

Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) – Senate Report 2014-2015 Academic Year

This is the fifth year that this Senate Committee has been in existence. It was chaired by Dean of Graduate Studies Mavis Reimer until December 31, and then by Michael Weinrath, Acting Dean of Graduate Studies beginning January 1 during the 2014-2015 academic year. Dr. Weinrath will Act as Dean until Dr. Reimer returns July 1st, 2015.

Membership of the Committee

The GSC includes representation from all graduate programs:

Applied Computer Science & Society (MSc) (rep: Yangjun Chen);
BioScience, Technology, & Public Policy (MSc) (rep: Richard Westwood);
Cultural Studies (MA) (rep: Brandon Christopher);
Environmental, Resource and Development Economics (MA) (rep: Melanie O’Gorman);
History* (MA) (rep: Anne-Laurence Caudano);
Indigenous Governance (MA) (rep: Gabriel Nemoga);
Marriage and Family Therapy (MMFT) (rep: Mary Warmbrod);
Master’s in Development Practice (MDP) (rep: Claire Reid);
Peace and Conflict Studies* (MA) (rep: Dean Peachey/Eliakim Sibanda);
Public Administration* (rep: Joan Grace);
Religion* (MA) (rep: Carlos Colorado);
Theology (MA, MDiv, MST) (rep: James Christie).

* Joint Master’s Program (JMP) with University of Manitoba

In addition, the Committee includes three representatives from departments that do not currently house graduate programs and one graduate student representative:

Catherine Taylor (Rhetoric);
Michael Weinrath/Steven Kohm (Criminal Justice);
Marc Vachon (Geography)
Kaitlyn Duthie-Kannikkatt & Nana Ama Addae (UWSA Graduate Student Co-Directors)

Work of the Committee:

The GSC continued its work making recommendations on processes and events such as the Graduate Studies Fair, as well as reviewing at applications submitted for curriculum, program proposals and the Graduate Student of Highest Distinction Award.

- **Work of Sub-Committees**

In order to streamline the work of the large committee during each monthly meeting, a number of smaller sub-committees have been constituted to address recurrent issues. These include:

- a **Thesis sub-committee** to review the CVs of external examiners proposed by graduate programs (8 CVs were reviewed);
- an **Administrative sub-committee** to consider student requests for leaves of absence or extensions of time to complete programs (13 requests were reviewed);

- a **Curriculum sub-committee** to review course proposals (6 curriculum packages were reviewed).

- **Assessment of Proposals for Program Changes**

Two programs sent forward proposals for program changes to be reviewed first by GSC then forwarded to Senate for final approval:

- MA in Theology: including update on admission standards and an update of the “Biblical Studies” concentration to a “Bible and Culture” concentration.
- MA in Peace and Conflict Studies JMP: Inclusion of additional electives available from other UW graduate programs to complete program requirements.

- **Assessment of Proposals for New Programs**

Graduate programs continue to be developed at the UW. The GSC is the first point of formal evaluation and detailed discussion of these programs.

- The BioScience PhD *Statement of Intent* was approved by Senate on October 29, 2012, and is currently under consideration by Education and Advanced Learning.
- The Masters in Management: Technology, Innovation and Operations Management (MiM-TIO) *Statement of Intent* was approved by Senate on March 27, 2014. This is a new credential for the UW. Education and Advanced Learning has now requested the *Formal Program Proposal* to be sent forward for review – this will be considered by GSC on the May 2015 agenda.
- The Master of Arts in Criminal Justice *Statement of Intent* was approved at Academic Planning on April 15, 2014. Education and Advanced Learning has now requested the *Formal Program Proposal* to be sent forward for review – this will be considered by GSC on the May 2015 agenda.

- **Faculty of Graduate Studies Policy Review:**

The GSC is currently in the process of reviewing the Faculty of Graduate Studies Policies and Guidelines document constituting numerous sub-committees to make recommendations on new protocols and improvements to current processes. Consultation has included discussions with the Registrar, Senior Records Officer for Graduate Studies, Graduate Program Committee Chairs as well as members of the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies.

- **Education**

GSC meetings this year included a consultation and education element to address a number of ongoing initiatives including:

- Meeting with members of the Library to discuss copyright, thesis archiving, RefWorks and Subject Area Specialists.
- Jennifer Ledoux, from the CN Indigenous Resource Centre attended to speak about the services she has available for students.