The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM. Dean Susan Pfeiffer welcomed members and visitors.

The Dean called for a motion to adjourn no later than 5:00 PM.

**MOTION** *(duly moved and seconded)*

THAT the Graduate Education Council meeting of *February 17, 2009* will adjourn no later than *5:00 PM*.

The motion was CARRIED.

**Approval of the Agenda of the Graduate Education Meeting of February 17, 2009.**

**MOTION** *(duly moved and seconded)*

THAT the agenda of the Graduate Education Council meeting of *February 17, 2009* be approved.

The motion was CARRIED.

1 **Minutes of the Graduate Education Council Meeting of January 20, 2009**

   The minutes of the *January 20, 2009* meeting were distributed with the agenda.

   **MOTION** *(duly moved and seconded)*

   THAT the minutes of the Graduate Education Council meeting of *January 20, 2009* be approved.

   The motion was CARRIED.

2 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

   2.1 **Subsequent Considerations of GEC-approved items**

   **Proposal to change the admission requirements of the Dentistry program (MSc Specialist Dental Training – Dental Public Health option)**

   A change has been made to the Calendar entry for this proposal from what was distributed for the January GEC meeting. This is a small editorial change which SGS judged does not require further governance. The Faculty requested a minor change to make the intent of the proposal clearer in the Calendar.
3 Dean’s Remarks

3.1 Canadian Perspectives on the Bologna Process Conference

The Bologna Process is a consensus among institutions in the European Union which has gained numerous signatories. Its aim is to standardize degrees amongst European institutions. The Process attempts to standardize degree length for European institutions to 3 years for bachelor’s, 2 years for master’s and 3 years for doctoral degrees – in prior times, they could vary in length. This poses a challenge to institutions outside Europe, who are considering how to deal with this in consultations across universities between continents. There is an article in the current issue of University Affairs (March 9, p.28) describing the Bologna Process in more detail.

A conference on Canadian perspectives on the Bologna Process is to take place from March 19 to 20 in Edmonton. On behalf of U of T, Vice-Dean Berry Smith and Heather Kelly will attend.

3.2 Application Numbers and Graduate Admission

As of last Monday, SGS has received 19,526 applications for next year’s enrolment and made 621 offers, 222 of which have been confirmed. Last year at the same time SGS had received 17,823 applications and made 488 offers, 121 of which had been confirmed. All numbers are higher than a year ago. Every indication is that U of T is in demand and that we can expect a larger number of students than ever before.

3.3 SGS Graduate Briefing Session Cancelled

This was scheduled for March 4, 2009. One of the main purposes of this session was to discuss draft guidelines for changes to graduate quality assurance. These are being prepared by a COU Transition/Implementation Task Force. We have been informed that the draft guidelines will not be distributed for review until later in the term. Therefore, the Briefing Session is cancelled. An event may be slated for later in the term, pending developments at COU. Departments have been notified.

3.4 Spring 2009 Election for Graduate Education Council

A spring election to fill vacant seats on the Graduate Education Council 2009-2010 will begin in late February. Notice will be sent by email. There will be 16 seats vacant. Some student members may be eligible to run for a further term. Some faculty who are stepping down may have ideas about people to take their place. Members are encouraged to promote the election among their colleagues.

3.5 Academic Board Representative Nominations

There is one vacant SGS seat on Academic Board for a representative elected by GEC. Professor Christy Anderson’s term as representative is ending, so the seat for Divisions I and II will be vacant as of July 1, 2009. Prof. Chris Damaren is the representative for Div. III & IV; his term continues to June 30, 2010.
Each Chair or Director of an SGS graduate unit may make one nomination for consideration by the SGS Standing Committee on Program Matters. The Standing Committee will recommend an appropriate number of nominees to GEC for approval. Chairs and directors have been sent a nomination form and more details on the nomination process. The deadline for receiving nominations is 5:00 PM March 13, 2009.

3.6 Graduate House Governing Body seeks two GEC Representatives
Graduate House Governing Body serves in an advisory capacity to establish policy on general operation of the residence, monitor the services provided, provide fee and admission advice to the University, and report annually to GEC.

There are two vacant seats available for GEC members from any constituency. The body usually only meets once annually; this year’s meeting is planned for mid to late March. Members have been notified and asked to contact Rebecca Spagnolo, Assistant Dean, Graduate House, or Vice-Dean Berry Smith, to express their interest.

3.7 End of Year Reception
Members were encouraged to attend the final meeting of GEC on May 19, as there will be a party afterward to celebrate the work done this year.

4 Report of the Vice-Dean, Programs
No report.

5 Report of the Vice-Dean, Students
No report.

6 Admission and Program Requirement Changes:

6.1 History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, MA, PhD (incl. Direct-entry option)
The proposal was approved unanimously by the faculty of the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, and also by the graduate students in meetings with the Director and Director of Graduate Studies. It was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Science 3CGC on January 13, 2009. No substantive discussion arose at the 3CGC meeting. GEC approval is final. Professor Anjan Chakravartty was present to answer questions for both the admissions and program requirements proposals. The Dean called on Vice-Dean Elizabeth Cowper to present the motion for the admission requirements.

MOTION (duly moved and seconded)
THAT Graduate Education Council approve the proposal of the Faculty of Arts and Science to change the admission requirements of the MA and PhD, including the Direct-entry option, in History and Philosophy of Science and Technology by adding to existing requirements the submission of a writing sample of no more than 3,000 words, effective September 2009.
In response to a question from a member as to the motivation for the proposal, Prof. Chakravartty said the rationale was detailed in supplementary documentation. In summary, there have been a lot of changes at the Institute over last 5 to 6 years resulting in a student population that more comprehensively reflects the breadth of the program’s title. Consequently, the Institute is seeing increased applications from students who want to do the program but who may or may not have much philosophy or other humanities background at undergraduate level. Since the Institute solicits applications from students with backgrounds in science, it wants to ensure they have sufficient writing proficiency to succeed in a program centered in the humanities.

A member asked how the Institute could ensure submitted writing samples were the student’s own work, and whether an interview would be better. Prof. Chakravartty replied that an interview, while not absolutely required, would be part of the usual application process. Vice-Dean Cowper said that submission of a writing sample for PhD submissions is very common for graduate units in SGS Division I (the Humanities). There being no further discussion, the Dean called the question.

The motion was CARRIED.

The Dean called on Professor Elizabeth Cowper to present the motion for the program requirements.

**MOTION (duly moved and seconded)**

*THAT Graduate Education Council approve the proposal of the Faculty of Arts and Science to change the program requirements of the MA and PhD, including the Direct-entry option, in History and Philosophy of Science and Technology as follows:

- For students in the History fields, reading knowledge of French or German is required.
- For students in the Philosophy field, one of the following is required: proficiency in logic, reading knowledge of French, or reading knowledge of German.
- A second foreign language in the PhD program is no longer required.
- For the PhD, add the requirement of other competencies crucial to conducting research in the student’s thesis area, as determined by the Supervisory Committee in consultation with the student and the Director of Graduate Studies.
- These changes are effective September 2009.

A member voiced a concern that the proposal might be giving the supervisory committee uneven power over PhD students’ program requirements and asked for clarification of the role of the student and Director in the process. Professor Chakravartty answered that the wording of the motion is such that requirements are to be negotiated in each case and it is expected the Director will act as a neutral check and balance. He also noted that the program is an extraordinarily interdisciplinary one and that it is rare that anyone enters the program with all the competencies required to complete it, and that students in the program often initiate
concern over their competencies themselves. Lastly, the requirement of other competencies is intended to balance the reduction of the foreign language requirements. A member asked whether there would be changes to the supervisory handbook in the Institute, to which Prof. Chakravartty replied that the process was already part of its regulations. Vice-Dean Berry Smith said that formalizing this variable component of the program for a student could potentially have an impact on that student’s Good Standing requirements, and asked if there was a formal structure or form that would clearly identify the other competencies required and the criteria for achieving them. Professor Chakravartty answered that the reason the proposal was worded in so open-ended a fashion was that the program’s requirements were extraordinarily variable. He agreed with the Vice-Dean that this was all the more reason to ensure there was a mechanism in place to ensure that students, the Institute, and the supervisory committee were aware of, and agreed on, requirements and criteria. He added that the Institute had introduced a process for this. A member asked how proficiency in logic could be equated to reading knowledge of French or German, to which Prof. Chakravartty replied that the requirements were variable depending on the student’s area of interest. Another member noted that program requirements are used by SGS to check for candidacy achievement, and asked when in the program the other competencies requirement would be considered complete. Prof. Chakravartty said that it was difficult to time this exactly and that it would vary depending on each student’s area of interest and existing competencies, but the hope was that, for most students, they would be completed prior to the “all but dissertation” stage. The Dean noted that all the questions raised emphasized the importance of the supervisory committee’s role and the need for clearly articulated individual plans for each student; the Dean also encouraged the Institute to discuss with SGS student services staff how the additional competency requirements would map out onto SGS candidacy regulations. There was no further discussion. The Dean called the question.

The motion was CARRIED.

6.2 Women and Gender Studies, Graduate Collaborative Program in, master’s and doctoral levels

The proposed changes were discussed and approved by faculty, students and the Executive Committee. The participating programs have approved the proposal. The proposal was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Science Three-Campus Graduate Curriculum Committee (3CGC) on January 13, 2009. No substantive discussion arose at the 3CGC meeting. GEC approval is final. Professor Michelle Murphy was present to answer questions for both the admissions and program requirements proposals. The Dean called on Vice-Dean Elizabeth Cowper to present the motion for the admission requirements.

MOTION (duly moved and seconded)
THAT Graduate Education Council approve the proposal of the Faculty of Arts and Science to change the admission requirements of the Graduate Collaborative Program in Women and Gender Studies as follows:
• For the master’s level, replace the requirement of at least 1.0 FCE in women’s studies, feminist studies, and/or gender studies, with the requirement of a substantial undergraduate background in gender and feminist studies or an equivalent focus within a discipline.

• For the doctoral level, replace the requirement of at least 1.0 FCE in women’s studies, feminist studies, and/or gender studies, with the requirement of a substantial undergraduate or graduate background in gender and feminist studies or an equivalent focus within a discipline.

• These changes are effective September 2009.

A member asked how the substantialness of a student’s background would get evaluated and how it could be applied uniformly to all students. To this Prof. Murphy replied that the Collaborative Program does not want to require a full major in WGS, yet wants to move away from the existing 1.0 FCE requirement because it is too low and does not reflect the applicant pool. There are few students applying who have degrees in WGS but many who have that background in a way that is not formalized. Applications are scrutinized and an attempt is made to figure out what a student’s background is. The minimum sought is a substantial amount beyond 1.0 FCE, but less than an undergraduate major. Over 30 programs participate in the Collaborative Program, making it incredibly interdisciplinary, so simple criteria are not possible. In any case, the quality of applicants is ensured by the fact that all are already admitted to a home unit before applying to the Collaborative Program.

A friendly amendment was suggested and accepted, to change the words “an equivalent” to “a relevant” throughout the motion. There being no further discussion, the Dean called the question.

AMENDED MOTION (duly moved and seconded)

THAT Graduate Education Council approve the proposal of the Faculty of Arts and Science to change the admission requirements of the Graduate Collaborative Program in Women and Gender Studies as follows:

• For the master’s level, replace the requirement of at least 1.0 FCE in women’s studies, feminist studies, and/or gender studies, with the requirement of a substantial undergraduate background in gender and feminist studies or a relevant focus within a discipline.

• For the doctoral level, replace the requirement of at least 1.0 FCE in women’s studies, feminist studies, and/or gender studies, with the requirement of a substantial undergraduate or graduate background in gender and feminist studies or a relevant focus within a discipline.

• These changes are effective September 2009.

The motion was CARRIED as amended.

The Dean called on Vice-Dean Elizabeth Cowper to present the motion for the program requirements.
MOTION (duly moved and seconded)
THAT Graduate Education Council approve the proposal of the Faculty of Arts and Science to change the program requirements of the Graduate Collaborative Program in Women and Gender Studies as follows:
Master’s Level:
- Replace JPW 2118H “Philosophical Foundations of Women’s Studies” (0.5 FCE) as a required course with a required half course (0.5 FCE) chosen from WGS 1000H, WGS 1001H or WGS 1002H.
- Add a requirement of regular attendance at the WGS Research Seminar.
- Broaden the selection of course electives (without changing the number required) from being chosen from cross-listed courses in CGWS to being chosen from cross-listed or approved courses with a focus on women/gender/feminist/sexuality/critical race/postcolonial studies.
- For the Thesis Option, change the requirement that at least one member of a student’s thesis or supervisory committee be a graduate faculty member cross-listed with CGWS with the requirement that at least one member of a student’s thesis or supervisory committee be a cross-listed or core graduate faculty member with the Women and Gender Studies Institute (WGSI).
- These changes are effective September 2009.

Doctoral Level:
- Replace JPW 2118H “Philosophical Foundations of Women’s Studies” (0.5 FCE) as a required course with a required half course (0.5 FCE) chosen from WGS 1000H, WGS 1001H or WGS 1002H.
- Replace the requirement of WGS 3000H “Advanced Research Seminar” (0.5 FCE) with a requirement of any other 0.5 FCE course in the WGSI.
- Add the requirement of regular participation in the WGS Research Seminar, and presentation of the student’s work in the seminar at least once before graduating.
- Increase the requirement of taking 0.5 FCE course electives, chosen from cross-listed courses in CGWS not taken previously, to 1.0 FCE of cross-listed or approved courses with a focus on women/gender/feminist/sexuality/critical race/postcolonial studies.
- Change the program requirement that at least one member of a student’s thesis or supervisory committee be a graduate faculty member cross-listed with CGWS with the requirement that at least one member of a student’s thesis or supervisory committee be a cross-listed or core graduate faculty member with the WGSI.
- These changes are effective September 2009.

The Dean noted that these changes make the Collaborative Program seem more flexible. Prof. Murphy replied that it did, but at the same time would re-center the program closer to the Women and Gender Studies Institute. The core course is proposed to change from a course offered jointly with the Philosophy department since 1995 to one offered directly by the
Institute. This reflects the growth of the Institute as a graduate unit, which it has only been for two years. As there was no further discussion, the Dean called the question.

The motion was CARRIED.

7 Program Requirement Changes:

7.1 Astronomy and Astrophysics, PhD, and Direct-entry Option

Students have been consulted, and the change was approved by a vote of the entire faculty. The proposal was approved at the Faculty of Arts and Science Three-Campus Graduate Curriculum Committee (3CGC) meeting on January 13, 2009. No substantive discussion arose at the 3CGC meeting. GEC approval is final. Professor Marten van Kerkwijk was present to answer questions. The Dean called on Vice-Dean Elizabeth Cowper to present the motion.

MOTION (duly moved and seconded)

THAT Graduate Education Council approve the proposal of the Faculty of Arts and Science to change the program requirements of the PhD and Direct-entry Option in Astronomy and Astrophysics from requiring 2.0 FCE with 1.0 FCE being selected from the AST Elective or Specialized course list, to 2.0 FCE being selected from the AST Preparatory, Elective or Specialized course list and from courses of equivalent levels from a cognate department. The course selection will still remain subject to the approval of the instructor, the student’s program committee, and the department. These changes are effective September 2009.

As there was no discussion, the Dean called the question.

The motion was CARRIED.

7.2 Chemistry, PhD (Inorganic Chemistry only)

The proposal was approved by the Graduate Studies Committee on November 4, 2008. Several graduate students in the inorganic chemistry field were contacted to review the proposal and give their comments via email on November 4, 2008. The proposal was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Science Three-Campus Graduate Curriculum Committee (3CGC) on January 13, 2009. No substantive discussion arose at the 3CGC meeting. GEC approval is final. Professor James Donaldson was present to answer questions. The Dean called on Vice-Dean Elizabeth Cowper to present the motion.

MOTION (duly moved and seconded)

THAT Graduate Education Council approve the proposal of the Faculty of Arts and Science to change the program requirements of the PhD in Chemistry (Inorganic Chemistry field) Program so that a student is required to present a seminar every year starting in the second year to a total of three seminars, including an original research proposal, effective September 2009.
A member asked if the seminar was part of a course or a separate activity. Prof. Donaldson answered that this was part of the department’s seminar series rather than a course and that the proposal would reduce the number of seminars students are required to present from 4 to 3. In response to another member’s question, Prof. Donaldson said there would be about 20 students in each cohort participating in the seminar.

A member asked if the requirement to present an original research proposal was new, to which Prof. Donaldson replied that this requirement was new as of this year. He further clarified that this was to address the issue of increased students transferring from the master’s program to the PhD; students at the master’s level may or may not have to give a seminar, depending on which field within Chemistry they are in. The master’s program is about 18 to 19 months. Introducing this requirement ensures that all PhD students share a certain level of breadth and experience. There being no further discussion, the Dean called the question.

The motion was CARRIED.

7.3 Dentistry, MSc, PhD

This item was deferred from the previous meeting of GEC on January 20.

The Council of the Faculty of Dentistry approved the proposal at its meeting of December 9, 2008. Please see the motion sheet for a summary of discussion at the Faculty Council meeting. GEC approval is final. Professor David Locker was present to answer questions. The Dean called on Vice-Dean Elizabeth Cowper to present the motion.

MOTION (duly moved and seconded)

THAT Graduate Education Council approve the proposal of the Faculty of Dentistry to change the program requirements of the MSc and PhD in Dentistry as follows:

• Increase the minimum requirements for the MSc program from one half course to one and one-half courses which must include the half course DEN 1040H “Introduction to Biostatistics”.

• Increase the minimum requirement for the PhD program (full-time and flexible-time option) from one full course to two and one-half courses, which must include the half course DEN 1040H “Introduction to Biostatistics”.

• Increase the minimum requirement for the combined PhD with Dental Specialty Training program from one full course to two and one-half courses, one full course pertaining to the research component of the program with one and a half courses pertaining to the clinical training component. The latter will include DEN 1040H “Introduction to Biostatistics” and DEN 1030S “Clinical Epidemiology and Evidence-Based Care”.

• These changes are effective September, 2009.
Prof. Locker explained that this complex proposal was originally submitted as two proposals but was now amalgamated to one. The first goal of the proposal was to increase minimum coursework requirements, as there were indications OCGS felt the minimum coursework requirements were inadequate and had flagged this for attention at the next periodic appraisal. The current minimum coursework requirements are among the lowest in SGS, and it seemed good opportunity to expand the breadth requirement. The second goal of the proposal, linked to the first, arises from a suggestion from the consultants during the last periodic appraisal that the program could be strengthened if core courses could be same for all students. So the second goal is to act as a first step in strengthening the core curriculum. A member asked if students felt the same way as the consultants. Prof. Locker answered that students were present at meetings where the proposal was discussed and seemed to be in favour of it. Many of the program’s students do complete more than the current minimum requirements but there are some that do not, and some supervisors feel they want students to undertake research rather than do coursework; so the department thought it appropriate to increase requirements in the way it proposes.

A member asked what part of the program might be lost if the time-to-degree is expected to stay the same but minimum course requirements are increased, particularly with respect to the time and quality of research done in the program. The hope, Prof. Locker replied, is that the courses being required would facilitate students’ research, as they teach research methodology. As already pointed out, most students already exceed minimum coursework requirements.

Another member noted that the consultants had suggested a course taken by students in both the research and clinical training streams, and asked how relevant the required course would be for students in the clinical training stream. Prof. Locker said that the clinical training program is part of the doctoral stream program in any case; for the combined PhD with Dental Training Specialty option, students are required to do research and hence the required course would be of use to these students. Another member noted that offering well-designed research methods courses was consistent with what is considered good practice among health profession programs, and applauded this aspect of the proposal. There being no further discussion, the Dean called the question.

The motion was CARRIED.

### 7.4 Editing Medieval Texts, Collaborative Program in, PhD

The proposal has been discussed with the program’s student representatives. It was approved by the Program Committee of the Collaborative Program on March 31, 2008 and by the Faculty of Arts and Science Three-Campus Graduate Curriculum Committee (3CGC) on January 13, 2009. No substantive discussion arose at the 3CGC meeting. GEC approval is final. Professor William Robins was present to answer questions. The Dean called on Vice-Dean Elizabeth Cowper to present the motion.

**MOTION (duly moved and seconded)**

**THAT** Graduate Education Council approve the proposal of the Faculty of Arts and Science to change the program requirements of the Collaborative Program in Editing Medieval Texts to reduce the required coursework from 3.0 to 2.5 FCE, effective September 2009.
As there was no discussion, the Dean called the question.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

### 7.5 German Literature, Culture and Theory, MA, PhD

The proposal was approved by the department’s Graduate Program Committee and endorsed by the Departmental Meeting; graduate students are represented on both committees. The proposal was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Science Three-Campus Graduate Curriculum Committee (3CGC) on January 13, 2009. No substantive discussion arose at the 3CGC meeting. GEC approval is final. Professor John Noyes was present to answer questions.

The Dean called on Vice-Dean Elizabeth Cowper to present the motion.

**MOTION (duly moved and seconded)**

**THAT** Graduate Education Council approve the proposal of the Faculty of Arts and Science to change the program requirements of the MA and PhD in German Literature, Culture and Theory by replacing COL 1000H with GER 1000H “German Studies Seminar: Culture, Theory, Text” as a required course, effective September 2009.

The Dean noted that it was unusual to see a program with a core requirement that was offered by a different unit. Prof. Noyes said that the course was collaboratively offered. About five years ago, the department had decided with the Centre for Comparative Literature to have a team-taught theory course. This worked relatively well; the main issue was that despite the department taking part almost every year in team teaching, it had very little control over the course except its own sections. The department decided it would be a better use of its resources and make for a better course for its students if the core offering was relocated within the department itself so it could focus specifically on German studies. There being no further discussion, the Dean called the question.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

### 7.6 Political Science, MA

The Department approved these changes via a meeting of its Priorities and Planning Committee, to which all members of the Department and graduate student representatives were invited. The changes were included in the Brief the Department submitted to OCGS in 2007 for periodic appraisal of its programs. The Faculty of Arts and Science Three-Campus Graduate Curriculum Committee (3CGC) approved the proposal on January 13, 2009. Discussion at the 3CGC meeting was summarized on the motion sheet distributed with the agenda.

The changes in this proposal arise from a proposed new field in Political Theory. The new field does not require University governance (only OCGS approval is required), but the related program requirement changes do. A new field proposal has been approved by OCGS, so GEC approval is final. Professor Grace Skogstad was present to answer questions, if any. The Dean called on Vice-Dean Elizabeth Cowper to present the motion.
MOTION (duly moved and seconded)

THAT Graduate Education Council approve the proposal of the Faculty of Arts and Science to change the program requirements of the MA in Political Science as follows:

- Make the program a 12-month program rather than 8 months long.
- Eliminate the Thesis option.
- Students in the Political Theory field are required to complete 2.0 FCE in political theory, and at least 1.0 FCE in an area outside political theory; all courses must be chosen in consultation with the MA supervisor.
- These changes are effective September 2009.

A member asked why the thesis option was being eliminated. Prof. Skogstad responded that the option had not been used for quite some time. The department had in recent years introduced a master’s research seminar, and no students had been doing a thesis for quite some time, so the proposal was bringing the requirements into conformity with practice. As there was no further discussion, the Dean called the question.

The motion is CARRIED.

7.7 Public Policy and Governance, MPP

The proposal was approved by the School of Public Policy and Governance Teaching Faculty committee on November 26, 2008 and by the Faculty of Arts and Science Three-Campus Graduate Curriculum Committee (3CGC) on January 13, 2009. No substantive discussion arose at the 3CGC meeting. GEC approval is final. Professor Michael Baker (Interim Director of the MPP program) and Ms. Anita Srinivasan (Graduate Coordinator) were present to answer questions. The Dean calls on Professor Elizabeth Cowper to present the motion.

MOTION (duly moved and seconded)

THAT Graduate Education Council approve the proposal of the Faculty of Arts and Science to change the program requirements of the Master of Public Policy and Governance program to add PPG 2011H as a required core course to be taken in the second year of the program; and to remove PPG 2000H/FIS 1210H from the list of required core courses. The overall number of courses, 8.0 FCE, remains unchanged. These changes are effective September 2009.

There being no discussion, the Dean called the question.

The motion was CARRIED.

8 Other Business

The Dean thanked all present for their commentary and thoughtfulness, noting the importance of this GEC meeting, as this was the final meeting where approved changes were guaranteed to be incorporated into next year’s Calendar.
A member noted that in the documentation for this meeting, the term “Director of Graduate Studies” seemed to be liberally used and asked if this was now a standard term for SGS. The member further suggested that it seemed poor practice to allow each unit to have its own terminology. The Dean answered that according to University regulations, if the graduate unit is a Department it is headed by a Graduate Chair, while if it is a Centre or Institute it is headed by a Director; furthermore the SGS Constitution states that each graduate unit must have a Graduate Coordinator. The Dean thanked the member for pointing out the variations, and said that SGS would do its best to ensure that Council documentation is consistent and clear. Vice-Dean Elizabeth Cowper further noted that there are 17 Faculties and over 80 Graduate Units, each with its own history and culture leading each to its own practices. She also said that in some cases SGS has had to be vigilant and return documents to graduate units when they had not been signed by someone with the proper title; nevertheless it might be difficult to get all graduate units to conform to the same terminology.

Another member asked what the global impact on the quality of graduate education was of all the small changes approved by Council, and whether this was tracked. The Dean replied that the Office of Quality Assessment and Governance at SGS put a lot of effort into databases that tracked changes. For changes that used to require approval by the Academic Policy and Programs Committee (AP&P) of Academic Board but now require only GEC approval, a report has been prepared yearly for AP&P listing not merely the changes but also identifying patterns. Where SGS has final approval over something, SGS keeps track of it. While there is no regular report made to GEC, the SGS Vice-Deans, Directors and Program Officers can offer summaries because they monitor the changes. Globally, one might hesitantly suggest some patterns exist, but as with today’s meeting, GEC sometimes approves increases and reductions in requirements. If a program’s requirements go beyond a certain range, it can become subject for discussion; GEC’s approvals always tend to normalize programs within a certain range. SGS does a good job of keeping track of changes across the broad landscape of graduate studies. The Dean invited members to inform her in advance of a meeting should they wish for more information. Vice-Dean Berry Smith added that although each change made by GEC was individual, it was a large and diverse enough body that someone involved would notice if the change might have a detrimental effect on institutional standards.

9 Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM.
Appendix to the Minutes

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
Record of Attendance
GRADUATE EDUCATION COUNCIL
Tuesday, February 17, 2009

In Attendance (Voting & Non-voting Members)
Bondy, Susan
Cowper, Elizabeth
Damaren, Chris
Duff, Wendy
Graham, Ian
Grenier, Jason
Julian, Stephen
Mai, Jens-Erik
Makarovsky, Vesna
Mulongo, Joseph
Parizeau, Katherine
Pfeiffer, Susan (Chair)
Radmacher, Kimberley
Roach, Lisa
Rupp, Stephen
Smith, Berry
Surendra, Harinee
Sztaibok, Iliana
Tannock, Rosemary
Weedmark, Julie
Williams, David
Young, Paul

In Attendance (Guests & SGS Staff)
Baker, Michel
Branch, Rodney
Chakravarty, Anjan
Donaldson, James
Francisco, Jennifer
Hurlhey, Victoria
Murphy, Michelle
Noyes, John
Skogstad, Grace
Srinivasan, Anita
Steeves, Krista
Robins, William
Rutchinski, Steve
van Kerkwijk, Marten
Yee, Lily

Absent
Choi, Diana
Elliott, Robin
Klinger, Christopher
Liu, Hugh
McKenzie, Christine

Alderdice, Jane (Secretary to Council)
Purandaré, Anil (Assistant to Secretary)