



TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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DATE: April 20, 2009

AGENDA ITEM: **4**

ITEM IDENTIFICATION: School of Graduate Studies: Graduate Academic Appeals Board Regulations - Amendment

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee has the authority for approval of changes to academic regulations and other matters affecting divisional calendars, including appeal procedures.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

HIGHLIGHTS:

The School of Graduate Studies proposes minor changes to the regulations of the Graduate Academic Appeals Board (GAAB) as stated in the SGS calendar in order to formalize existing practices within SGS.

Students are currently advised that they may seek mediation or advice from the relevant SGS Vice-Dean “at any stage prior to filing an appeal.” As per the proposed revision, students may seek mediation or advice “before filing and until the hearing of any appeal.” There is an eight-week deadline for filing a Notice of Appeal to GAAB; however, students should be able to seek advice or mediation from the Vice-Dean after this deadline and at any point prior to the actual hearing of the appeal. As well, if there is a perceived or actual conflict of interest with the Vice-Dean, the student will have access to an alternate mediator. The attached calendar entry specifies indicates the revision to the regulations.

This change was first proposed by the Chair of GAAB and has the approval of the Vice-Dean, Students. The proposed Academic Appeals Board terms of reference were approved by the Graduate Education Council on April 21, 2009.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS: N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs approve:

THAT the School of Graduate Studies Graduate Academic Appeals Board change the Academic Appeals: Informal Mediation section of General Regulations in the SGS Calendar as detailed in the attached extract from the SGS Calendar, effective immediately.

Extract from page 25 of the 2008-09 School of Graduate Studies Calendar:

General Regulations

Academic Appeals

Informal Mediation

At any stage before filing and until the hearing of any appeal with the SGS Graduate Academic Appeals Board, a student may consult the relevant SGS Vice-Dean for advice and/or informal mediation. The Vice-Dean will serve as informal mediator, attempting to resolve the dispute or clarify issues. Timelines are not affected by mediation. Consultation with the Vice-Dean at an early stage is encouraged. In cases where the Vice-Dean has approved the termination of a student's registration or in cases where perceived or actual conflict of interest is identified, the student will have access to an alternate informal mediator.