Dean’s Report

Brenda Brouwer, Dean and Vice Provost

Administrative

Training on the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) is now mandatory for all graduate students beginning their programs in September 2011 and strongly recommended for those who are in-program. Accordingly, we recommended that a notation appear on the transcript confirming completion of the online course and we are awaiting final approval from SCAP.

The regulation on withdrawal on academic grounds has been revised primarily to improve clarity of the process. The updated regulation can be viewed here: http://www.queensu.ca/calendars/sgsr/Withdrawal_on_Academic_Grounds.html.

Following discussion at some Faculty councils and subsequently at GSEC about the need for policy and process for accommodating graduate students with disabilities, a task force to examine the issues around accommodation of graduate students has been formed. The mandate is to develop guiding principles and procedures, and recommend policy/best practices. Sandra den Otter and Audrey Kobayashi have agreed to co-chair this committee. The membership is being confirmed and the committee will conduct its work over the summer and early fall submitting a report and their recommendations to the SGS by mid to late fall.

A memorandum of understanding was signed with the Saudi Arabian Cultural Bureau to facilitate mobility of Saudi students to Queen’s. Saudi applicants who gain admission and hold a scholarship will have full tuition and all living, UHIP expenses covered. Supervisors may also submit a request to recover research related costs associated with the student’s research.

Programs

The combined MD/MSc and MD/PhD programs have been approved and will commence in September 2012.

New programs in development are:
- Diploma in Community Relations for the Extractive Industries – Department of Mining
- Professional Master’s in Mineral Resource Management – Department of Mining
- Master’s in Health Care, Quality, Safety and Risk – School of Nursing

Student Support

We have put out the call for nominations for the Trillium Scholarships. We have 5 awards for 2011-12 and expect to receive 5 new awards in each of the next three years for a steady state of 20.

We expect that more of our students will receive OGS support as there are 1000 new awards in the system. Competition results will be out shortly.
In the recent Vanier competition we received two CIHR Vaniers (Dianna Lanteigne, PSYC, Andreas Reichelt, NSCI) and one SSHRC Vanier (Krystle Maki SOC)

In January the new Maternity/Parental leave funding was introduced and the details can be found on the SGS website (http://www.queensu.ca/sgs/forstudents/prospectivestudents/funding.html#maternity).

The Office of Institutional Research and Planning has circulated its report on the funding of graduate students for the 2009/10 academic year. The details are contained in the accompanying Dean’s Report slide presentation.

What’s New?

Ratification of the first collective agreement between Queen’s and PSAC representing TAs and TFs is expected soon. Graduate programs should expect that there will be changes. Once the agreement is ratified, labour relations personnel and the School of Graduate Studies will meet with programs to discuss its implementation and impact.

Informal Graduate Studies Information Exchange sessions were introduced in February, each session covering a specific topic of relevance to graduate studies. Graduate assistants and graduate coordinators have the opportunity to talk about how they do things, what works, what doesn’t and learn about what’s going on outside their own programs. Discussion summaries are posted on the SGS website. We will continue these in the upcoming academic year and programs are encouraged to suggest topics and/or lead discussions.

The Expanding Horizons workshop/seminar series is being overhauled. By packaging the series in such a way that professional skill areas are clearly identified along with corresponding workshops we expect to reach more students. Also, a structured program focused on professional development and delivered centrally will provide support to our programs and their students. Further details are contained in the “Expanding Horizons” presentation.