

**Queen's University  
Senate Committee on Academic Procedures**

**CONVOCATION AND SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES GRADUATES**

**November 2012**

**Background**

Prior to 2010, students graduating with Masters and Doctoral degrees from the School of Graduate Studies participated in the Fall or Spring Convocation ceremony in which undergraduate students from their department were also a part. For example, students receiving graduate degrees in History would graduate in the same ceremony in which students receiving undergraduate degrees in History would participate.

From 2010 to 2012, during Spring Convocation ceremonies, the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) had its own Convocation ceremony in which all of its graduating students took part.

**Analysis and Discussion**

After Spring Convocation in 2012, representatives from Faculties/Schools in addition to other units with a stake in Convocation, held a debrief meeting. One topic that arose was whether the SGS should continue to have a single ceremony during Spring Convocation.

It was thought that dispersing graduate students throughout many ceremonies may help to increase faculty attendance at Convocation, since many faculty members attend the ceremonies in which their students participate. It was noted that graduate students often see themselves more as members of their department (i.e., History) than the SGS itself and may appreciate participating in their own department's ceremony. It was also remarked that having graduate students at many ceremonies would set a positive example for both the graduating undergraduates and their guests, showing to all that Queen's has a robust graduate studies program.

It was acknowledged that this change would result in the need for a senior administrator from the SGS to attend upward of 16 to 18 Convocation ceremonies in the Spring and four in the Fall.

**Recommendations**

Faculty/School and other stakeholder units have agreed that, beginning in Spring 2013, graduating graduate students should attend their department's Convocation ceremony and that a single ceremony during Spring Convocation for the entire SGS should be eliminated.

## **Summary**

The Senate Committee on Academic Procedures approved this proposal at its November 7, 2012 meeting and now requests that Senate consider the following motion:

*Be it resolved that, beginning in Spring 2013, graduating graduate students will attend their individual department's or unit's Convocation ceremony and that a single ceremony held during Spring Convocation for the entire School of Graduate Studies be eliminated.*

## **Membership**

T. Alm, Interim University Registrar

L. Burlock, B.A. '14

R. Coupland, Office of the University Registrar (Secretary)

C. Esselmont, PhD candidate, Department of Philosophy

H. Everson, Faculty of Arts and Science

J. Mennell, Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

J. Morelli, Department of Physics, Engineering Physics, and Astronomy

T. Shearer, School of Business (Chair)