



Report to Senate

Committee Name: **Graduate Studies Executive Council (GSEC)**

Date of Meeting: **Highlights from the April 17 and May 8 , 2014 meeting**

J. Scott, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning) provided an overview of the Teaching and Learning Action Plan.

Dean's Report:

B. Brouwer reported that the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities has completed its review of the Strategic Mandate Submission and has discussed graduate allocations through to 2016-17 with each university. Queen's has room to grow at both the Master's and PhD levels, which should allow for the planned expansion of credentials.

At a recent meeting with representatives from the Tri-Councils there was substantial discussion about the Canada Graduate Scholarship-Master's competition. Details about application number and distribution to universities have been requested.

The Queen's 3MT final was a huge success. First place: Michael Best (Psychology), he will represent Queen's at the Provincial final; runner-up: Mary Chatksaris (History); and People's choice: Sima Sakani (Mechanical and Materials Engineering).

Graduate forum (April 8) presentations by J. Parsons on accommodating graduate students with disabilities and S. den Otter on the new online professional development modules are posted on the SGS website.

A draft report from the Times to Completion Task Force has been received by the SGS. It is expected that it will be presented to GSEC in May.

Nominations for the Award for Excellence in Graduate Supervision are due in the SGS by May 29th.

Reports from Faculty Graduate Councils/Committees and SGPS:

Revisions to the SGS Thesis Outcome categories were discussed at most Council/Committee meetings.

The incoming SGPS Vice-president and Senator who will serve on GSEC were introduced.

GSEC approved:

1. Major Modification, Fields of Study, Geological Sciences and Geological Engineering
2. Revisions to SGS Regulation Outcome Categories of the oral thesis examination
3. Fellowship Committee report April 2014
4. Omnibus Report April 2014

Item for discussion: Proposed Policy and Procedures for the Closure of Academic Programs

Item for information: April 2014 application status report

Other business: i) Outgoing SGPS GSEC members were thanked for their contribution and service to graduate studies at Queen's. ii) SGS will investigate posting the GSEC Highlights Report to Senate on the SGS website.

Highlights from the May 8, 2014 meeting

Dean's Report:

GSEC meeting times and dates for the 2014-15 academic session have been circulated to facilitate scheduling and planning of Faculty Graduate Council/Committee meetings.

3MT final took place at McMaster –M. Best (PhD candidate, Psychology) represented Queen's admirably. University of Toronto went home with the trophy...again.

The proposed amendment to exclude graduate fields of study from the *Policy and Procedures on the Closure of Academic Programs* was considered at April's Senate meeting and passed.

The enrolment targets for 2014-15 and 2015-16 and the enrolment projections for 2016-17 were approved by Senate (and subsequently by the Board of Trustees). The SGS will follow-up with faculties and units that have identified a desire to launch new programs to ensure they are aware of the process and timelines to make it happen.

A representative from the federal tri-councils was at the recent Ontario Council on Graduate Studies' (OCGS) retreat to present an analysis of the Canada Graduate Scholarship-Master's (CGS-M) competition: 72% of all 7,300 applications were to one institution; 438 (6%) to 2; 6% to 3; 332 (4.5%) to 4 and 845 (11.5) to 5. OCGS members advocated for the announcement date to be pushed ahead from April 1 to Feb 15th.

The SGS hosted a lunch and debrief meeting for the CGS-M subcommittees. Strategies to improve the process including orienting chairs and members to the review criteria and ranking requirements in advance of reviewing files were discussed.

Reports from Faculty Graduate Councils/Committees and SGPS:

Routine business matters were discussed or approved at recent Council/Committee meetings.

The incoming SGPS Executive members have transitioned into their positions. The SGPS has been invited to participate in the robing of the new University Rector at Spring convocation.

GSEC approved:

1. Fellowship Committee report May 2014
2. Omnibus Report May 2014
3. A motion that GSEC empower the Executive Officers of the School of Graduate Studies to act on behalf of GSEC during the summer period and report to GSEC in the Fall on any substantive actions taken.

4. A motion that GSEC empower the Dean or Associate Dean of SGS, prior to the Spring 2014 convocation ceremonies, to amend the approved Spring 2014 degree list to correct any errors or omissions from the list.

Item for receipt and discussion: Report from the Task Force on Times to Completion. The Task Force Co-Chair R. Pero presented an overview of the report and the key recommendations. The SGS will review the report with the goal to identify an action plan for review and discussion by GSEC in September 2014. A link to the report will be placed on the SGS website.

Item for information: Revised May 2014 application status report

Other business: Outgoing GSEC members were thanked for their contribution and service to graduate studies at Queen's.