

**Philosophy Graduate Program Council ByLaws**

Approved by YSGS Council 27/02/2014

Approved by Dean, YSGS 18/03/2014

Approved by the Academic Governance and Policy Committee of Senate  
14/10/2014

Approved by Senate 27/01/2015

(revised January 2021)

## 1. Definitions

Chair: Chair of Council, unless otherwise stated

Council: Graduate Program Council, unless otherwise stated

Faculty: all full-time faculty members

Graduate Student: a student who is registered in the Philosophy MA program.

Mandate: Students and faculty are partners in ensuring the successful functioning of graduate programs at Ryerson University. The Graduate Program Council (GPC) is the principle mechanism for bringing together these two constituencies to identify, discuss and address matters relating to that graduate program. The specific mandate of the GPC is:

- 1.1. To develop and recommend policies relevant to the Graduate Program within the context of general University policies, especially those of the Yeates School of Graduate Studies (YSGS).
- 1.2. To contribute actively to the operation and long-term planning of the graduate program and YSGS through the creation of committees, working groups and other mechanisms as deemed appropriate.
- 1.3. To ensure the graduate program remains current and relevant by recommending changes to the current curriculum and methods of delivery.
- 1.4. To provide an arena for the debate, discussion, and dissemination of information on matters pertaining to the graduate program and YSGS.

## 2. Authority

The GPC will operate in the spirit of policy adopted by Senate, in particular, Policy #45: *Constitutional Provisions for Department/School Councils*.

- 2.1. The GPC is responsible for academic policy and procedure recommendations pertaining to graduate education and graduate offerings specific to the MA in Philosophy program. The GPC will collaborate in a transparent manner with the graduate program director (GPD), with the Chair of the Philosophy Department, with the Dean of Arts and his or her designates, and with the Dean of YSGS, the YSGS Council and its standing committees.
- 2.2. The GPC may **approve** policy and procedures with significance and effect only in the program. The GPC must consult with the GPD, the Chair of the Philosophy Department, the Dean of Arts and his or her designates, and where appropriate the Dean of YSGS before implementing any policy or procedure. The Dean of YSGS shall ensure that all consultations have occurred before endorsing the implementation of any policy or procedure.
- 2.3. The GPC may **recommend and communicate** policies and procedures with implications beyond the program. Affected Faculty Dean(s), and/or designate(s) and/or the Dean of Record must endorse recommended policies and procedures before they are submitted to the Dean of YSGS and YSGS Council. The YSGS Council makes recommendations for approval to Senate.

- 2.4. The GPC may report directly to the YSGS Council on issues specific to the respective program, and/or matters of general interest. It will copy the GPD, the Chair of the Philosophy Department and the Dean of Arts on such reports.
- 2.5. Input to committees:
  - 2.5.1. GPC and committees will review all matters pertaining to their mandates on their own initiative.
  - 2.5.2. GPC may also request that committees review any particular matter.

Without prejudice to any policy of the Ryerson Senate, the authority of the GPC will embrace these additional principles:

- 2.6. The GPC will not enter into debate or take action on any matter that would violate the Ryerson University Act, or any policy of Senate.
- 2.7. The GPC will not enter into debate or take action on any matter that would violate Ryerson University's and/or statutory confidentiality requirements in respect to students, faculty or staff, or on matters of a contractual nature.
- 2.8. The GPC does not have the authority to override decisions made by other Department/School Committees that do not report to it. The GPC does, however, have the authority to discuss such decisions and to provide advice, except in cases precluded by considerations of confidentiality and/or contractual requirements, as specified above. The determination of such restrictions is the responsibility of the Departmental Chair. The GPC is advisory to the Department Chair on matters that are contractually the responsibility of the Chair.
- 2.9. In the event of a disagreement between the GPC and the Dean of YSGS, the disagreement will be referred by the disputants to the Provost and Vice-President, Academic.

### **3. Membership**

In accordance with Policy 45, GPC membership shall be as follows:

- 3.1. GPC Membership includes the following:
  - 3.1.1. The Graduate Program Director (GPD)
  - 3.1.2. The Chair of the Philosophy Department
  - 3.1.3. All faculty members who are active (full or associate) YSGS members **and** are currently, or have been recently, teaching regularly in, supervising students of, or active in the administration of the graduate program.

3.1.4. Two Graduate Student representatives elected by and from graduate students in the Philosophy MA program.

3.1.5. The Graduate Program Administrator who will be a non-voting member of Council.

3.2. Faculty members who are currently, or have been recently, teaching regularly in, supervising students of, or active in the administration of the graduate program, but who are not active YSGS members, may participate in GPC meetings, but cannot vote.

3.3. The term of GPC membership will be 1 year for students. In the event that a student member cannot attend a meeting, he or she may designate another student to attend GPC meetings on an interim basis.

## **4. Chair**

4.1. The Chair of the GPC will be elected by GPC members at the first meeting. The position of Chair will be re-elected at the beginning of each academic year.

4.2. The GPC Chair is responsible for (or ensuring that the following are conducted):

4.2.1. Calling and conducting meetings, and confirming quorum.

4.2.2. Setting agendas.

4.2.3. Maintaining a written record of Council decisions, actions, and recommendations, and ensuring that a copy of these records is filed with the YSGS Graduate Studies Assistant.

4.2.4. Monitoring follow up to Council actions.

4.2.5. Submitting relevant agenda items to applicable YSGS committees (e.g., Programs and Planning Committee) or to the YSGS Council.

4.3. The GPC Chair is an ex-officio member of all GPC committees and sub-committees.

4.4. If the GPD is not the GPC Chair, then the GPD is a member of all GPC committees and sub-committees.

4.5. The GPC Chair may request another council member to act as Chair on an interim basis.

4.6. There is no limit to the number of terms that a GPC Chair may serve, provided that an election is duly held each year.

## **5. GPC Procedures**

5.1. GPCs will meet at least once per year. Meetings will be scheduled to permit sufficient time for submissions to be made, for information or approval where applicable, to other committees and councils. Additional meetings may be held at the call of the GPC Chair or at the request of Council members.

- 5.2. Notices of meetings will normally be distributed at least 5 days in advance.
- 5.3. Only faculty and student members of the GPC are voting members. The GPC Chair shall vote only in the event of a tie. Staff may serve on the GPC or its committees but are non-voting.
- 5.4. Quorum is 50% of the GPC's full membership, and the majority of the members present must be voting faculty members. Members on leave or sabbatical count toward quorum if they are present at a meeting, but otherwise not.
- 5.5. Voting matters are normally decided by a simple majority of voting members present at a meeting.
- 5.6. Decisions may be taken outside meetings through ballots distributed electronically or physically to all members.
- 5.7. All members are expected to attend Council and, where relevant, committee and sub-committee meetings. If members are unable to attend they are to inform the Chair of the GPC, relevant committee or sub-committee in advance of the meeting, or as soon as possible thereafter.
- 5.8. A decision to amend GPC Bylaws requires a two-thirds majority of voting members present at the meeting, and can be taken only after written notice has been provided to all members at least 5 days in advance of the meeting. There is no proxy voting, and GPC members must be in attendance at a GPC meeting to vote (except where 5.6 applies).

## **6. Standing Committees**

- 6.1. Additional committees, coordinator and working groups can be established at any time with the approval of the GPC.
- 6.2. Membership of all committees and sub-committees is determined by election, and is on a volunteer basis. The faculty election process will be by way of a nomination and election process, which may be conducted in person or electronically.
- 6.3. The term of office of members of any committee or sub-committee is 1 year from September 1 to August 31. There is no limit to the number of terms committee and sub-committee members may serve, provided that the member is re-elected every year.

The Standing Committees of the GPC are as follows:

## **6.4. Admissions, Scholarships and Awards**

- 6.4.1. Mandate: to make decisions regarding admissions, scholarships and awards, and to make recommendations to GPC, or relevant subcommittee, regarding the following:
  - 6.4.1.1. Recruitment mechanisms;
  - 6.4.1.2. Procedures, practices and standards for admissions into graduate programs, including academic and non-academic qualifications (ESL, standards, etc.);
  - 6.4.1.3. Graduate award allocations (RGA, RGS, OGF, etc.)
  - 6.4.1.4. Policies and practices for graduate student funding, e.g. minimum levels, length of commitment, both full-time and part-time;
  - 6.4.1.5. Sources of graduate student funding, e.g. internal scholarships, A.A.'s and R.A.'s; and
  - 6.4.1.6. Selection procedures for scholarships and awards.
- 6.4.2. Committee Composition: GPD, GPC Chair as ex-officio member, 2 faculty members who are members of GPC, and the GPA as non-voting member.

## **6.5. Curriculum**

- 6.5.1. Mandate: to make recommendations to GPC, or relevant subcommittee, regarding the following:
  - 6.5.1.1. Registration practices (course selection and approval);
  - 6.5.1.2. Standards for maintaining good standing (grades, continuous registration, etc.);
  - 6.5.1.3. Residency/post residency requirements;
  - 6.5.1.4. Full-time and part-time status requirements and procedures;
  - 6.5.1.5. Procedures and practices for graduate examinations, in particular, comprehensive examinations, thesis requirements and thesis examination practices;
  - 6.5.1.6. Time limits for completion of graduate programs;
  - 6.5.1.7. Definition of instructional offence and offences of conduct;
  - 6.5.1.8. Student appeal and petition mechanisms; and
  - 6.5.1.9. Graduation requirements and practices and convocation practices.
- 6.5.2. Committee Composition: GPD, GPC Chair as ex-officio member, 3 faculty members who are members of GPC, and the GPA as non-voting member.

## **6.6. Program Membership Committee**

- 6.6.1. Mandate:
  - 6.6.1.1. To make recommendations to GPC, or relevant subcommittee, regarding program-specific criteria and procedures for YSGS membership and supervisory responsibilities, which must be consistent with YSGS requirements and approved by YSGS Dean;

- 6.6.1.2. To review membership applications at the program level in light of the program-specific criteria for membership, and to submit its recommendations to the Dean of YSGS; and
  - 6.6.1.3. To review the YSGS membership list on an annual basis and submit it to the Dean of YSGS.
- 6.6.2. Committee Composition: GPD, GPC Chair as ex-officio member, 3 faculty members who are members of GPC, and the GPA as non-voting member
- 6.6.3. Procedures
- 6.6.3.1. On an annual basis the GPD shall send the names of the Program Membership Committee members and an updated list of YSGS membership to the YSGS Dean;
  - 6.6.3.2. The Program Membership Committee shall review YSGS membership applications and submit its recommendations to the YSGS Dean for approval.

## **6.7. Ad Hoc Committees**

- 6.7.1. The GPC may constitute ad-hoc committees to address specific topics.
- 6.7.2. Membership of ad-hoc committees will be determined at the time the committee is constituted.
- 6.7.3. Members will hold office until the report of the committee has been submitted to, and accepted by, the GPC, or until such time as the ad-hoc committee has been dissolved.