

December, 2004

A Proposal to Offer a New In-Program Degree, the Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.)

This is a proposal for an in-program graduate degree to be instituted at the University of Toronto, to be known as the Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.). Doctoral students in programs that have incorporated the degree will receive it *en route* to the Ph.D., when they have completed all requirements for the Ph.D., exclusive of the thesis. The effective date will be the date upon which the first doctoral program follows the steps outlined below and is authorized to offer the degree. The degree will not be awarded retroactively.

The reasons for this initiative are all based on the premise that graduate students who are engaged in a long, complex degree program can benefit from the identification of scholarly milestones that can affirm their progress and empower them to complete their work. In programs where this type of degree is consistent with scholarly traditions, the presence of the M.Phil. will be a useful recruitment tool, especially in the context of direct entry doctoral programs. Discussions with current graduate students indicate that the years between the completion of one degree and the next can be long, and that creating a way to mark real achievements in an official way would be appreciated. We reject the concept of an in-program M.A. or M.Sc. that functions as a time marker or as a failed Ph.D. The creation of a new degree with rigorous criteria is in keeping with our academic standards and aspirations. The M.Phil. will be awarded for the completion of a significant portion of the work required toward the Ph.D. Candidates for the Ph.D. who have been awarded the M.Phil. will not be eligible to transfer from the Ph.D. to an MA/MSc program. Ultimately, the Ph.D. will be awarded when the dissertation and its successful defense are also completed.

The following criteria will apply to the In-Program Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) degree:

1. The M.Phil. degree will be conferred only as an in-program degree on candidates for the Ph.D., who are in good academic standing, according to the General Regulations of the *SGS Calendar*.
2. The requirement for the M.Phil. degree will be that the candidate has completed all requirements for the Ph.D. degree exclusive of the thesis, including course requirements, language requirements and departmental examinations.
3. Only graduate units whose requirements for the Ph.D. degree include substantial pre-thesis program requirements, such as significant course requirements, departmental qualifying examinations, and language requirements, will offer the M.Phil. degree.

Normally, a graduate unit will be authorized to award the M.Phil. degree:

- a. To candidates admitted on the basis of a bachelor's degree only when its program requirements for this category of student include the completion of at least five full-course equivalent graduate courses and a departmental qualifying examination; and
- b. To candidates admitted on the basis of a master's degree only when its program requirements for this category of student include the completion of at

least three full-course equivalent graduate courses (exclusive of any taken in the master's program) and a departmental qualifying examination.

This proposal has been discussed on two occasions by each of the four divisional SGS Executive Committees, and was extensively debated at two meetings of SGS Council prior to the January 27, 2004, meeting at which it was passed by Council. Discussion at a meeting of SGS Council on October 26 affirmed that the Council wishes to see this proposal go forward. The proposal was presented to the GSU General Council in November, 2003. A motion of GSU support for the M.Phil. proposal received almost unanimous support at that meeting. A reaffirmation of that support is given in a letter from the current GSU President (attached).

Discussion at OCGS Council (June, 2004) indicates that they support the concept. If approved by University of Toronto governance, the degree requirements will be considered by the OCGS Appraisals Committee. Subsequent to their acceptance of the guiding principles (as above), *each graduate unit at University of Toronto can decide whether the awarding of this degree is consistent with its disciplinary culture.* A proposal from a graduate unit to offer this degree within an existing Ph.D. program will require the approval of the relevant divisional graduate executive committee as well as SGS Council. The existence of the M.Phil. will be an aspect of the next periodic appraisal of that doctoral program, but the act of adding it will not necessitate an appraisal.

The resources required to incorporate an in-course degree are modest. The M.Phil. will be awarded only in absentia. Graduate units awarding the M.Phil. degree will inform SGS when eligible candidates in their graduate units have completed the requirements for the degree. These students will receive a notation on their transcripts saying that they have been awarded an M.Phil. degree. Diplomas will be produced and conveyed to the students on a biannual basis. There will be some modest one-time cost associated with putting registration measures into place, and ongoing costs associated with file notation and diploma production. To give some sense of the maximum number of students who might reach this stage of achievement each year, the numbers of doctoral students who are currently registered in Year 4 are: Division I: 125 students in 21 programs; Division II: 227 in 21 programs; Division III: 203 in 14 programs; Division IV: 230 in 21 programs. Discussions suggest that there is particularly strong support for the degree among programs in Divisions I and II. It is intended that currently registered students and future students in programs that elect to offer the M.Phil. will be eligible for it. Students who have lapsed, and former students who have completed their Ph.D. are not eligible.

At a number of major North American research universities a similar in-program Master of Philosophy degree is offered, i.e., a degree awarded en route to the Ph.D. when the candidate has completed an advanced stage of the Ph.D. program. A list of representative peer institutions, both public and private, is attached. The information was gathered from institutional publications in 2003. The U of T proposal is most similar to the Yale model.



GRADUATE STUDENTS' UNION

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
LOCAL 19, CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

November 08, 2004

Professor Susan Pfeiffer
Dean, School of Graduate Studies
University of Toronto

Re: Proposal for Degree of Master of Philosophy

Dear Dean Pfeiffer,

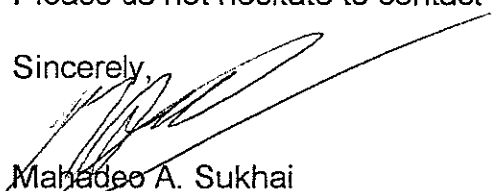
Please find attached the minutes of the November 24, 2003 GSU General Council meeting at which Associate Dean (Division I) Bernard Katz presented the proposal for the M.Phil. degree.

Based on the discussion outlined in the minutes, the GSU Council passed a motion of support for the M.Phil. proposal.

We would therefore be pleased to assist the School of Graduate Studies in working toward the realization of the M.Phil. as an in-program degree for doctoral stream students.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,



Mahadeo A. Sukhai
GSU President 2004-2005



GRADUATE STUDENTS' UNION
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
LOCAL 19, CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

~~Draft~~ Minutes of GSU Council, 24 November, 2003

(For December Approval. Send changes to secretary.gsu@utoronto.ca)

This document is available in large-print and electronic formats.

Agenda:

- [1] MPhil Proposal: Guest: Prof. B. Katz
- [2]
 - (a) Agenda
 - (b) Roll call
 - (c) Minutes
 - (d) Business Arising from the Minutes
 - (e) Course Union Reports
 - (f) OPIRG Report
- [3] Report of the Canadian Federation of Students AGM
- [4] Focus Committee Reports
- [5] Items for Information
 - (a) Housing
 - (b) White Paper
 - (c) Breaking Down the Barriers
- [6] Tuition Fee Campaign
- [7] Executive and Staff Reports
- [8] Reports (Governing Council/SGS/CUPE 3902)
- [9] Falun Gong Motion
- [10] Other Business

Attachments:

- <1> Items included in Council mailing and meeting
- <2> Rollcall

Meeting Commenced at 6:10pm.

Mahadeo Sukhai told the Council that as Vice-Chair, he would act as Chair for this meeting, and expressed the regrets of Chair Kristen Beard.

[1] Guest: Prof. B. Katz

- Professor Bernard Katz (Associate-Dean, Graduate Studies, Division I [Humanities]) presented the MPhil proposal.
 - MPhil degrees are awarded at many peer institutions, but U of T is not considering it based on this, but rather based on its academic merit.
 - The proposal is to give students who are "ABD" (all but dissertation) a degree.
 - MPhil would be useful both for people with and without an MA – it indicated substantially more work than an MA.

of the program due to unsatisfactory progress; it is not a consolation prize.
Having an additional degree cannot hurt people.

- Question: How does the MPhil help people in the Humanities?
 - People have to apply for positions before finishing their degree, so having this milestone will recognize their progress.

Executive Motion:

**BIRT the GSU support the MPhil proposal.
Carried (Opposed: Mark Szczerba (UTSC))**

[2]

(a) Agenda

- Kendra Coulter requested "Report of the Canadian Federation of Students AGM" be added as item [3]

**Motion to approve the agenda as amended.
Olley (HAPSAT) / Dobson (English) Carried**

(b) Roll call

(c) Minutes

**Motion to approve minutes of GSU Council, October 27, 2003.
Bell (History) / Olley (HAPSAT) Carried**

(d) Business Arising from the Minutes

- Aaron mentioned that there is a handout about the GSU cash position for information of those who asked at the last meeting.

(e) Course Union Reports

- Richard Krueger, Computer Science: A large number of students in his department have not been paid their guaranteed funding yet this year. There are many reasons, including administrative difficulties. A member replied that her department is encouraging hiring undergraduates or that graduate students should accept a lower rate. Kit Dobson replied that such a proposal would be a breach of the CUPE 3902 Collective Agreement.
- Lisa Gallant, Drama: many of the shows at the Graduate Centre for Drama are not attended well. She requested Councillors spread the word about the performances.
- Cora McCloy, Exercise Science: asked about the Doctoral Completion Grant. Charlotte explained the process and said that if there is a problem, students should contact Carolyn Johnson. A member from Botany suggested SGS should email all year 5 and 6 students to publicize the program. A member from Chemistry mentioned that his department subtracts the amount of the Doctoral Completion Grant from fifth year funding.
- Vanessa Lopak, Psychology: mentioned that there are issues of low graduate course selection. Faculty are not stepping forward to teach because there is such demand that all classes become overloaded. The Course Union is asking for more courses, and a 3 year projection of what courses are being offered. They only know what courses will be offered about a month before term starts, and this causes problems for people

**SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES
M.PHIL. AND IN-PROGRAM MASTERS
IN 10 PEER UNIVERSITIES* AND SELECTED
US PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES**

UNIVERSITY	M.PHIL	IN-PROGRAM(IP) MASTERS	NOTES
Ten Peer Public Universities			
University of Arizona	No	Yes	
University of California – Berkeley	Yes (C.Phil.)	Yes	C.Phil. degree may be awarded to students who have completed all degree requirements except the dissertation.
University of Illinois	No	Yes	
University of Michigan at Ann Arbor	No	Yes	
University of Minnesota	No	Yes	
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	No.	No	No specific reference in website/calendar.
Ohio State University	No	Yes	
Rutgers University	Yes	Yes	M.Phil. is offered by certain Ph.D. programs to students who achieve records of distinction during the pre dissertation phase of those programs.
University of Texas at Austin	No	No	
University of Washington, Seattle	No	Yes	
US Private Universities			
University of Chicago	No	Yes	
Stanford University	No	Yes	A small # of departments offer IP masters.
Harvard University	No	Yes	Most departments offer IP masters. It is an option for students if they qualify or if they are unable to continue in the Ph.D. program.
Princeton University	No	Yes	
MIT	No	Yes	Many departments make it possible for a graduate student to pursue a simultaneous masters degree
Columbia University	Yes	Yes	Most departments in Arts & Science offer a M.Phil on route to Ph.D.
Yale University	Yes	Yes	M.Phil is a degree en route to the Ph.D. Not all departments offer the M.Phil.
Cornell University	No	Yes	Some fields do not normally accept students into a terminal master's degree program, but may award a master's degree as part of the Ph.D. program.

*10 Peer Universities selected by the Planning and Budget Office, as having a strong research focus, offer a breadth of programs and are similar in size to U of T.