

## **Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) – Senate Report 2016-2017 Academic Year**

This is the ninth year that this Senate Committee has been in existence. It was chaired 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: Beata Biernacka);  
 Cultural Studies (MA) (rep: Heather Snell);  
 Environmental, Resource and Development Economics (MA) (rep: Melanie O’Gorman);  
 Master in Management: Technology, Innovation and Operations (MiM) (rep: Peter  
 Moreira)  
 History\* (MA) (rep: Anne Laurence Caudano);  
 Indigenous Governance (MA) (rep: Shailesh Shukla);  
 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);  
 Religion\* (MA) (rep: Mark Ruml);  
 Theology (MDiv, MST) (rep: James Christie)  
 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);

The graduate student position was vacant during this academic year.

### **Work of the Committee:**

In 2016-17, the GSC convened for monthly meetings, a total of 8 meetings. It continued its work of reviewing and approving policies and guidelines, program proposals, curriculum proposals, external examiners for thesis defences, appeals by students for variances in their term 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, skills development workshops, pathway programs to graduate studies, the Graduate Studies Fair, and Research Week.

- **Work of Sub-Committees**

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

- an **External Examiner** sub-committee which reviews the CVs of external examiners proposed by graduate programs (11 CVs were reviewed);
- an **Administrative sub-committee** to consider student requests for leaves of absence or extensions of time to complete programs (19 requests were reviewed);
- a **Curriculum sub-committee** to review course proposals (7 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**

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

- BioScience, Technology & Public Policy: change in degree requirements to specify the course that satisfies the policy component of the degree. (Passed by Senate on October 28, 2016)
- Marriage and Family Therapy: establish additional degree requirement for supervision hours; phase out certificates; institute maximum times for completion. (Still to be submitted to Senate)

- **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.

- Qualifying Year: this proposal was passed by GSC to move forward to Academic Planning and Senate on October 13, 2016 and approved by Senate on November 28, 2016.
- Indigenous Summer Scholars Program: this proposal was presented for information and discussion to the GSC and to Academic Planning
- Master of Environment and Geography: the proposal for this new degree was discussed at GSC but is not yet ready to be moved forward

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

The GSC engaged in an ongoing process of reviewing the Faculty of Graduate Studies Policies and Guidelines document, regularly discussing sections of the document in which the sub-committee was recommending changes to protocols and processes. The final document was approved by GSC to be forwarded to Senate on March 8, 2017 and

approved by Senate on April 24, 2017.

- **Education**

GSC meetings this year included a number of consultations and education pieces, including:

- a presentation on translating international credentials and grades in January 2017 (in advance of the closing date for applications for 2017-18) by Dagmawit Habtemariam, Enrolment Officer from the Graduate Studies Office.

- a presentation on the expansion of CIHR's definition of health in October 2016 (in advance of the due date for Tri-Council scholarship applications) by Mary Jane McCallum, a CIHR-funded scholar from the Department of History.