

Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) – Senate Report 2015-2016 Academic Year

This is the sixth year that this Senate Committee has been in existence. It was chaired by Acting Dean Michael Weinrath between January and May 2015, and, subsequently, by Dean of Graduate Studies Mavis Reimer.

Membership of the Committee

The GSC includes representation from all graduate programs:

Applied Computer Science and Society (MSc) (rep: Yangjun Chen);
 BioScience, Technology and 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: Narumi Taniguchi);
 Master’s in Development Practice (MDP) (rep: Claire Reid);
 Peace and Conflict Studies* (MA) (rep: Lloyd Kornelson);
 Public Administration* (rep: Joan Grace/Linda DeRiviere);
 Religion* (MA) (rep: Jane Barter/Carlos Colorado);
 Theology (MDiv, MST) (rep: James Christie/Terry Hidichuk)
 Theology (MA) (rep: Arthur Walker-Jones)

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

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

Gina Sylvestre (Geography);
 Michael Weinrath (Criminal Justice);
 Ryan Bullock (Environmental Studies);
 Leah McDonnell and Anna Huard (UWSA Graduate Student Co-Directors)

Work of the Committee:

The GSC continued its work of making recommendations on processes and events such as the Graduate Studies Fair and thesis examinations as well as reviewing curriculum proposals, program proposals and nominations for the Graduate Student of Highest Distinction Awards.

- **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** which reviews the CVs of external examiners proposed by graduate programs (13 CVs were reviewed);

- an **Administrative sub-committee** to consider student requests for leaves of absence or extensions of time to complete programs (4 requests were reviewed);
- a **Curriculum sub-committee** to review course proposals (19 curriculum proposals were reviewed).
- a **Policy Review sub-committee** to review the existing Graduate Studies Policies and Guidelines document.

- **Assessment of Proposals for Program Changes**

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

JMP History: Proposal for a Major Research Paper stream.

MDP: Changes to credit hours on certain courses, and the addition of 6 credit hours of electives.

- **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 Masters in Management: Technology, Innovation and Operations Management (MiM-TIO) *Formal Program Proposal* was approved by GSC on May 21, 2015 to be passed on for approval to Academic Planning and Senate.
- The Master of Arts in Criminal Justice *Formal Program Proposal* was approved by GSC on May 21, 2015 to be sent forward to Academic Planning and Senate for approval.
- The Master of Divinity program changes were approved at GSC on April 7, 2015 to be forwarded to Academic Planning and Senate.
- The Master of Education proposal was reviewed at GSC reviewed April 7, 2016, recommendations were made, and a revised proposal will be taken back to GSC in fall 2016.

- **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. A sub-committee was struck to review this document, and bi-weekly meetings occurred between October and March with major issues being brought forward to the larger committee for discussion. The revised policy document will be drafted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies over the summer of 2016, with the goal of submitting the final document for Senate approval in fall 2016.

- **Education**

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

- Dagmawit Habtemariam from the Graduate Studies Office offered a presentation on international credentials and grades.
- Meeting with Daniel Leonard, Experiential Learning Coordinator, and Mary Anne Walls, Manager for Campus Health and Wellness, to learn about, and offer feedback on

the Field Trip/Work Policy.

- Laurel Repski attended a meeting to offer an update on the PSAC negotiations and to educate the committee on graduate student payment processes.