

GRADUATE PROGRAM COUNCIL BYLAWS

Master of Arts in Early Childhood Studies

Approved by YSGS Council

27/02/2014

Approved by Dean, YSGS

18/03/2014

Approved by the Academic Governance and Policy Committee of Senate

dd/mm/yyyy

Approved by Senate

dd/mm/yyyy

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 supervised, or co-supervised, by a faculty member associated with this graduate program.

2. 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:

- 2.1. 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).
- 2.2. 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.
- 2.3. To ensure the graduate program remains current and relevant by recommending changes to the current curriculum and methods of delivery.
- 2.4. To provide an arena for the debate, discussion, and dissemination of information on matters pertaining to the graduate program and YSGS.

3. Authority

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

- 3.1. The GPC is responsible for academic policy and procedure recommendations pertaining to graduate education and graduate offerings specific to this graduate program/Department/School/Faculty. The GPC will collaborate in a transparent manner with related Department/School Council(s), Chair(s)/Director(s), affected Faculty Dean(s) or designate(s), the Dean of YSGS, the YSGS Council and its standing committees.
- 3.2. The GPC may **approve** policy and procedures with significance and effect only in the program. The GPC must consult with the GPD, affected Faculty Dean(s) or designate(s), Faculty Council(s) where appropriate, the Dean of Record, and 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.

- 3.3. 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.
- 3.4. The GPC may report directly to the YSGS Council on issues specific to the respective program, and/or matters of general interest. Department/School based programs should copy their respective Department/School Councils on such reports.
- 3.5. Input to committees:
 - 3.5.1. GPC and committees will review all matters pertaining to their mandates on their own initiative.
 - 3.5.2. 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:

- 3.6. 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.
- 3.7. 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.
- 3.8. 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.
- 3.9. In the event of a disagreement between the GPC and the Dean of YSGS, the disagreement will be referred by the disputants to the Vice-President, Academic. In the event of continuing disagreements, the matter shall be reported to the President for action.

4. Membership

- 4.1. The Graduate Program Director (GPD)
- 4.2. The Department/School Chair/Director

- 4.3. All faculty members who are active YSGS members **and** currently teaching regularly in, supervising students of, or active in the administration of the graduate program.
- 4.4. Two Graduate Student representatives from each program of study elected by and from graduate students in that program of study.
- 4.5. The Graduate Program Administrator who will be a non-voting member of Council.
- 4.6. One faculty member from another Department / School who is also an active member of the YSGS.
- 4.7. The term of GPC membership will be 1 year for students.

5. Chair

- 5.1. The GPD will normally serve as the Chair of the GPC.
- 5.2. The GPC Chair is responsible for (or ensuring that the following are conducted):
 - 5.2.1. Calling and conducting meetings, and confirming quorum.
 - 5.2.2. Setting agendas.
 - 5.2.3. 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.
 - 5.2.4. Monitoring follow up to Council actions.
 - 5.2.5. Submitting relevant agenda items to applicable YSGS committees (e.g., Programs and Planning Committee) or to the YSGS Council.
- 5.3. The GPC Chair is an ex-officio member of all GPC committees and sub-committees.
- 5.4. The GPC Chair may request another council member to act as Chair on an interim basis.

6. GPC Procedures

- 6.1. GPCs will meet at least twice per year, once in each of the Fall and Winter semesters. 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.
- 6.2. Notices of meetings will normally be distributed at least 5 days in advance.

- 6.3. Only faculty and student members of the GPC are voting members. The GPC Chair shall vote only in the event of a tie.
- 6.4. Quorum is 50% of the GPC's full membership, and the majority of the members present must be voting faculty members.
- 6.5. Voting matters are normally decided by a simple majority of voting members present at a meeting.
- 6.6. Decisions may be taken outside meetings through ballots distributed electronically or physically to all members.
- 6.7. 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.
- 6.8. Any Council member may attend a meeting of any committee, of which he/she is not a formal member, as a non-voting participant.
- 6.9. 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 6.6 applies).

7. Standing Committees

GPC sub-committees (which may be Committees of the Whole) may be established, with mandate and authority specified at the time of the creation. Where decision-making power is delegated to such sub-committees, their responsibilities and composition must be specified in these bylaws. If sub-committees are deemed appropriate by the GPC, consideration should be given to those areas (e.g., curriculum, scholarship and awards, admissions) included in the YSGS governance structure. Other sub-committees may be established in accordance with GPC bylaws.

- 7.1. Additional committees, coordinator and working groups can be established at any time with the approval of the GPC.
- 7.2. Membership of all committees and sub-committees is on a volunteer basis and should be approved by the GPC.
- 7.3. Staff and other appropriate individuals may be invited by the GPC to join sub-committees of the GPC but will not have voting rights.
- 7.4. 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:

7.5. Admissions, scholarships and awards

- 7.5.1. Mandate: to make decisions, or recommendations to the GPS, YSGS Council, or relevant subcommittee, regarding the following:
 - 7.5.1.1. Recruitment mechanisms;
 - 7.5.1.2. Procedures, practices and standards for admissions into graduate programs, including academic and non-academic qualifications (ESL, standards, etc.);
 - 7.5.1.3. Policies and practices for graduate student funding, e.g. minimum levels, length of commitment, both full-time and part-time;
 - 7.5.1.4. Allocation of graduate student funding, e.g. internal scholarships, and
 - 7.5.1.5. Selection procedures for the above.
- 7.5.2. Committee Composition: GPD, Chair/Director of the School, three faculty members

7.6. Program of Studies Committee

- 7.6.1. Mandate:
 - 7.6.1.1. To develop program-specific criteria and procedures for YSGS membership and supervisory responsibilities, which must be consistent with YSGS requirements and approved by YSGS Dean;
 - 7.6.1.2. To review membership applications at the program level in light of the rationale established for membership, and to submit its recommendations to the Dean of YSGS; and
 - 7.6.1.3. To review the YSGS membership list on an annual basis and submit it to the Dean of YSGS.
 - 7.6.1.4. Registration practices (course selection and approval);
 - 7.6.1.5. Standards for maintaining good standing (grades, continuous registration, etc.);
 - 7.6.1.6. Residency/post residency requirements;
 - 7.6.1.7. Full-time and part-time status requirements and procedures;
 - 7.6.1.8. Procedures and practices for graduate examinations, in particular, comprehensive examinations, thesis requirements and thesis examination practices;
 - 7.6.1.9. Time limits for completion of graduate programs;
 - 7.6.1.10. Definition of instructional offence and offences of conduct;

- 7.6.1.11. Student appeal and petition mechanisms; and
- 7.6.1.12. Graduation requirements and practices and convocation practices.

- 7.6.2. Committee Composition: GPD, Chair/Director of the School, three faculty members, one student representative

- 7.6.3. Procedures
 - 7.6.3.1. On an annual basis the GPD shall send the names of the PSC members and an updated list of YSGS membership to the YSGS Dean;
 - 7.6.3.2. The PSC shall review YSGS membership applications and submit its recommendations to the YSGS Dean for approval.

7.7. Ad Hoc Committees

- 7.7.1. The GPC may constitute ad-hoc committees to address specific issues.
- 7.7.2. Membership of ad-hoc committees will be determined at the time the committee is constituted.
- 7.7.3. 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.