

October 2010

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES CONSTITUTION: Fall 2010 Revisions

(text below in Yellow indicates significant changes)

Summary of revisions:

GENERAL:

Clause 1: Exercise of powers and duties under the U of T Act amended to refer to School of Graduate Studies as well as the Council; words "subject to the approval of Governing Council as required" added as an umbrella clause.

Clause 2: Amendments made to indicate more clearly the range of responsibilities of the School of Graduate Studies.

Clause 3: Items added to "DEFINITIONS" section for ease of reading and clarity.

GRADUATE EDUCATION COUNCIL:

Clause 4.1: Changes proposed to clarify and simplify nomination procedures for elections of members; some detail removed from the Constitution and added to the Rules of Council, By-law #1.

Clause 4.1.f.: GSU President's position has been eliminated; the GSU now includes several elected commissioners – the commissioner designated for GEC membership is the Academics Commissioner.

Clause 4.2.: Set out Officers of Council, adding the Secretary as a non-voting officer (removed in error from an earlier version of Constitution).

(new) Clause 4.3.c. (replacing old f.): Renumbered clause amended to remove reference to Council responsibility to approve the "requirements to be fulfilled for each graduate degree or diploma"; other responsibilities clarified through revised wording; the proposed wording arises from revised graduate governance procedures in the University, i.e., effective January 1, 2011, divisions (Faculties) with graduate programs will be responsible for approval of minor modifications to graduate programs including admission requirements, graduate courses and other academic assessments or activities, curriculum changes following SGS policies and procedures; new programs require Faculty-level approval and are subject to approval of Academic Board and its committees and Governing Council, as appropriate.

(old) Clause 4.3.d. (original numbering – now removed): Role of SGS Graduate Education Council in establishment of graduate units is removed. Until approximately four or five years ago, SGS Council approved graduate unit establishment, name changes, etc. In recent years, this responsibility is viewed as residing with the Faculties and Governing Council and its committees. Council responsibility for "interdepartmental committees" (i.e. "collaborative program committees") is removed – these duties fall within collaborative program director responsibilities as defined through SGS guidelines.

(new) Clause 4.3.d (revised): Amended wording related to graduate awards policies to clarify that Council's responsibilities involve graduate awards within SGS's jurisdiction.

Clause 4.3.e.: Amended wording about conditions of graduate awards clarifies that Council's responsibilities involve conditions of awards within SGS's jurisdiction only.

(old) Clause 4.3.e. (original numbering – now removed): Role of SGS Graduate Education Council in determining the list of graduate departments and extra-departmental units comprising each division moved to Dean's responsibilities (Clause 5.3.g.)

Clause 4.3.f.: Add clause regarding responsibility of Council to establish policy for approval and membership in the graduate faculty.

Clause 4.4: Add new section regarding meetings of Council with previous language moved to this section.

DEAN:

Clause 5.3.e.: Formalize the role of the SGS Dean in reviewing and confirming the recommendation of appointment for a graduate unit chair/director by a Faculty Dean.

Clause 5.3.f.: Add clause giving SGS Dean the responsibility to appoint Directors of Collaborative Programs, reflecting long-standing practice.

Clause 5.3.g.: Move the authority to determine the list of units in each SGS division from the GEC to the Dean's responsibilities.

Clause 5.3.h.: Formalize the role of the SGS Dean for the content and production of the SGS Calendar.

Clause 5.3.i.: Identify responsibility of the Dean to implement and oversee maintain graduate faculty membership policy and to recommend changes to the Council

Clause 5.3.j.: Identify responsibility of the Dean to establish procedures for graduate faculty membership and review and approve all memberships to ensure that they are made in accordance with University and SGS policies and procedures.

Clause 5.3.o.: Clarify the Dean's role in various codes and policies.

Clause 7.2: Change the authority from Council to the Dean regarding any changes to the number of SGS divisions.

Clause 7.3: Similar changes to 7.2

Clause 7.4: Similar changes to 7.2

SGS CENTRES/INSTITUTES REFERENCES:

(old) Clauses 9 & 10: Remove references to SGS Centres and Institutes

(new) Clause 9: Incorporate Chair section with "Powers and Duties of Chairs" section.

(see also (old) clause 11 below)

CHAIR OF A GRADUATE UNIT:

Clause 9.2.b. through e.: adjust language for graduate faculty memberships in accordance with University appointment policies and procedures; changes include replacing "approve" graduate faculty membership with "initiate"; change all references to "appointment to graduate faculty" to "membership to graduate faculty" in order to avoid confusion between University appointment procedures and graduate faculty memberships.

Clause 9.2.f.: Change graduate "supervisor" to "advisor/supervisor"

Clause 9.2.g.: Clarifying chair's responsibility to ensure that courses, admission and program requirements, etc. are duly approved.

Clause 9.2.h.: Insert chair's responsibility for appropriate approval and accuracy of SGS Calendar content regarding the unit's graduate program/s.

Clause 9.2.k.: Add language to clarify that Program Directors may be appointed from among the unit's graduate faculty members in graduate units with multiple graduate programs.

(old) Clause 10: References to SGS Centres and Institutes removed.

(new) Clause 10: Procedural clauses added for Constitutional review and amendment according to standard practice.

(old) Clause 11: Entire section 11 is deleted. The particulars associated with collaborative programs, combined programs, etc. are accommodated through graduate program definitions established by SGS and the Vice-Provost, Grad Ed., and various guidelines, not in the Constitution. Collaborative program director appointments are now covered in the Dean's responsibilities.

(new) Clause 11: Reference to by-laws and procedures added according to standard practice.

Editorial changes:

Constitution: Regularized, simplified and modernized language is introduced throughout Constitution.