



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

SPONSOR: Edith Hillan
CONTACT INFO: edith.hillan@utoronto.ca

DATE: November 30, 2004 for December 8, 2004

AGENDA ITEM: 5

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

School of Graduate Studies: Proposal for an In-Program Master of Philosophy Degree (M.Phil.)

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee has the authority to recommend to Academic Board for approval changes that establish a new degree program.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

November 24, 2003 – Graduate Students Union Council – Proposal carried

January 27, 2004 – Proposal passed by School of Graduate Studies Council

May 12, 2004 – Proposal brought forth to the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs. Proposal referred back to administration with the advice that a revised proposal include the following:

- A clearly defined set of criteria to determine the completion an M.Phil.;
- A response to the concern that the proposal introduced an inequity in graduate programs;
- A more complete response to the concern that the degree a reward for non-completion of doctoral programs; and
- Additional supporting documentation from the School of Graduate Studies on the reasons for its support of the degree.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The proposed In-Program M.Phil. graduate degree (see attached summary) would be instituted at the University of Toronto and awarded only to students enrolled in Ph.D. programs that have incorporated the degree. Students would receive this degree en route to the Ph.D., when they have completed all requirements for the degree exclusive of the thesis. Criteria for the determination of the completion of the degree are outlined in the attached summary.

The reasons for the proposal 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. The School of Graduate Studies believes that the presence of the M.Phil., in programs where this type of degree is consistent with scholarly traditions, will be a useful recruitment tool.

After the original proposal was referred back to the administration by AP&P at its May meeting, the proposal was discussed again at the School of Graduate Studies Council on October 26, 2004 and affirmed by the Council with a recommendation to go forth to University Governance with the

additional information requested by AP&P. The proposal was discussed with Principals and Deans on November 25, 2004 and was endorsed by them.

If approved by Governing Council, the proposal for the new degree would go forth to the OCGS Appraisals Committee for consideration of the degree requirements. Subsequent to OCGS acceptance of the guiding principles, **each graduate unit would decide for itself whether the awarding of this degree to its students is consistent with its doctoral program and disciplinary culture and as outlined in the criteria outlined in the attached summary.** A proposal from a graduate unit to offer this degree will require the approval of the relevant divisional executive committee as well as the SGS Council. 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.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

The M.Phil. will be awarded only in absentia; there will be a diploma and a notation on a student's transcript indicating they have been awarded an M.Phil. degree. A modest ROSI upgrade will be required to implement the new degree. There will be some modest ongoing costs associated with the awarding of the degree. These costs will be handled in the same manner as for other degree programs.

The proposal will be going forth to Planning and Budget at the December 7 meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs recommend to the Academic Board for approval:

THAT the School of Graduate Studies proposal for an In-Program Master of Philosophy Degree (M.Phil.) as specified in the attached letter from the School dated November, 2004 be approved.

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,

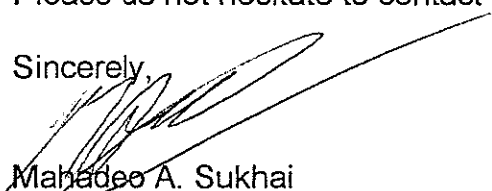
Please find attached the minutes of the November 24, 2003 GSU General Council meeting at which Associate Dean (Division I) Bernard Katz presented the proposal for the M.Phil. degree.

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.

January, 2005
School of Graduate Studies
University of Toronto

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

Matters arose during the discussion of this proposal at the December 8, 2004, meeting of the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs. The following information is provided as a supplement to the proposal, in response to queries tabled at that time.

Is it appropriate to offer “two degrees for the same work completed”?

As was noted at AP&P, the proposed M.Phil. resembles in this regard the (now defunct) three-year Bachelor of Arts degree, which stood on a student's record if the student subsequently completed a four-year Bachelor of Arts degree. Other examples of current practice that allow coursework to be counted toward more than one degree are graduate diplomas within graduate programs, and combined graduate degrees.

Is it expected to have an effect on time to degree?

It is not expected that the presence of the M.Phil. in units who elect to offer it will have a major impact on time to completion, but it may have a salutary effect, as suggested by a Dean from Columbia (below). A Dean from Yale offered the opinion that it did not have much effect on time to degree, but does likely shorten time to withdrawal for those who do not complete the doctorate.

What have been the experiences of institutions like Yale and Columbia, where the M.Phil. has been in place for some time?

Information about **Columbia's** experience was obtained from an Associate Dean (email, 12/14/04). At Columbia, completion of the M.Phil. requirements can lead to a Departmental recommendation that the student receive an M.Phil., but not advance to candidacy. This is not an option in the proposal that is under consideration here.

Dean Beatrice Terrien-Somerville wrote,

“Columbia's MPhil was first awarded in the late 1960s as an ABD degree. It is useful in the following ways:

- a) As a milestone between coursework/exams stage and the dissertation stage.
- b) In departments where the MPhil exams include the defense of a PhD topic proposal, we think that TTD is reduced. This is because some students feel isolated after the MPhil and if their topic is already approved during the MPhil exam, they are ready to start research right away. In many departments where students take 6 months to a year to bring their topic to their department for approval, TTD is longer.
- c) Some departments use the MPhil/PhD topic stage to evaluate students' capacity for actually creating an original, independent dissertation. Minds that excel at coursework do not always engage successfully in original dissertation research. Thus, students know that even though they may not be advanced to candidacy for the PhD dissertation stage, at least they earn a degree after their exams. (i.e., a student who passes the MPhil exam but does not pass the PhD topic part of it still receives the MPhil but is not advanced to candidacy for the PhD).”

Information about **Yale's** experience was obtained by telephone interview with Associate Dean Richard Sleight (01/03/05). He was uncertain about when the M.Phil. had been introduced, but confirmed that it was a long-standing feature of their graduate programs. It seems that at Yale the M.Phil. may have been established in all doctoral programs at some time in the past, with the opportunity to opt out. Yale's definition of the degree requirements are copied, below.

Programs in the humanities and social sciences feel that the offering furthers their goals; the M.Phil. is a part of their tradition. In one case, it is used to identify high level education in a field other than a graduate student's primary departmental home. The "M.Phil. Fellowship in Medieval Studies" provides students who are enrolled in departments other than Medieval Studies a fully-funded (third) year of coursework in Medieval Studies; those successfully completing this program are awarded an M.Phil. in Medieval Studies. This work is in addition to that required in a student's own department, which normally takes two years. The stated purpose of this program is to help these graduates compete successfully in the job market, and to pursue productive scholarly careers as medievalists without diluting their training within their specific departmental disciplines.

Programs in the biomedical sciences have modified their use of the M.Phil. or have eliminated it. There is a great deal of flexibility around the degree in the sciences. Dean Sleight noted that it can be a valued milestone, if it is clearly distinct from other masters degrees. He noted that in fields with relatively few courses and examinations, it can be challenging to identify appropriate criteria for the M. Phil.

FROM THE YALE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES: REQUIREMENTS

Degree of Master of Philosophy

The Master of Philosophy is a degree en route to the Ph.D. The minimum general requirements for this degree are that a student shall have completed all requirements for the Ph.D. except the prospectus and dissertation. Students will not generally have satisfied the requirements for the Master of Philosophy until after two years of study, except where graduate work done before admission to Yale has reduced the student's graduate course work at Yale. In no case will the degree be awarded for less than one year of residence in the Yale Graduate School. Not all departments offer the M.Phil degree.



GRADUATE STUDENTS' UNION

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Minutes of GSU Council, 24 November, 2003

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 - 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.
 - People who never finish a PhD program would receive some recognition of their work.

- The proposal is student friendly and student driven – if the GSU membership doesn't support the proposal, then Professor Katz would not want to proceed.
- Question: How do we ensure recognition of this degree and acceptance of the degree in Canada?
 - Professor Katz replied that the degree will require some learning in the community, but the requirements will be clearly defined. We are not the first institution to do this, but we will lead the way in Canada. Other Canadian schools will likely follow suit.
- Question: Why is this proposal brought forward now?
 - Professor Katz replied that he has been pushing this proposal for the last 4 years, and change is slow. The last year there has been much progress.
- Question: If a student gets an MPhil, can they continue and receive their PhD?
 - Professor Katz clarified that the MPhil is awarded to all students, both continuing or those who wish to leave.
- Question: Will the degree be offered to all PhD students, or only direct-entry?
 - Professor Katz replied that he personally wishes it to be offered to all PhD students. The issue has to be resolved by the SGS Council.
- Question: Individual departments are discussing this proposal. If some departments do not approve this, how will the degree be considered legitimate?
 - There is support in Division I and Division II, but opposition from Division IV.
 - In Division IV people claim that this might discredit the MSc degree. Professor Katz believes awarding this to all students (with MSc and without) would alleviate this concern, as students with MSc would have two Masters degrees. Some departments do not have a clear distinction point at which an MPhil could be awarded.
 - There is nothing illegitimate about departments doing things differently – it already happens all the time.
- Question: Will this be decided by individual departments?
 - Yes – departments will make a program change request to SGS Divisional executive and SGS council as is currently the process.
- A member mentioned that this is already the practice in the UK
- Question: What is the cost of this proposal? Will degrees be rewarded retroactively?
 - The costs will be only administrative costs – changes to ROSI, etc. Ongoing administrative costs will be negligible – the degree check is already carried out on all students.
 - The degree would be awarded in absentia – there will be no convocation or diploma.
 - The degree will be retroactive in that students currently in programs, or recently lapsed, will likely be awarded the degree. SGS Council will still have to approve this.
- Question: Since the MPhil is for students en route to their PhD degree? If people do not finish PhD, won't the MPhil be seen as a "failed PhD"?
 - If students do not finish a program, it does not discredit the MA or MSc. Why would the existence of MPhil discredit anything? If there is any discredit, it will be that the student didn't finish the PhD – but without MPhil, they would not have any degree. This will not be awarded to students who are essentially pushed out 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))