

## Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) – Senate Report 2017-2018 Academic Year

This is the tenth 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: Christopher Henry);  
 BioScience, Technology and Public Policy (MSc) (rep: Beata Biernacka);  
 Cultural Studies (MA) (rep: Heather Snell);  
 Environmental, Resource and Development Economics (MA) (rep: Amrita Raychaudhuri/Melanie O’Gorman);  
 Master in Management: Technology, Innovation and Operations (MiM) (rep: Peter Moreira)  
 History\* (MA) (rep: Janis Thiesen);  
 Indigenous Governance (MA) (rep: Shailesh Shukla);  
 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\* (rep: Joan Grace);  
 Religion\* (MA) (rep: Rory Dickson);  
 Theology (MA) (rep: Arthur Walker-Jones).

\* 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:

Nora Casson (Geography);  
 Michael Weinrath (Criminal Justice);  
 Chris Wiebe (Chemistry);

The graduate student position was held by Laura Cameron, Master of Indigenous Governance student, during this academic year.

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

In 2017-18, the GSC convened for nine monthly meetings. It continued its work of reviewing and approving policies and guidelines, program proposals, curriculum proposals, external examiners for thesis defenses, appeals by 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,

skills development workshops, pathway programs to graduate studies, the Graduate Studies Fair, and Graduate Studies 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 (13 CVs were reviewed);
- an **Administrative Sub-committee**, which considers student requests for leaves of absence or extensions of time to complete programs (18 requests were reviewed);
- a **Curriculum Sub-committee**, which reviews course proposals (14 curriculum proposals were reviewed); and
- a **Policy Review Sub-committee** to review the existing Graduate Studies Policies and Guidelines document. In 2018-19, this committee focused on creating a policy and process for arriving at and recording the joint expectations of supervisors and students for research and practicum projects.

- **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.

- Master of Environmental and Social Change: the proposal for this new degree was discussed and approved at GSC and has been presented to Academic Planning.
- Master of Physics: the proposal for this new degree was discussed at GSC, but has not been approved to move forward at present.

- **Education**

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

- a presentation from Megan Linton, UWSA VP External Affairs on the UWSA campus poverty report.
- a presentation on QE II Outgoing Scholarship by Deanna England, Graduate Studies Awards, Training and Communications Officer, from the Graduate Studies Office.
- a presentation on Aboriginal Student Services Centre (ASSC) and International Student Services (ISS) by Andrea McClusky, ASSC Coordinator/Aboriginal Academic Advisor/Retention Officer, Student Services.

- a presentation on the new Student Planning on-line program by Dagmawit Habtemariam, Graduate Studies Recruitment, Enrolment and Student Tracking Officer from the Graduate Studies Office.