

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

PRESENTED BY: Len Proctor, Chair, Academic Programs Committee

DATE OF MEETING: March 17, 2011

SUBJECT: **Items for Information:**
1. Course-based Program Option in Philosophy Master of Arts program
2. Change of Field of Specialization name to MSc and PhD in Physics & Engineering Physics

COUNCIL ACTION: **For information only**

The Academic Programs Committee of Council approves the introduction or termination of program options and changes of name for fields of specialization.

SUMMARY:

1. Course-based Program Option in Philosophy Master of Arts program

The Course-based Program Option will require an additional year of courses in Philosophy, rather than a year devoted to researching and writing a thesis, for total of 30 credit units in courses.

2. Change of Field of Specialization name to MSc and PhD in Physics & Engineering Physics

The Department of Physics & Engineering Physics wants to use the name “Physics & Engineering Physics” for its graduate programs.

ATTACHMENTS:

Proposal documents for Program Option

Proposal documents for name change

Executive Summary

Department of Philosophy
University of Saskatchewan

PROPOSAL FOR A COURSE-BASED MASTER'S PROGRAM OPTION IN PHILOSOPHY

The Department of Philosophy currently offers a Master's program requiring 15 c.u. of coursework plus a thesis. Students who enroll in the program typically intend to use it as a steppingstone to further graduate work or professional training, or to careers as administrators or consultants in biomedical, educational, cultural, religious, or media-related work environments; however, a significant number also pursue the degree just out of interest.

The mandate of our thesis-based MA program has been to prepare students for PhD studies and in this the program has been successful: most graduates of the program wishing to continue their studies have gone on to PhD work in some of the top programs in North America and Europe. Nevertheless, many students do not have this ambition; nor are they interested in undertaking sustained philosophical research. Their interest is simply to acquire further knowledge of the subject at an advanced level. Such students are not well served by the thesis option and many are deterred from seeking admission at all. As well, many potential students have expressed interest in undertaking part-time studies, an option that is not available for thesis-based programs.

Hence, the proposal here is to institute a course-based option for the Master's program in philosophy, modeled on exemplary course-based Master's programs in Ontario and Western Canada. Students would be required to complete 30 c.u. of coursework (i.e. 10 one-semester classes or the equivalent). Like the thesis-based MA, the requirements of the course-based MA would typically be completed in two academic years, the difference between the options being a second coursework year of 15 c.u. in place of a year devoted to researching and writing a thesis.

The intent of such a course-based Master's program, however, is not merely to satisfy the demand for a non-thesis degree for personal edification, and it would not result in an inferior degree. The difference is one of emphasis, and a course-based option would also address the needs of those with nonstandard undergraduate backgrounds in philosophy who are seeking preparation for PhD programs, as well as address the needs of those who are unable to pursue full-time studies in the interim. Graduates of the programs on which this one is modeled have not been disadvantaged in applying to PhD programs.

Proposal Document

3. RATIONALE

We have had numerous inquiries over the years from individuals regarding course-only postgraduate studies:

Many inquiries, for example, have come from career professionals who studied philosophy as undergraduates and have maintained an abiding interest in philosophy. These individuals were not primarily interested in doing research but rather in broadening their knowledge of philosophy at an advanced level; they also tended to have a certain amount of flexibility in their positions that would enable them to take short leaves or incorporate time off into their work schedules, and they were interested in the possibility of part-time studies. Since part-time study is only an option for non-thesis programs, a course-based Master's degree would address the needs of these professionals.

Many local students have expressed a desire for a course-based Master's program with the intention of it being terminal for them. A few went to other provinces to pursue that possibility. Some enrolled in our thesis-based program, often with misgivings about undertaking a major research project; of these, some were not able to complete their theses, despite respectable performance in coursework. Had they had the option, this latter group could easily have completed a course-based Master's degree of the sort available in other provinces.

We have had inquiries and applications from numerous students with nonstandard backgrounds. While a few of these students have nevertheless managed quite well in our program, it is also clear that many of them would have been better off broadening their knowledge in a course-based program than embarking on thesis research from a limited background. As it now stands, the Department is reluctant to admit such students because of concerns over their ability to complete a thesis in a timely fashion, or over the increased workload involved in supervising such students, but would be willing to admit some of them into a course-based program.

A course-based option for the Master's program, therefore, would address the needs of (i) individuals who have an interest in formally continuing their study of philosophy after completion of their undergraduate degree, but who would otherwise be deterred from pursuing graduate studies, because their interest is mainly to acquire further knowledge of the subject at an advanced level, rather than undertaking fundamental research; (ii) individuals who seek to pursue graduate studies on a part-time basis, which is not an option for thesis-based programs, and (iii) individuals whose undergraduate background in philosophy is nonstandard and who consequently need to broaden their competence in preparation for eventual PhD studies. This course-based Master's option is consonant with the University's priorities for enrollment and outreach, and should make us more competitive for prospective graduate students, as well as fostering greater interest in philosophy in the community.

A Master's program in philosophy can thus prepare students for further studies at the PhD-level in two ways. The first way, that of the thesis-based MA, gives students experience in a major research undertaking, a sort of "dry run" for an eventual PhD thesis. The second way, that of the course-based MA, is to broaden and enhance students' general knowledge at an advanced level, which will give them an edge when it comes to PhD coursework and comprehensives. And as previously indicated, a course-based MA may be the more desirable option for students with nonstandard backgrounds in the discipline, providing them with the extra breadth needed for success at the PhD level.

Some graduate schools admit students into PhD programs directly after the undergraduate degree, and indeed most of the major American schools do not even have a distinct MA program. Instead, many direct-entry PhD programs allow students to opt out after the second year of the program (i.e. after completing 30 c.u.) with an MA as formal recognition of that level of completion. Since most graduate programs also accept transfer credits, such MA's are not necessarily terminal. The course-based MA being proposed here would be comparable. For a student with an MA seeking admission to and advanced placement within an American direct-entry PhD program, a course-based MA could sometimes even have an advantage over a thesis-based MA, inasmuch as there is no general agreement regarding the transfer-credit value of an MA thesis.

Availability of Courses.

The Department currently has 18 regular 3-c.u. graduate courses in the calendar. For the existing thesis-based Master's program, the Department normally offers 6 of these courses per year, although occasionally as many as 8. So in a two-year period, 12 courses or 36 c.u. would normally be available. These classes have routinely been filling up to no more than 60% of capacity. Since we are not proposing a new MA program as such, but merely a second option within the existing MA program, no new courses and no new resources are required. The new course-based option would simply make use of currently unused capacity.

Many course-based Master's programs in Canada permit up to 6 c.u. at the undergraduate level and, since that would be in accordance with CGSR's regulations, we would also be prepared to do so in exceptional circumstances (we have never actually had the need to exercise this option in the entire history of the current MA program). A list of senior undergraduate courses is provided below. We would also, in exceptional circumstances, allow up to a maximum of 6 c.u. of graduate coursework in another discipline, as we presently do in the thesis-based program. Such courses are approved on an ad hoc basis, contingent on the material being studied in those courses in any given year; generally any graduate course with a focus on metatheory, methodology, conceptual foundations, or ethical issues, or involving subject matter of particular relevance to philosophical issues could in principle be taken, subject to the approval of the Graduate Chair and the instructor. A partial list of co-optable graduate courses is also included below.

It should also be noted that all of the Philosophy Department's graduate courses are "shell" courses; their content varies from year to year. For example, PHIL 851.3

the course-based MA programs at other universities referred to in this proposal designate any particular course(s) as required.

Cycling of Courses

As already indicated we normally offer six 3-c.u. graduate classes per year. In determining our offerings we ensure that all of the traditional four core areas of philosophy (viz. metaphysics, epistemology, value theory, and philosophy of language & logic) are appropriately represented. Courses may involve more than one core area, and since the courses are shell courses, they may also involve different areas in different years. Below is an example of a typical two-year cycle of courses in our existing thesis-based MA, with the core areas these courses could involve indicated in brackets. Students in the proposed course-based option would simply be taking up the currently unused capacity in these classes.

Year 1. Students choose any 5 of the 6 courses offered:

PHIL 814.3 Kant [metaphysics, epistemology]
 PHIL 833.3 Seminar in Ethics [value theory]
 PHIL 844.3 Seminar in Epistemology [epistemology]
 PHIL 817.3 Topics in Contemporary Analytic Philosophy [language & logic, metaphysics, epistemology]
 PHIL 826.3 Seminar in Philosophy of Mind [metaphysics]
 PHIL 871.3 Seminar in Aesthetics [value theory, metaphysics]

Year 2. Students choose any 5 of the 6 courses offered:

PHIL 813.3 Topics in 17th- and 18th-Century Philosophy [metaphysics, epistemology]
 PHIL 862.3 Seminar in Social and Political Philosophy [value theory]
 PHIL 846.3 Seminar in the Philosophy of Language [language & logic]
 PHIL 816.3 Topics in Contemporary European Philosophy [value theory, metaphysics, epistemology]
 PHIL 851.3 Seminar in the Philosophy of Science [metaphysics, epistemology]
 PHIL 819.3 Wittgenstein [language & logic, metaphysics, epistemology]

Calendar Entry:

Master of Arts (MA)

Admission Requirements

Bachelor of Arts Honours (BA Honours) in Philosophy (120 credit units) or equivalent

Degree Requirements

Residency requirement for the MA

- Minimum of 1 year (Note: the standard completion time is 2 academic years)

Thesis-based option for the MA

- Minimum of 15 credit units plus PHIL 990.0 and 994

Course-based option for the MA

- Minimum of 30 credit units plus PHIL 990.0

5. RESOURCES

Since the course-based MA option proposed herein would merely make use of unused capacity in the classes in the existing MA program, no new resources are required and impact on existing resources would be negligible.

6. RELATIONSHIPS AND IMPACT OF IMPLEMENTATION

In providing an additional option for students who would otherwise be reluctant or unable to pursue graduate studies, and in becoming competitive with the universities that already offer similar course-only options for the MA, we expect that our graduate admissions will increase. A larger graduate cohort will enhance the student experience and the overall intellectual climate in the Department. The increased flexibility provided by a course-based option may also enable some students to undertake disciplinary crossovers, thereby enriching the learning experience by bringing interdisciplinary perspectives to the classroom.

The impact this program will have on other departments or colleges.

Negligible.

7. BUDGET

There are no budget implications.

MEMORANDUM

To: Cathie Fornssler, Secretary
Academic Programs Committee of University Council

From: Trevor Crowe, Associate Dean
College of Graduate Studies and Research

Copies: Dr. Karl Pfeifer, Dr. L. Martz, Dr. D. Parkinson

Date: January 18, 2011

Re: Course-based Master's Program Option in Philosophy

Consistent with the agreement between the College of Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) and the Academic Programs Committee (APC) of University Council, attached is a report that describes the review of the proposed graduate program option in the Department of Philosophy in the College of Arts and Science. Following this review, the CGSR is satisfied that the program meets the expectations for the Master of Arts in Philosophy.

This report includes five appendices, identified A through E, which include a copy of the proposal and "Consultation with the Registrar" form with copies of correspondence that has been associated with the review of this program. The formal review started with the Graduate Programs Committee in September, 2010 and the final motion to recommend approval of the program was carried at the meeting of the College Executive Committee November 25, 2010.

This program represents another option for students to complete the Master of Arts degree in Philosophy, and effectively expands the suite of options for students to complete a graduate degree. The course-based option is largely in response to requests from potential students for such a degree option. As described by the Department of Philosophy, this program option is expected to address a demand for a graduate program in Philosophy that 1) doesn't require fundamental research, 2) can be pursued on a flexible schedule and 3) can accommodate students with nonstandard undergraduate backgrounds.

The College of Graduate Studies and Research strongly supports the program option for an Master of Arts in Philosophy. If questions or concerns arise during the review by the Academic Programs Committee, I would be happy to respond.





26 October 2010

Gwen Lancaster
Programs Officer
College of Graduate Studies and Research

Dear Gwen,

This letter comes to you in support of the proposal from the Department of Philosophy for a course-based MA in Philosophy. This proposal arises from work undertaken by that Department's Graduate Chair, Karl Pfeifer. He and his colleagues have worked to identify a cluster of student aspirations distinct from those addressed by their established thesis program. The course-based MA has wider potential attraction, for students interested in advanced studies in Philosophy a route to various professional outcomes in administration, policy, communications, and community development.

As proposed, the course-based MA in Philosophy will broaden the access to graduate work for students from diverse backgrounds. Doing so, this proposal supports the University's commitment to enhance the student experience and to increase the proportion of graduate students.

Of particular note in the proposal is its complementarity with the ongoing thesis-based program. The Department is maintaining a strong curriculum of graduate courses and will not have to budget for additional offerings. One area where perhaps the proposal is understated in its statement of the potential benefits of the program is in item 6, in the comment on Impact of Implementation: in my opinion, the program will have a very positive impact on other departments or colleges by increasing the potential for graduate students outside the standard academic route to take courses in Philosophy in order to augment and enrich their own programs of study.

The Division of Humanities and Fine Arts, and its contribution to the achievement of the University's goals with regard to graduate students, will be strengthened by the addition of this course-based MA option in Philosophy. I support the Department's proposal.

Sincerely,

David J. Parkinson
Vice-Dean, Division of Humanities and Fine Arts
College of Arts and Science



**COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH
GRADUATE PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

**Memo: to Karl Pfeifer Graduate Chair, Department of Philosophy
re: Course-Based Option for the Master's Program in Philosophy
From: Gregory Marion, Chair Programs Committee CGSR**

Dear Dr. Pfeifer:

I am writing to inform you that the CGSR Programs Committee met today, and one of the items we discussed was the proposed Course-Based Option for the Master's Program in Philosophy. The committee has voted in favour of the proposal conditional upon your response to two primary issues. Please submit that response to Associate Dean Trevor Crowe and myself—copying Gwen Lancaster—addressing these points:

- (1) The department must indicate its awareness that students enrolled in course-based Master's degrees are not eligible for CGSR scholarships. Such scholarships are only available to students in thesis-based programs. Please be certain to include this point in the appropriate location on your department's website.
- (2) Please indicate the department's awareness that a different tuition/fee structure is in place for course-based and thesis-based Master's degrees. Further, please clarify the language surrounding the "residency period" as it pertains to students who may wish to pursue the course-based option on a part-time basis. The department must make such students aware of the fact that they, too, have a five-year timeline for completion of their degree (i.e. five years from the initial point of registration), and even in semesters when they choose not to take any courses, the five-year timeline remains in effect. Continuous registration is mandatory for all graduate students. Students considering themselves to be "part time" are required to pay a "maintenance of status" fee in those semesters when they take no courses (I believe the fee is equivalent to a tuition charge of three credit units).

I appreciate the effort you have placed in this proposal, and I look forward to your response, a response that we anticipate will ultimately be embedded into the University Calendar and your department's website. Once we have received confirmation that these points do not cause the department to reconsider the proposal for a Course-Based Option for the Master's Program in Philosophy, the condition will be lifted from the Programs Committee's approval, and the proposal will be forwarded to the CGSR Executive Committee.

Sincerely,

Gregory Marion
Chair, Graduate Committee CGSR



Office of the University Secretary

Request for Change of Name

This Request form and attachments will be the basis for decision-making about this change.

Submitted by: Physics and Engineering Physics Date: Sep 28, 2010

College: Graduate Studies and Research

College approval date: _____

Proposed effective date of the change: Nov 1st, 2010

1. Proposed change of name

	From:	To:
College	CGSR	CGSR
Department	Physics and Engineering Physics	Physics and Engineering Physics
Program name	Master of Science (M.Sc)	Master of Science (M.Sc)
Degree name	Physics	Physics and Engineering Physics
Name of Field of Specialization (major, minor, concentration, etc)		
Course label (alphabetic)	No change	
Building		
Street		
Other		

2. Documentation

Please attach a one- or two- page document about this change which should include the following information:

Rationale

Provide a rationale for the change and describe the background leading to this decision.

Currently department has two graduate programs: Master of Science (M.Sc.) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.). The existing degree name for both of these programs is “Physics”. This name was retained from the previous name of the department: Department of Physics. The name of the department was changed in 1992 to Department of Physics and Engineering Physics. However, the process for the change of the names of graduate programs was not followed through. In result, the name of graduate degrees remained as “Physics”. This proposal will correct that omission and the name of the degrees will agree with the name of the department.

Impact of the change

Please describe any potential impact of this change, including any of the following areas if relevant:

- impact on students
- impact on faculty
- impact on staff
- impact on alumni
- affect on other programs, departments, colleges, centres
- impact on university-wide systems (e.g. SiRIUS, UniFi, PAWS, U-Friend, Library, About US, etc.)
- resource areas such as library resources, physical facilities, and information technology
- external impact (e.g. reputation, accreditation, other institutions, high schools, community organizations, professional bodies).

Please attach any statements or opinions received about this change.

No impact on faculty, staff, alumni, other programs, etc is anticipated.

A new name will better describe the nature of the research work done in graduate programs. The engineering aspect of graduates studies and research will be acknowledged in the name of the degree and therefore it will have positive impact on graduate students.

Costs

Please describe whether this change will result in any additional costs for the university (ie, repainting signs, technical changes in SiRIUS, PAWS, financial services, etc.)

No additional costs involved

Consultation

Please describe any consultation undertaken with other university offices, such as Student and Enrolment Services, Institutional Strategy and Analytics, Institutional Planning and Assessment, Financial Services, Facilities Management, Office of the University Secretary, Information Technology Services, etc. Please attach any memos or emails received about this consultation

3. Review and Approval Authority

All changes of names for academic entities must be requested by the responsible college, following internal approval by its own approval procedures.

After submission of the Request by the College, the following approval procedures are used, and must be initiated by the College:

- **Changes of course labels** are approved by the Registrar, in consultation with the college offering the courses. Any disputes arising over course label changes will be referred to the Academic Programs Committee for resolution. Course label changes are to be distributed for information through the Course Challenge system.
- **Changes of names for colleges and departments** are approved by University Council (following recommendation by the Planning & Priorities Committee) and by the Board of Governors.
- **Changes of names for degrees, programs, fields of specialization** are approved by the Academic Programs Committee of Council.
- **Changes of names for buildings, streets and other physical entities** are approved by the Board of Governors (following recommendation by the Naming Committee).

If you have any questions about this form or these procedures, please contact the Office of the University Secretary.



Office of the University Secretary

Request for Change of Name

This Request form and attachments will be the basis for decision-making about this change.

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College: Graduate Studies and Research

College approval date: _____

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Degree name	Physics	Physics and Engineering Physics
Name of Field of Specialization (major, minor, concentration, etc)		
Course label (alphabetic)	No change	
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Street		
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Please attach any statements or opinions received about this change.

No impact on faculty, staff, alumni, other programs, etc is anticipated.

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Please describe whether this change will result in any additional costs for the university (ie, repainting signs, technical changes in SiRIUS, PAWS, financial services, etc.)

No additional costs involved

Consultation

Please describe any consultation undertaken with other university offices, such as Student and Enrolment Services, Institutional Strategy and Analytics, Institutional Planning and Assessment, Financial Services, Facilities Management, Office of the University Secretary, Information Technology Services, etc. Please attach any memos or emails received about this consultation

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If you have any questions about this form or these procedures, please contact the Office of the University Secretary.

MEMORANDUM

To: Cathie Fornssler, Committee Coordinator
Academic Programs Committee of Council

From: Trevor Crowe, Associate Dean
College of Graduate Studies and Research

Copy: Dr. Andrei Smolyakov, Graduate Chair
Department of Physics and Engineering Physics

Date: January 25, 2011

Re: Change of Degree Names for the M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Physics and Engineering Physics

Consistent with the agreement between the College of Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) and Academic Programs Committee (APC) of Council, attached is a report that describes the review of the proposed name change to the M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in the department of Physics and Engineering Physics.

This report includes three appendices, identified as A (Requests for Change of Name), B (submission from department on the background of request), and C (college support). The review started with the Graduate Programs Committee on November 2, 2010 and the final motion to recommend approval of the program was carried at the meeting of the College Executive Committee November 25, 2010.

The College of Graduate Studies and Research supports the change in degree names for the M.Sc. and Ph.D. in the department of Physics and Engineering Physics. If questions or concerns arise during the review by the Academic Programs Committee, I would be happy to respond.



TC/lis