

**UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
REQUEST FOR DECISION**

PRESENTED BY: Len Proctor, Chair, Academic Programs Committee of Council

DATE OF MEETING: June 16, 2011

SUBJECT: College of Graduate Studies & Research: Dual Degrees policy

DECISION REQUESTED:

It is recommended:

That Council approve the proposal from the College of Graduate Studies & Research to create Dual Degrees.

PURPOSE:

The Dual Degree policy proposal concerns academic programs at the University of Saskatchewan. While not requiring a change to any existing degree program, the Dual Degree proposal represents a change in how some degree programs will be managed. The Academic Programs Committee agreed that University Council should be informed about this policy and asked to approve it.

SUMMARY:

The College of Graduate Studies & Research developed a Dual Degree policy and agreement template in response to requests from colleges and departments. The policy allows the department or college to offer its graduate program in cooperation with a graduate program at another university. The student receives a degree from both universities, with a notation on the transcript and/or parchment stating that the degree was obtained under a dual degree agreement.

REVIEW:

At its March 23 meeting, the Academic Programs Committee discussed the draft proposal with the Dean and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research. A revised proposal document was approved at the May 25 meeting. The Committee also agreed that CGSR would report annually to the committee regarding dual degree agreements, so that this information can be included in the committee report to Council.

ATTACHMENTS:

Proposal documentation from College of Graduate Studies & Research

POLICY FOR DUAL DEGREES

6.5 Dual Degree

A dual degree is where a student pursues graduate studies at two universities, **satisfying both institution's admission and degree requirements**, and where applicable, with a project or thesis co-supervised by faculty at each institution. The student receives a degree from both universities, with a notation on the final transcript and/or parchment stating that the degree was obtained under a dual degree agreement.

- 6.5.1 Dual degrees will exist through an agreement, or memorandum of understanding, with the partner institution that has been approved by the CGSR, and signed by the dean and the provost.
- 6.5.2 Only existing approved programs can be offered as dual degree programs. New programs, or existing programs where the degree requirements are being changed, must first complete the appropriate academic approval process before being offered as a dual degree program.
- 6.5.3 Academic units will use the standard template for a dual degree agreement when developing the agreement, and, the template must contain all of the mandatory articles as identified in the associated procedures. These include, but are not limited to:
 - statement of admission requirements, or indication that CGSR standard admission requirements apply;
 - listing of course requirements;
 - listing of each institution's courses eligible for transfer credit by the partner institution;
 - statement indicating that the thesis must be written and defended in English;
 - list of faculty at partner institution that meet the requirements for membership as an adjunct professor in CGSR and thus are eligible to supervise graduate students.
 - statement indicating students will be jointly supervised by a faculty member from each institution, and, that the supervisory committee will have four members, two

from each institution.

- 6.5.4 The degree parchment and/or transcript from the University of Saskatchewan will state “University of Saskatchewan, in partnership with *partner institution name*”.
- 6.5.5 The agreement with the partner institution will require that the partner institution include a similar notation on their transcript and/or parchment.
- 6.5.6 Students attending the U of S in a dual degree program must follow the standard application procedures for graduate students, and, must meet all of the admission requirements as set by the CGSR.
- 6.5.7 Students attending the U of S in a dual degree program must be registered and attending the U of S for a minimum of three terms for master’s students (one year), or, for a minimum of six terms (two years) for doctoral students.
- 6.5.8 Students attending the U of S in a dual degree program will pay tuition to the U of S for each term in which they are registered in graduate studies at the U of S.
- 6.5.9 Students in a dual degree program must complete the degree requirements at both institutions and the two degrees will be awarded simultaneously at both institutions.
- 6.5.10 A decision to award, or not award, the degree to the student by the partner university will not be binding upon the U of S decision to award the degree. In the event of a veto by the partner university to award the degree, and if the student has completed all of the U of S degree requirements, a U of S degree may be awarded.

From: [Skilnik, Penny](#)
To: [Fornssler, Cathie](#);
cc: [Martz, Lawrence](#);
Subject: CGSR Policy 6.5 Dual Degrees
Date: Friday, May 20, 2011 12:49:49 PM
Attachments: [6.5 Dual Degrees May 16-11.doc](#)
[APC Memo dual degree agreements wcomments.pdf](#)

Hi Cathie,

In response to the letter from the APC dated April 13, 2011 we made some minor revisions to the CGSR Policy 6.5 Partnership Degrees. At their meeting last Monday, the CGSR Executive Committee reviewed the document and confirmed their acceptance of the changes. In addition, there remained some concern about the title of the policy because it is not immediately apparent that there are two degrees being earned. Lawrence Martz advised that, under the newly adopted U of S nomenclature policy, the Registrar is writing a series of definitions for all of the degree titles. He has indicated that this type of degree will be called a dual degree. After a brief discussion, and noting that this is the common term used for these type of programs across Canada and internationally, the CGSR Executive Committee members agreed to revise the name of the policy to be in line with the Registrar's document. The new title is Policy 6.5 Dual Degrees.

I have attached a copy of the revised policy, and as you and I had discussed, I have also attached a mark-up copy of the letter from APC , which identifies the section of the policy that was revised to incorporate the requested clarification. Please let me know if you need anything further before your meeting next week.

Thanks,

Penny

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Lawrence Martz, Dean, College of Graduate Studies & Research

FROM: Len Proctor, Chair, Academic Programs Committee of Council


DATE: April 13, 2011

RE: Proposal for MOU for partnership degrees

Thank you for attending the March 23 meeting of the Academic Programs Committee to discuss the draft proposal to develop Memorandums of Understanding with other universities to offer partnership graduate degrees.






The Committee found the concept worthwhile and the proposal well constructed. We agreed that the development of partnership degrees should be supported.



Regarding the question of whether individual approval of such programs would be required at Council, it was agreed that these programs would follow the same approval procedures as any other university academic program:

- new programs being offered as partnership degrees would require university-level approval by University Council
- existing programs being offered as partnership degrees would require university-level approval only if the degree requirements are changing, through University Course Challenge, the Academic Programs Committee or University Council, depending on the type of change. 

It is the Committee's recommendation that the final version of its MOU proposal for partnership degrees should be brought to APC for recommendation and to University Council for approval. This would ensure departments and colleges that University Council approves the outline for these agreements and endorses their negotiation and development.

The Committee would also make the following suggestions for additional points to be covered in the proposal document:

- Partnership degree agreements would need to clarify how regulations regarding vetos  would be handled, and whether a thesis written and defended in a foreign language would be acceptable to the University of Saskatchewan if it were translated into English. 
- It would be useful to include rules about committee selection 
- There should also requirement that a partnership degree should  be awarded simultaneously at both institutions 

- The policy should clarify that the CGSR office would review the draft agreement before it is signed by the dean and the provost. 
- On the transcript, it should be noted that the program was completed as a partnership degree. 

The Committee suggested that it would be useful for CGSR to find out whether other universities draft such agreements for programs where one degree has a thesis requirement and the other does not.

Cc: Russell Isinger, Registrar