



TO: Academic Board

SPONSOR: Brian Corman, Dean, School of Graduate Studies, and Vice-Provost, Graduate Education

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DATE: November 8, 2010

AGENDA ITEM: 5

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:** School of Graduate Studies (SGS) Constitution: Amendments

### **JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION**

Section 5.2.2 of the Academic Board’s terms of reference calls for revised divisional constitutions to be considered by the Board, and confirmed by the Executive Committee. Amendments to By-laws are approved by divisional councils.

### **PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN**

The SGS Graduate Education Council approved the amended Constitution at its meeting on October 19, 2010, and is hereby recommending the changes to the Academic Board.

The SGS Constitution was last revised in 2006 and in 1997 before that. The 2006 revisions were associated with the increasing alignment of Faculties (divisions) and the School of Graduate Studies regarding graduate programs, and with changes in administrative structures within the School of Graduate Studies. These changes were made in the context of a work conducted by a “Governance Steering Group”, a committee that reported to a Graduate Education Coordinating Committee. The Coordinating Committee arose from the 2004 University review of the School of Graduate Studies (SGS). The 1997 changes arose from a major restructuring of SGS implemented at that time.

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

As in the previous two constitutional revisions, substantial changes have led to the proposed Constitution amendments that are herein presented. Dramatic changes in quality assurance procedures for graduate (and undergraduate) programs are underway in the Province of Ontario and at U of T. These align with the ending of the approval function of the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies (OCGS) for graduate program proposals and graduate program review. These OCGS functions will cease during the academic year 2010-11. Ontario’s new Quality Council (QC) and Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) will function in place of OCGS in this regard. The proposed University of Toronto’s Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP) outlines changes to governance and administrative procedures for new program proposals, major modifications to programs, and minor modifications.

The proposed changes to the Constitution address new and amended procedures that result from the changes noted above. They also adjust language for graduate faculty memberships in accordance with University appointment policies and procedures and clarify the role of SGS in the process. The

language has been developed collaboratively between SGS and the Office of the Vice-Provost, Faculty and Academic Life. In addition, some reformatting and editorial updating have also been incorporated. Proposed changes to the SGS Constitution are listed as a two-page cover document to the revised Constitution, attached. Significant changes are highlighted in yellow.

The draft revised Constitution has been reviewed by the Provost's office and by the Office of the Governing Council. It was circulated to the members of the Council of Graduate Deans and beyond to include all Faculty Deans for discussion and feedback. Feedback has been positive. In some cases, where changes were suggested, adjustments have been made to the language.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:** No direct financial implications.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

THAT the amended Constitution of the School of Graduate Studies (SGS), approved by the SGS Graduate Education Council on October 19, 2010 be approved by the Academic Board and confirmed by the Executive Committee, effective January 1, 2011.