Faculty of Information Studies
Executive Committee

Minutes

Friday, February 12, 2010
9:00 a.m.

Present: Andrew Drummond (Chair), Areti Vourinaris (Secretary), Seamus Ross (Dean), Andrew Clement (by telephone), Heather MacNeil, Michael McCaffrey
Joan Cherry (Associate Dean and Assessor)

1. Remarks from the Chair

The Chair thanked the members present for attending the meeting on short notice. He noted that the single proposal before members (the establishment of a thesis option for the Master of Museum Studies (MMSt) program) was placed there at the request of the Associate Dean because of its time-sensitivity. He made a procedural note that he had asked for unanimous consent to proceed with an email ballot, but that a member had requested a meeting to discuss and vote upon the proposal; as a result, votes received by the Chair in advance of the meeting were null and void.

2. Proposal to Establish a Thesis Option for the Master of Museum Studies Program

Professor Cherry introduced the proposal, noting that the thesis option had been recommended by a recent OCGS review of the program. The Chair read comments from members unable to attend.

There was some discussion, centering on two main points:

- The number of credits for the thesis itself (1.5 FCE) was substantially lower than the thesis option in the Master of Information (MI) program, which took 3.0 FCE.
- The number of faculty members in the program was relatively small, and concern was expressed about the program’s ability to offer a thesis option properly, given the number of faculty.

Professor Cherry pointed out that the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies had expressed surprise at the large number of FCE for the MI thesis, and said that 1.5 FCE was much more standard. She further pointed out that the progress of any students pursuing the option would be monitored and that it would be possible to adjust the requirements through governance at a later date.

She then pointed out that the Faculty was under no obligation to admit students to the thesis program if it was unable to provide effective supervisory support to a thesis.
proposal, and that as a result the ability to offer the thesis was appropriate to the size of the program.

Members pointed out that it would be essential to monitor closely the uptake of the program and the appropriateness of the course load equivalence.

It was MOVED by Professor McCaffrey and seconded by Professor MacNeil that the proposal to establish a thesis option for the Master of Museum Studies Program be approved.

CARRIED

3. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.