



**Senate Committee on Academic Development**  
Report to Senate – Meeting of May 20, 2009

**Proposal to change the Degree Name Designation: Master of Applied Science in the Faculty of Applied Science**

**Introduction**

The proposal to change the degree name designation for the Master of Science (Engineering) (M.Sc. [Eng]) and the Master of Science (M.Sc.) to the Master of Applied Science (M.A.Sc.) in the School of Graduate Studies and Research (SGSR) was reviewed by the Senate Committee on Academic Development (SCAD) at its meeting April 29, 2009. B. Brouwer, Associate Dean of SGSR, and M. Cunningham, Professor, Departments of Chemical Engineering and Chemistry, attended the SCAD meeting to speak to the proposal and answer questions from members of SCAD. Members of SCAD were also provided with the proposal from the SGSR, which outlines the major components of the proposal. A copy of the proposal is attached to this report.

**Analysis and Discussion**

The following should be noted:

- the SGSR currently offers two degree designations: Master of Science (Engineering) (M.Sc.[Eng.]) and a Master of Science (M.Sc.) within the Faculty of Applied Science;
- the distinguishing feature of the two degree designations is that students entering the program with an undergraduate degree in engineering are awarded an M.Sc.(Eng.) degree and students entering the program without an engineering background are awarded an M.Sc.;
- the distinction exists for historical reasons however there is no meaningful purpose for this differentiation;
- graduate students were polled on this proposed change and they indicated that there would be support to move in this direction;
- the M.A.Sc. designation is currently being used by other engineering programs across the province including: the University of Toronto, University of Waterloo, University of Ottawa, McMaster University, University of Guelph, University of Windsor, Carleton University, Royal Military College and Ryerson University;
- the perception of maintaining two degrees may pose difficulties in the market place where different values may be attached to different degrees despite the admission and graduation requirements being identical; this may lead to confusion for graduates of the program as they enter the workforce.

## **Conclusions/Recommendation**

### Recommendation:

On academic grounds, SCAD recommends that Senate approve the change of degree name designation for the Master of Science (Engineering) (M.Sc. [Eng]) and the Master of Science (M.Sc.) to the Master of Applied Science (M.A.Sc.) in SGSR. This change will take effect for all new students entering the program effective September 1, 2009, and for those students continuing in their program after September 30, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick Deane  
Chair, Senate Committee on Academic Development

### **Committee Members:**

#### **Members**

C. Baker  
J. Coates  
P. Deane (Chair)  
M. Hoidas  
M. Lombardi  
D. McKeown  
K. O'Brien (Secretary)  
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# Memo

TO Patrick Deane, Chair, Senate Committee on Academic  
Development  
FROM Georgina Moore, Senate Secretary  
DATE April 17, 2009  
SUBJECT Change to Degree Name Designation: Master of Applied  
Science

The attached proposal has been submitted to the Senate by the School of Graduate Studies and Research and is referred to SCAD for approval. The proposed change to degree name designation for the Master of Science (Engineering) and the Master of Science (M.Sc.) to **Master of Applied Science (M.A.Sc.)** was approved by the Graduate Council on April 8, 2009.

Please review the proposal and report back to Senate with your committee's recommendation. Professor Brenda Brouwer, Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Research (ext. 36087, email [brouwerb@queensu.ca](mailto:brouwerb@queensu.ca)), should be contacted if you have any questions or if you would like her to attend a committee meeting. Please contact her directly.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Georgina".

Georgina Moore  
Secretary of the Senate

copy: K. O'Brien, Secretary, SCAD  
B. Brouwer, Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Research

**Change to Degree Name Designation: Master of Applied Science  
Faculty of Applied Science, Queen's University**

**For Review by the Senate Committee on Academic Development, April 29, 2009**

The following proposal is a request from programs within the Faculty of Applied Science to change the degree designation from:

- Master of Science (Engineering) (M.Sc. [Eng.]) to **Master of Applied Science (M.A.Sc.)** in the graduate programs in the Faculty of Applied Science
- Master of Science (M.Sc.) to **Master of Applied Science (M.A.Sc.)** in the graduate programs in the Faculty of Applied Science

If approved, all future graduates of the current M.Sc. (Eng.) and M.Sc. programs (i.e. those who complete their degree requirements after September 30, 2009), in the graduate programs of Faculty of Applied Science will receive the M.A.Sc. degree.

At its meeting held March 31, 2009, the Steering Committee of the School of Graduate Studies and Research recommended approval of this change to SGS Council. In turn, the SGS Council approved this change at its meeting on April 8, 2009.

**Background**

Graduate programs in the various departments of the Faculty of Applied Science are in Division III of the School of Graduate Studies and Research at Queen's University. The Faculty currently offers Master of Science (Engineering) (M.Sc. [Eng.]) and Master of Science (M.Sc.) degrees. The admission and graduation requirements (course work, research thesis) for the two degrees are identical. They are distinguished as follows: students with an undergraduate degree in an engineering program are awarded an M.Sc. (Eng.) degree, while students coming from a non-engineering background (typically a science discipline such as chemistry, biology, or computer science) are awarded the M.Sc. degree.

This distinction exists for historical reasons that no longer serve a meaningful purpose nor reflect any genuine difference in the programs of study. Increasingly, research and graduate study is being conducted at the interface of disciplines, and we are consequently experiencing an increasing fraction of our graduate students coming from non-engineering undergraduate programs.

To eliminate the current artificial distinction between the two degrees, we propose to award a single degree for the Master's level research programs, the Master of Applied Science (M.A.Sc.). This designation is commonly used by other graduate programs in Canadian engineering programs, and is also more consistent with the Faculty designation. The M.A.Sc. designation is currently used by the engineering programs at the University of Toronto, University of Waterloo, University of Ottawa, McMaster University, University of Guelph, University of Windsor, Carleton University, Royal Military College and Ryerson University.

The members of Division III of the School of Graduate Studies and Research at Queen's University are strongly supportive of this change in degree designation. Details supporting our request are provided below in accordance with the information required by the OCGS.

**The university's perception of the substantive difference between the currently authorized degree designation and the proposed degree designation**

The degree program (requirements and curriculum) remain unchanged. The change will simply eliminate an artificial distinction that currently exists.

**Demonstration that there are a sufficient number of faculty members with the appropriate scholarly credentials for the proposed change in degree designation**

Faculty members in the Faculty of Applied Science have the appropriate credentials and training to deliver the program. As stated above, there are no changes proposed to the curriculum or program.

**Demonstration that the program requirements for students are appropriate for the proposed change in degree designation**

The proposed change in degree designation to M.A.Sc. more accurately reflects the nature of the Faculty of Applied Science and the actual programs of study within each department. The current distinction between M.Sc. (Eng.) and M.Sc. is less accurate and misleading. The M.A.Sc. designation is also commonly used in Canadian engineering faculties.

**Demonstration that the admissions requirements are appropriate for the proposed degree designation**

Current admission requirements include an undergraduate degree that qualifies students to complete a program of study in their respective department (usually in engineering or science) and a minimum B+ average. Since the program is not changing, the admission requirements are suitable and will not be changed.

**Implementation**

The change will take effect for all incoming students in September 2009 and for all students continuing in their programs as of September 30, 2009, providing that the Ontario Council of Graduate Studies (OCGS) approves the request to change the degree designation. Students currently enrolled in the M.Sc. (Eng) or M.Sc. programs will receive the M.A.Sc. degree upon completion of their degree requirements.