervisor, one internal member, one external member).

The item was brought to the Curriculum and Assessment Committee for further approval but instead was tabled. The committee recommended it be brought back to the Graduate Education Committee for further discussion.

The discussion that ensued covered not only the committee membership but also the issues of notes and recommendations made on student progress on the Advisory Committee forms, the number of meetings held, the August deadline for annual meetings, and the language about membership composition on the website and forms.

Dr. R. Macgregor will consider assembling a working group to look at Advisory Committee membership and meetings as a whole.

3. Items for Discussion/Information

a) GRIP Update – June 9, 2016

This year's Graduate Research in Progress (GRIP) symposium is scheduled for June 9, 2016 and will be held at Hart House. The abstract deadline for presenters is May 5, and the deadline for seminar groups to submit their speaker's name, picture, and biography is May 13.

This year's plenary speaker is Dr. Marc-Andre Gagnon from Carleton University.

4. Other Business

a) A Faculty picnic will be held on July 8 on the St. George campus. In recent years, the picnic was held at Ashbridges Bay in August and was attended mostly by graduate students and faculty. This year all students, faculty, and staff will be encouraged to attend and family members will also be welcome.

b) Dr. S. Pang, the chair of the Graduate Appointments Committee, spoke about the three levels of appointments: Full members, Associate members (can supervise graduate students with co-supervisors only), and Restricted Associate members (serve on committees, but cannot supervise graduate students). It was determined that the Appointments Committee made changes to member statuses and their restrictions without going through governance for approval and as a result, recently hired professors were provided with incorrect information.

The last approved change and current policy is that Associate Members can supervise master's students without a co-supervisor, but must have a co-supervisor for PhD students (until they have graduated at least one student).

These concerns will be further discussed at the next GEC meeting and any proposed changes will be voted on then.

Meeting adjourned: 12:20 p.m.