

Report of the Graduate Studies Working Group

D. Mock introduced the report to Council. He noted that it had been presented to him by a Working Group consisting of Carol Baines, Ingrid Bryan, Jim Burke, Ken Jones, Rena Mendelson (chair), Michael Murphy and Bill White. Also attached to the working group as resource faculty were Ron Goldsmith and Steven Liss.

He also reviewed the iterative process that had been followed in the development of the report.

R. Mendelson spoke briefly as chair of the Working Group. She drew Council's attention to the fundamental shift from earlier versions of the report to the one now before Council. The current report calls for an interim structure, rather than a final structure, as we undertake the development of policies and procedures to enable Ryerson to offer graduate programs.

It then was duly moved and seconded that Academic Council adopt the report of the Graduate Studies Working Group, February, 1995, as the basis for the development of formal policies and procedures which will enable Ryerson to offer graduate programs.

M. MacMillan commented on the motion before Council, initially by saying that she welcomes this report and thinks it is of excellent quality overall. However she expressed concern that the references to interdisciplinary studies in section 4 on page 3 and in the executive summary are both unnecessarily restrictive and may not be necessary at all. Moreover, she stressed, Ryerson in fact does not have a strong record of achievement to-date in interdisciplinary research.

R. Mendelson commented that the Graduate Studies Working Group was aware of this concern, which had been expressed by a number of respondents to proposals that had been circulated earlier.

The last sentence in the section referred to by Dr. MacMillan is intended to address the point. The sentence is "This approach to graduate education does not preclude the development of programs within a single department, provided they meet the criteria."

Dr. MacMillan added that her primary concern is that proposals for the development of graduate programs at Ryerson should be considered on their fundamental merits, whether they are interdisciplinary or not.

It was suggested and agreed that on page three, in the first paragraph, the phrase "will meet emerging societal needs" should be amended to read "will meet existing and emerging societal needs".

In response to a question from D. Shaw, D. Mock and T. Grier indicated that the first graduate program at Ryerson is likely to be in place towards the end of the decade.

In response to a question from L. Braverman, about the absence of students or alumni on the proposed interim council, R. Mendelson replied that it may be possible to draw on graduate students currently on Ryerson campus.

D. Mock added that it will be necessary for Ryerson to be careful about the composition of the Interim Graduate Studies Council in terms of external perceptions of it. Furthermore, the recommendations of the Graduate Studies Council will flow to Academic Council, which includes representation, as members know, from all Ryerson academic constituencies.

J. Logan asked whether we can expect graduate programs at Ryerson to be different as a function of Ryerson's special mandate.

D. Mock replied that the structures and criteria contained in the report of the working group reflect the conservative perspective and processes of OCUA. It will be necessary for us to follow these processes in order to have any hope of approval of proposed programs.

W. Owen asked whether OCGS has guidelines for Library resources in support of graduate programs.

D. Mock commented that the quality of Library services and a whole range of additional resources will be part of the external assessment of proposed Ryerson graduate programs.

R. Malinski added that, in the area of graduate study, the principle of sharing Library resources in the university system is well established.

The proposal CARRIED unanimously.