

Graduate Committee Meeting, February 28, 2012

<http://katlas.math.toronto.edu/drorbn/AcademicPensieve/2012-02/GraduateCommitteeMeeting-120228.pdf>

Agenda.

- Inline report on next year's graduate coordinator.
- Report on the admissions process.
- Course selection – assign HW to DBN.
- A proposed change to the final PhD examination policy.
- Graduate course evaluations.
- Last last year: first meeting March 5, second March 22. Last year: one meeting on March 11. Do we need a second meeting this year?

Last Year's Admissions Process. We had about 105 Domestic Applicants, 151 International.

The funded domestic MSc target was 10, one deferred from the year before so internally the target was 9; later the target was raised to infinity. We made 25 offers; 9 declined and 15 accepted: 9 funded PhD stream, 4 funded non-PhD stream, one deferred.

The funded domestic PhD target was 13, 6 were continuing so our internal target was 7. We made 11 offers; 4 declined and 8 accepted: 7 came and one deferred.

The international target was initially 0 but then about 5; we made 7 offers, 2 declined and 5 accepted.

We also made about 20 unfunded MSc offers; about 5 came and the rest declined.

This Year's Admissions Process. We got the following targets from the SGS:

- Domestic MSc admissions: 18 (1 already admitted).
- Domestic direct entry PhD admission: 1.
- Domestic PhD admissions: 17 (8-10 are continuing).
- International enrolment: 24 (we have 12-15).

We read about 114 domestic applications and 162 international ones, and made 27 MSc offers (20 of which PhD stream), 11 new PhD offers (and I really hope we'll be able to make 4 more), and 16 international offers. All offers are funded; it is too early to speak of acceptance rates.

Course Selection – Assign HW to DBN.

This will be our biggest item. See an attached spreadsheet.

A proposed change to the final PhD examination policy.

Our current graduate handbook has the following:

Thesis: The main requirement of the degree is an acceptable thesis. This will embody an individual contribution to original research of a standard that warrants publication in the research literature. It must be written under the supervision of one or more members of the

department. The student presents the thesis results in three stages.

(i) Thesis Content Seminar. This is an opportunity for the student to present his/her thesis results to department members. The presentation frequently takes place within one of the regular departmental research seminars.

(ii) Departmental Oral Examination. The student gives a 20-minute summary of the thesis and must defend it before a departmental examination committee. Copies of the thesis should be available two weeks before the departmental oral examination. The committee may approve the thesis without reservations, or approve the thesis on condition that revision be made, or require the student to take another departmental oral examination.

(iii) Final Oral Examination. Eight weeks after the successful completion of the departmental oral, the student proceeds to the final oral examination conducted by the School of Graduate Studies. The thesis is sent to an external reader who submits a report two weeks prior to the examination; this report is circulated to members of the examination committee and to the student. The examination committee consists of four to six faculty members; it is recommended that the external reader attend the examination. The student gives a 20-minute summary of the thesis, which is followed by a question period.

I propose that we add the following paragraph:

As an alternative to the above examination procedure, it will sometimes be possible, on the PhD candidate's initiative and with the agreement of the candidate's academic advisor, to substitute a 50 minute presentation for the 20 minute presentation in the departmental oral examination and the final oral examination. The math department will attempt to accommodate such requests though technical and administrative considerations (space and scheduling issues, communication issues when some committee members are not physically present, compliance issues with SGS rules, etc.) may prevent this alternative. It is recommended that such requests will be made at least 4 weeks in advance of the departmental examination. It is recommended that the 50 minutes option for the final oral examination not be considered when the external examiner is participating by teleconference.

Graduate Course Evaluations.

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