

Faculty of **Graduate Studies**

Dean's Update

January 2012

Reminder of volunteer reps for SGSC graduate policy sub-committee

At the December meeting of Graduate Council, we discussed representation for the graduate policy sub-committee of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee.

At that time, we invited GPDs to volunteer to fill two spots as committee representatives. If you have yet to indicate your interest in filling these positions, please do so by Tuesday, January 24, 2012 by sending an email to Gail Pepper. If there are more than two volunteers, we will determine the representatives through an electronic vote.

Report on admission targets/recent meetings

Over the last two weeks of December and the first two weeks of January, FGS held 45- to 60-minute meetings with each of the Graduate Program Directors to discuss a number of areas that pertain to graduate enrolment, including:

- a historical look at the program
- who is involved in the program
- last year's target(s) and the number of students who enrolled in September (or over the course of the year for some programs)
- issues concerning limitations to the program in achieving what it would like to do or getting to where it would like to be
- and, of course, an estimate for an appropriate target(s) for next year

Our intention beyond getting target numbers is to examine the issues both individually and collectively to see what the FGS might do to help programs achieve success, with the thought that some items can be included in the FGS strategic plan and in the development of next year's budget.

Busy calendar for Mapping the New Knowledges Graduate Student Research Conference

The Mapping The New Knowledges Graduate Student Research Conference has issued its Call for Proposals. Please encourage students to plan on participating in our full-day of oral and poster presentations on April 11, 2012 by submitting a proposal online at brocku.ca/graduate-studies/ conferences-events/2011-12-MNK

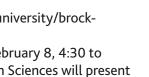
The closing date for proposal submissions is March 5, 2012.

the New The conference will feature two new research prizes this year established by Brock's Youth Knowledges University. Students may indicate their desire to be adjudicated for the prizes when submitting conference proposals. Information on the Youth University prizes is available at brocku.ca/youth-university/brockstudents/research/graduate-student-research-priz

Research Café II, "Living healthier, living better, living longer," will be held on Wednesday, February 8, 4:30 to 6:45 p.m., Pond Inlet. Faculty and graduate student researchers from the Faculty of Applied Health Sciences will present research and offer practical strategies to combine physical activity and a healthy diet into our daily lives — just what we need to make a positive difference in falls prevention and quality of life as we age. This is a free public event.

Students are also being invited to submit nominations for the Graduate Student Mentorship Award. This year we will be presenting two awards — one to a faculty supervisor of Master's students only, and the other to a faculty supervisor of both Master's and PhD students. Details about the nomination process and deadline will be available soon.

Details about all conferences activities are available at brocku.ca/graduate-studies/conferences-events/2011-12-MNK



Mapping

Update on Thesis Defence and Graduate Student Advisory Committee Meeting Space

The plans to upgrade several rooms for use as Meeting Rooms for graduate students, and for thesis defences are moving forward. In preparing the rooms to be used for thesis defences, we will need to make some physical changes to each space, and add audiovisual and video-conferencing capability. The rooms being developed include:

- a. Plaza 312 - 286 ft2 (estimated occupancy 10 to 12)
- Mackenzie Chown C206 490ft2 (estimated on occupancy 10 to 22) Ь.
- Mackenzie Chown D350L 362ft2 (estimated on occupancy 15 to 17) C.

For Plaza 312, we will need to add curtains at both ends of the room. For Mackenzie Chown C206, we need to paint, change/soften the lighting, and perhaps obtain new furniture. For Mackenzie Chown D350L, we will need to change the curtains. In all cases, a large 60-inch screen will be added, along with computer and Internet connections to allow presentations to be made, and for video conferencing. Each room will be booked through the Office of Graduate Studies, and will have swipe card access.

Our plan is to begin the set up of these spaces immediately at the end of the term, and to have them ready for Spring/ Summer defences.

I would also remind you that graduate student meetings and thesis defences can be scheduled in the new Graduate Meeting Room on the 6th floor of the Library - 225 ft2 (estimated occupancy 8 to 10). This room can be booked by the students for committee meetings, and by Graduate Program Admin Assistants for thesis defences by calling Donna Grant, Learning Commons Manager, at x3924. Thesis defences can booked in Welch Hall 147 (so called SmartRoom) - 569ft2 (occupancy 25-28), which can be booked online at brocku.ca/booking/login.php

Career development for graduate students

We are at the mid-point of our Graduate Student Professional Development Workshop Series with the next session on Wednesday, February 1, 2012, "Navigating a Diversified World: Strategies for Inclusivity and Productivity", 4:30 to 6:45 p.m., Pond Inlet. Students are invited to register for this and the remaining sessions in the series by emailing smcintosh@brocku.ca

For information about the workshops visit brocku.ca/graduate-studies/current-students/professionaldevelopment/2011-12-workshops

The series is part of an overall direction of the Faculty to help co-ordinate and expand services, resources and activities that emphasize the development of carry-forward skills to prepare our students for their careers.

As part of this new direction, the FGS is working with Career Services in producing an online Graduate Student Career Resource Guide. The project is undergoing a few finishing touches and a launch of the guide is expected in February. It will be launched as pilot project to test the format and content as students have the opportunity to put the guide to use.

I extend my appreciation to Kara Hammond and Amy Elder in Career Services for their commitment to this project and to Marilyn Rose for her input and advice in the development of the guide content.

Michael Plyley Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies