

Office of the Senate Secretariat

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1 April 2009

Dear Member of Senate:

I advise you that a meeting of the Senate of Acadia University will occur **at 4:00 p.m., Monday, 13 April 2009** in BAC 132. The AGENDA follows:

- 1) Minutes of the Meeting of 9 March 2009
- 2) Announcements and Communications
- 3) Business Arising from the Minutes
- 4) New Business
  - a.) Research and Graduate Studies – Part-Time Graduate Studies Policy **(089-68-GRD)** \*
- 5) Other Business

Yours sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Rosemary Jotcham  
Registrar and Secretary of Senate

Items Carried Over/Tabled:

Faculty Development Committee - Endowed Chairs **(078-30-FAC)**

Guidelines for Memoranda of Agreement

Bursary Recommendations

Academic Integrity Committee - Acadia University Calendar Statement on Academic Integrity  
**(089-17-INT)** as per minutes of 14 Oct 08

### **Part-time Graduate Studies**

In 2008 the Senate Committee on Graduate Studies struck a sub-committee to explore the possibility of increasing the number of programs available for part-time study at the graduate level. At the present time, the only options identified in the Graduate Calendar are within the School of Education, although this year the Department of Mathematics and Statistics admitted one part-time graduate student.

The subcommittee was composed of R. Haynes (Mathematics and Statistics), R. Brickner (Political Science), D. Day (Education), E. Schofield (R&GS), and T. Starratt (R&GS). An abbreviated version of their report is included below. On the basis of their report, and with the unanimous support of the Senate Committee on Graduate Studies, the following motion is moved:

**That Acadia expand its program offerings for part-time graduate study to those departments and schools that wish to host part-time graduate students, with the following provisions: (1) that the total time allotted for degree completion remain as currently advertised in the Graduate Calendar, but that the time limits for completion of course requirements be doubled to four years in the case of 2-year programs and to two years in the case of 1-year programs; and (2) that any department or school currently offering a graduate program can choose not to offer a part-time option.**

David MacKinnon, Acting Dean, R&GS

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#### *A rationale for part-time graduate studies:*

- Establishing a part-time option for departments/schools will help to ensure that Acadia is positioned to respond to changes in student demographics and the changing needs for post-graduate education in a shifting economic environment.
- Given continuing changes in the economy and the increasing likelihood of having more than one career, more people with careers will be looking to upgrade their education but will need the flexibility of part-time studies to do so.

#### *Benefits:*

- Part-time studies provide more flexibility for those who cannot enroll in a full-time program.
- Part-time study will attract students that may not have considered Acadia otherwise.
- A part-time study option will have positive implications for faculty, especially in applying for Tri-Council research grants, where graduate supervision is increasingly critical to successful grant applications.

#### *Considerations for students:*

- Part-time students are unable to claim the same number of months on the T2202A tax form as a full-time student.
- Part-time students are currently ineligible for student loans.
- A part-time student is not as likely to receive a line of credit and there may be implications in using RESPs for part-time studies.
- Student visas are not issued to part-time students; this means that an International student could not switch from full-time to part-time status.
- Domestic part-time students are not part of the Acadia Health Plan.
- At this time, part-time students are not eligible for on-campus accommodations.

- Acadia Graduate Awards are reserved for full-time students, and part-time status could have an impact on potential external funding.

All potential part-time students will need to be made aware of these limitations.