



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WINNIPEG

Faculty of
Graduate Studies

Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) – Senate Report 2019-2020 Academic Year

The Graduate Studies Committee was chaired by Dean of Graduate Studies Mavis Reimer.

Membership Committee

The GSC includes representation from all graduate programs:

Applied Computer Science (MSc) (rep: Christopher Henry);
BioScience, Technology and Public Policy (MSc) (rep: Beata Biernacka);
Criminal Justice (MA) (reps: Bronwyn Dobchuk-Land/Michael Weinrath);
Cultural Studies (MA) (rep: Doris Wolf);
Environmental, Resource and Development Economics (MA) (rep: Melanie O’Gorman/Stefan Dodds);
Master in Management: Technology, Innovation and Operations (MiM) (rep: Peter Moreira);
History* (MA) (rep: Janis Thiessen);
Indigenous Governance (MA) (rep: Gabriel Nemoga);
Marriage and Family Therapy (MMFT) (rep: Narumi Taniguchi);
Master’s in Development Practice (MDP) (rep: Jaime Cidro);
Peace and Conflict Studies* (MA) (rep: Eliakim Sibanda);
Public Administration* (MA) (rep: Malcolm Bird);
Religious Studies (MA) (rep: William Dickson);
Theology (MA) (rep: Jane Barter)

**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:

David Telles-Langdon (Kinesiology and Applied Health)
Joni Storie (Geography)
Joshua Hollett (Chemistry)

The graduate student position was held by Braeden Broschuk (Criminal Justice), appointed by the UWSA during this academic year.

Work of the Committee:

In 2019-2020, the GSC convened for seven monthly meetings. The GSC continued its work of reviewing and approving policies and guidelines, program proposals, curriculum proposals,

external examiners for thesis defenses, appeals for students for variances in their terms of study, and nominations for the Graduate Student of Highest Distinction Awards. In addition, the GSC discussed a variety of issues and best practices across programs, and made recommendations on such processes and events as recruitment, skill development workshops, pathway programs to graduate studies, and new video-conferencing thesis examination procedures in response to COVID-19.

Work of the Sub-Committees:

In order to streamline the work of the GSC during its monthly meetings, a number of smaller sub-committees have been constituted to address recurrent issues. These include:

- Appeals Sub-Committee
- Curriculum Sub-Committee
- External Examiner Sub-Committee
- Policy Sub-Committee

Appeals Sub-Committee considers student requests for leaves of absences or extensions of time to complete programs (9 appeals reviewed; 8 approved and 1 denied).

Curriculum Sub-Committee reviews course proposals (28 new course/course revision/course deletion proposals were reviewed and approved).

External Examiner Sub-Committee reviews the CVs of external examiners proposed by graduate programs for thesis exams (3 external examiners reviewed and approved).

Policy Sub-Committee reviews the existing Graduate Studies Policies and Guidelines document (in 2019-20, thesis evaluation and thesis distinction policies were reviewed).

Additionally, the GSC:

- Revised the Graduate Program Review Process to allow for a longer period to write the self-study report. This is to meet the particular needs of programs undertaking their first review and to include Area Deans more fully in the discussion of recommendations and the development of implementation plans. (October 2019)
- Revised Conditional Admission to Graduate Programs to allow a conditional offer of admission to highly-qualified graduate applicants who do not meet the minimum ELP requirements for admission to graduate programs. It is intended to facilitate admission of academically qualified, degree-seeking students, who have not achieved the minimum ELP requirement, but are being considered for admission to a graduate program. Conditional admission allows students to apply for a study permit (if necessary) and begin their studies in the University's English Language Program, entering their graduate studies program once they have satisfied their language requirements. (January 2020)

- Provided and continues to provide advice on measures taken in response to COVID-19. This includes discussion on protocols for videoconference thesis examinations and the viability of retaining this option for the post-pandemic period; the possibilities of deferred acceptances and reorganizing curricular offerings of core courses to permit such deferrals; and extensions to time limits for degrees. (April 2020)