



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

Appendix "J" of
Report Number 142 of the
Academic Board
March 30, 2006

TO: Academic Board

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DATE: March 7, 2006

AGENDA ITEM:

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

School of Graduate Studies: Constitution - Revised

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Section 5.2.2 of the Academic Board's terms of reference calls for new or 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 current Statute of the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) was approved by the Executive Committee on September 8, 1997. This revised Constitution was approved by the SGS Council on February 22, 2006.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Changes to the SGS Constitution (previously known as the "Statute") are required as a result of the changes to graduate education governance and to the administration of the School. The revisions are of two types: (1) changes resulting directly from the changes to graduate governance, and; (2) changes that result from bringing the Constitution in line with current University practices and references.

The Task Force on Graduate Education (2005) recommended that, in relation to the governance of graduate programs, governance functions should be aligned so that they "appropriately reflect Faculty and Graduate School responsibilities". Consistent with the recommendations of the Task Force, a Working Group on Governance was charged with developing standardized reporting systems and identifying expectations for Faculty protocols. Recommendations of the Governance Working Group were reported for information to Academic Board on January 12, 2006 in the "*Proposal for Changes to Governance Routing with Respect to Graduate Programs*"¹. SGS Council accepted the *Proposal* at its meeting of January 24, 2006. As a result of the report, SGS Constitution revisions are required.

The report proposed that many program changes that have been the responsibility of SGS divisional executive committees will instead be approved within each Faculty. These Faculty approvals will take place within a framework that will provide for broad consultation and the monitoring of quality. Specifically, approval of graduate courses and minor program changes will be the responsibility of the Faculties and the Faculties will report to the Graduate Education Council (GEC) on these functions. Major program changes and new program proposals will be reviewed and approved at the Faculty level prior to being forwarded to the GEC for its approval. The four divisional SGS Executive Committees will be replaced by two standing committees of GEC. These two multidisciplinary

¹ <http://www.utoronto.ca/govcncl/bac/details/ab/2005-06/aba20060112-09ii.pdf>
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committees will be organized around Student Matters and Program Matters. Membership in each of the committees will span the four divisions, and will include both graduate faculty and graduate students. The GEC will be primarily concerned with high-level functions, such as major program changes or initiatives, and policy review and implementation. The Graduate Education Council will remain the core body for matters of policy within our unitary Graduate School, and for matters going forward to OCGS.

The Task Force also recommended changes to the administration of the School of Graduate Studies. The Dean's position was changed effective July 1, 2005 to become the Dean and Vice-Provost, Graduate Education. Consistent with the recommendations of the Governance Working Group, the four Associate Dean positions and their functions are removed from the Constitution and language is modified to accommodate more than one Vice-Dean. Vice-Deans will each oversee one of two new standing committees of Council, the Committee on Student Matters, and the Committee on Program Matters. These committees will be well-positioned to review graduate education issues, and to consider and revise policies that affect the institution, preparing discussion papers, reports or recommendations for the Dean and Vice-Provost, or the GEC. Constitution revisions have been made to allow for these changes and activities.

The above changes in graduate governance have been incorporated into the text of the attached revised SGS Constitution. Other changes result from bringing the Constitution in line with current University practices and references.

A constitution workshop was held by the Office of Governing Council on January 19, 2006 with participation of all the University divisions. Constitutions are currently being reviewed and revised within the Faculties in order to align them with the new graduate governance procedures. Any resulting changes to these constitutions will be brought forth to Academic Board. Graduate governance changes to the terms of reference of the Committee of Academic Policy and Programs were approved at the meeting on March 1, 2006.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

Revisions to the SGS Constitution and related governance processes have been made with the approval of the Provost and are in line with the recommendations of the Task Force on Graduate Education Report of April 2005. There will not be a direct financial impact from these changes. It is anticipated that transitional costs associated with training and electronic support will be accommodated within the existing budget of the School of Graduate Studies, and the Faculties.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Constitution of the School of Graduate Studies, approved by the SGS Council on February 22, 2006, be approved.