

Report #W2001-1 of the School of Graduate Studies

a) Composition

R. Mendelson reported on further developments with respect to the composition of the Council of the School of Graduate Studies. She stated that she had consulted with graduate students and K. Kwan, Secretary of Academic Council, on composition and issues of membership. She acknowledged the importance of wide representation and indicated that additional students would increase membership on the Council. D. Northwood asked about the requirement that there be no more than one person representing a graduate program. R. Mendelson responded that Council wanted to ensure broad representation from across the University.

The motion regarding Composition of the School of Graduate Studies was moved by R. Mendelson and seconded by D. Northwood. The motion was approved.

b) Membership

R. Mendelson reported to Council that the report expanded on membership criteria and application procedures. For example, the distinction between full and associate members would be eliminated. Regarding the issue of supervising doctoral students, she indicated that criteria proposed would require that the supervisor needed to have previously sat on a doctoral committee in order to undertake to supervise doctoral students. She also informed Council that the new mechanisms for assessing creative practice would now enable faculty to serve in the School.

A discussion ensued regarding the issue of members with doctoral supervisor privilege. Referring to Section 5.2, Page 27, D. Northwood commented that the criteria were problematic and did not allow for some faculty at Ryerson to supervise doctoral students. He moved an amendment, which was seconded by R. Ravindran, that this item be amended to state that doctoral supervision should be granted subject to demonstrated experience of graduate student supervision, as well as the recommendation by the graduate Program Director, Dean of the faculty and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies.

R. Mendelson informed Council that the issue was debated at the Council of Graduate Studies and that the present proposal was unanimously approved. She further indicated that the intent of the Council was to ensure that students at the doctoral level would be protected by getting experienced people to supervise them.

In response to a comment regarding supervision of Masters students at Western University, R. Mendelson informed Council that she had spoken to the Dean of Graduate Studies at the University of Western Ontario who informed her that an adjunct professor could be on a doctoral committee but could not be formally named faculty supervisor.

The amendment was defeated. The motion moved by R. Mendelson and seconded by D. Martin was approved. Council agreed that the minutes should indicate that appropriate parts of this policy, including Section 5, will be reviewed and, if necessary, revised as programs and the School of Graduate Studies develop.