

# Yeates SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

## **GRADUATE PROGRAM COUNCIL BYLAWS**

### **Master of Nursing**

Approved by YSGS Council

27/02/2014

Approved by Dean, YSGS

18/03/2014

Approved by the Academic Governance and Policy Committee of Senate

15/04/2014

Approved by Senate

06/05/2014

## 1. Definitions

**Adjunct Faculty** is an individual who is able to make a significant contribution to a Department, School or Faculty, or to the University as a whole through teaching, precepting or supervising students in field or practice placements, participation in SRC projects or other intellectual activity at the University, or a combination of these activities.

**Associate YSGS Member** is employed by, or affiliated with, Ryerson University but is not a member of the RFA. Eligibility for membership in this category may include: research scientists, research associates, postdoctoral fellows, adjunct professors, and visiting professors, who are actively engaged in SRC activities and who meet the criteria established by the graduate program with which they are to be affiliated.

**Chair:** Chair of Council, unless otherwise stated.

**Council:** Graduate Program Council unless otherwise stated.

**Director** is the Director of the Daphne Cockwell School of Nursing.

**Faculty Member** includes all current tenure stream, tenured and limited term faculty members represented by the Ryerson Faculty Association (RFA).

**Graduate Faculty Member** includes all full-time or adjunct faculty members who are teaching and/or serving on a supervisory committee in the graduate program and who are also active members of YSGS.

**Graduate Program Administrator** (GPA) works in collaboration with the GPD to administer the graduate program and is an ex-officio non-voting member of GPC and sub-committees.

**Graduate Program Director** (GPD) reports directly to the Dean of Graduate Studies and works with YSGS and graduate faculty members to oversee the Master of Nursing program to ensure the program provides students with the best possible quality graduate education.

**Graduate Student** is an individual currently registered either part-time or full-time in the course or thesis stream of the Master of Nursing Program at Ryerson University who has a clear academic standing.

**Instructor** is a member of the Unit 1 or Unit 2 bargaining units of CUPE Local 3904 teaching in one or more graduate program courses.

**Program Site Coordinator for the Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner Program** (PHCNP) is the Ryerson site coordinator for the COUPN PHCNP 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 the related School Council, Director, affected Faculty Dean or designate, 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 or designate, Faculty Council 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, and/or designate 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 will report directly to the YSGS Council on issues specific to the respective program, and/or matters of general interest. School based programs should copy their respective 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 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 Director of the Daphne Cockwell School of Nursing. The GPC is advisory to the Director of the Daphne Cockwell School of Nursing on matters that are contractually the responsibility of the Director of the Daphne Cockwell School of Nursing.
- 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**

In accordance with Policy 45, membership has been determined via a consultative process involving the GPD, affected Director, affected faculty Dean, and the Dean, YSGS.

GPC Membership includes the following:

- 4.1. The Graduate Program Director (GPD)
- 4.2. The School Director
- 4.3. A minimum of 5 graduate faculty members who are YSGS members and actively engaged in teaching and/or supervising thesis students of the nursing graduate program. Members will be elected by and from graduate faculty by way of a fair and transparent method.
- 4.4. Three graduate student representatives elected by and from graduate students by way of a fair and transparent method. Student representatives will be from the following groups: course stream, thesis stream, and primary health care nurse practitioner.
- 4.5. The Graduate Program Administrator who is an ex-officio, non-voting member of Council.
- 4.6. The Ryerson Site Coordinator for the Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner Program is an ex-officio, non-voting member of Council.

- 4.7. The term of GPC membership will be between 2-3 years for faculty and 1-2 years for students. All members may stand for re-election, with staggered re-elections.

## 5. Chair

- 5.1. The Chair of the GPC will be a graduate faculty member, elected by GPC members at the first meeting. The position of Chair will be re-elected at the beginning of each academic year.
- 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, voting member of all GPC committees and sub-committees. If the GPC Chair is not the GPD, then the GPD is also ex-officio, voting member of all GPC committees and sub-committees.
- 5.4. The GPC Chair may request another GPC faculty member to act as Chair on an interim basis.
- 5.5. A GPC Chair may serve a maximum of three consecutive terms, provided that an election is duly held each year.

## 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. Staff may serve on the GPC or its committees but are non-voting.

- 6.4. Quorum is 50% of voting members and the majority of the members present must be voting faculty members.
- 6.5. Voting matters are normally decided by a majority (> 50%) 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. 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.
- 6.9. 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. The term of office of members of any committee or sub-committee is typically 1 year from September 1 to August 31. There is no limit to the number of terms standing committee and sub-committee members may serve,

The Standing Committees of the GPC are as follows:

### **7.4 Curriculum and Program Policy Committee**

7.4.1 Mandate: to make recommendations to the YSGS Council, or relevant subcommittee, regarding the following:

7.4.1.1 Recruitment mechanisms.

7.4.1.2 Procedures, practices and standards for application to nursing graduate programs, including academic and non-academic qualifications (ESL, standards, etc.).

7.4.1.3 Selection procedures for reviewing student admissions, awards and scholarship applications.

7.4.1.4 Registration practices (course selection and approval).

7.4.1.5 Standards for maintaining good standing (grades, continuous registration, etc.).

7.4.1.6 Residency/post residency requirements.

7.4.1.7 Full-time and part-time status requirements and procedures.

7.4.1.8 Procedures and practices for graduate examinations, in particular, comprehensive examinations, thesis requirements and thesis examination practices.

7.4.1.9 Time limits for completion of graduate programs.

7.4.1.10 Definition of instructional offence and offences of conduct.

7.4.1.11 Student appeal and petition mechanisms.

7.4.1.12 Graduation requirements and practices and convocation practices.

7.4.1.13 Policies and practices for graduate student funding, e.g. minimum levels, length of commitment, both full-time and part-time.

7.4.1.14 Sources of graduate student funding, e.g. internal scholarships, A.A.'s and R.A.'s.

7.4.1.15 Committee Composition: This is a committee of the whole GPC.

## **7.5 Admission, Scholarships and Awards Adjudication Committee**

7.5.1 Mandate: To review applications and determine which candidates to recommend to YSGS to be offered admission to the nursing graduate programs.

To make funding recommendations regarding scholarship and other graduate awards to Graduate Program Director (GPD) based on procedures and criteria determined by the committee.

7.5.2 Committee Composition: GPD, GPC Chair and PHCNP Site-Coordinator and graduate faculty members to a maximum of 10 graduate faculty members. GPA is ex-officio member.

7.5.3 Make recommendations re: policies and procedures of admissions, scholarship and awards procedures to the GPC.

## 7.6 Program Membership Committee (PMC)

### 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 YSGS Dean.
- 7.6.1.3 To review the YSGS membership list on an annual basis and submit it to the Dean of YSGS.

7.6.2 Committee Composition: GPD and GPC Chair as ex-officio, voting members, 3 graduate faculty members. Chair of PMC will be elected at the first meeting.

7.6.3 Procedures

- 7.6.3.1 On an annual basis the GPD shall send the names of the PMC members and an updated list of YSGS membership to the YSGS Dean.
- 7.6.3.2 The PMC 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 at any time to address specific topics.
- 7.7.2 Membership and chair 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.