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Notes on Discussion in Committee of the Whole regarding the Report of the Graduate Studies Working Group, December 6, 1994

Following is a list of issues identified in discussion of this report:

- L. Braverman sought clarification of the relationship between Academic Council and the proposed Graduate Studies Council.

R. Mendelson, Chair of the Graduate Studies Working Group, stated that the Graduate Studies Council would be subsidiary to Academic Council because of the status of Academic Council in the Ryerson Act.

- J. Easton commented that the relationship between SRC and graduate programs is unclear in the working paper. Moreover, there is no clear link established between the kinds of Masters programs that would be initiated and their relationship to SRC activity. He questioned the emphasis in the report on interdisciplinary graduate programs when, in fact, for many parts of Ryerson, discipline-based graduate programs will necessarily be the primary focus, not the least because of the important relationship between graduate study and SRC.

- D. McKay offered congratulations to the Graduate Studies Working Group on behalf of the ECE faculty. He stated that the ECE faculty wished him to draw two concerns to their attention. The first is the apparent focus on traditional discipline structures in the report and the other is the stipulation that a lead Dean be identified initially for purposes of the development of the graduate program.

- K. Alnwick expressed concern with the suggestion of what amounts to a branch plant registrariat for the School of Graduate Studies that is contemplated in the report. Such branch plant registrariats, according to his understanding from other universities, are expensive.

- M. Pomerance spoke on a number of aspects of the proposal. First, he expressed concern that the report shows no evidence of a broadly based discussion about the merits of a moving to graduate education at Ryerson now or even at all. This report seems to assume that we need to move now.

Although graduate education is funded at a higher level than undergraduate education, from the point of view of faculty and students, affordability of development of graduate programs at this time is an issue which needs to be explored.

With respect to the extent of consultation, he noted that only three percent of the RFA faculty seem so far to have participated in the debate over the move toward graduate education. With respect to some technical issues, he noted that there seems to be a bias in the report of the working group and evidently the senior administration towards interdisciplinary graduate

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programs. He questioned how well debated this idea is.

At a more practical level, he asked whether maybe the case graduate studies could turn out to be a parasite on the existing operation. Will graduate program student/ faculty ratios rob student/faculty ratios for undergraduate programs? Does the discussion regarding the needs of the Library constitute a declaration that support from other university libraries will be needed to adequately support graduate studies at Ryerson? Finally, does Ryerson really want to adopt the research university model of the University of Toronto and like institutions?

At that point in Committee of the Whole the members of the Graduate Studies Working Group, who were in attendance, were introduced.

It was duly moved, seconded and CARRIED that:

Academic Council rise from Committee of the Whole without report.