


**SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES**

***REPORT TO SENATE, MARCH 31, 2009***

1. Complex Program Changes – *Communication and Culture* (for information)

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maurice Yeates".

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Maurice Yeates, Dean  
Chair, School of Graduate Studies Council

1. Complex Program Changes – *Communication and Culture* (for information)

At its meeting on March 5, 2009, the School of Graduate Studies Council approved a motion that the following changes to the *Communication and Culture* graduate program be implemented immediately:

i) Change in Program Structure:

Reduce the requirement of elective courses by one course.

Currently: Four elective courses for Thesis/Project option and five in MRP option.

Proposed: Three elective courses for Thesis/Project option and four in MRP option.

This change to reduce the total number of required courses to eight for the project/thesis option and nine for MRP option, does not affect the program objectives, as the program continues to provide a wide range of theoretical and technical material for students from diverse backgrounds. With this reduction, the total number of required courses is comparable to most Canadian MA programs.

ii) Change Admission Requirements:

Raise the GPA admission requirement to B+ average for Masters applicants.

Currently: at least a “B” average

Proposed: at least a “B+” average

This higher GPA requirement is due to the high academic demands of the MA program. Program records show that most students with only an entry GPA of B do not do as well as those with a B+ or higher, and/or drop out from the program. Also this admission criterion is similar to the admission requirements of other similar programs (Royal Roads, UWO) across Canada.