

Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) – Senate Report
2018-2019 Academic Year

This is the eleventh year that this Senate Committee has been in existence. It was chaired by Acting Dean of Graduate Studies, Manish Pandey.

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);
 Criminal Justice, (MA) (rep: Michael Weinrath);
 Cultural Studies (MA) (rep: Doris Wolf);
 Environmental, Resource and Development Economics (MA)
 (rep: Melanie O’Gorman);
 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: Claire Reid);
 Peace and Conflict Studies* (MA) (rep: Eliakim Sibanda);
 Public Administration * (rep: Malcolm Boyd);
 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);
 Joni Storie (Geography);
 Melody Ghahramani (Math/Stats).

The graduate student position was held by Racheal Kalaba, Master’s in Development Practice student, during this academic year.

Work of the Committee:

In 2018-19, 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 (6 CVs were reviewed);
- an **Administrative Sub-committee**, which considers student requests for leaves of absence or extensions of time to complete programs (7 requests were reviewed);
 - The Graduate Senate Student Appeals Sub-committee has been constituted and has held their first meeting. (Feb 26/19)
- a **Curriculum Sub-committee**, which reviews course proposals (10 curriculum proposals were reviewed); and the following courses were approved:
 - GCJ 7130 Constitutional Issues in Criminal Law
 - GCJ 7800 Criminal Justice Research Field Placement
 - GCJ 7801 Research Project
 - GCJ 7900 Thesis
 - GENG 7104 Concepts in Cultural Studies
 - GBUS 7310 Current Trends in Technology, Innovation and Operations Management
 - GBUS 7320 Graduate Capstone Course
 - GDP 7730 Directed Readings
 - GDP 7791 Special Topics
 - GDP 7703 Human Rights Approaches to Health
- a **Policy Review Sub-committee** to review the existing Graduate Studies Policies and Guidelines document. In 2018-19, this committee worked on clarifying language in the Policy:
 - on admission with regards to students applying to graduate programs without a 4-year undergraduate degree;
 - on thesis defense of students.

- Assessment of Proposals for New Programs

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

- Master of Arts in Economics (MAE) - Policy Analysis (PA) Stream approved January 23/19.
- BioScience PhD. Proposal approved February 26/19.

- Education

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

- a presentation on QE II Outgoing Scholarship by Sandy Peterson,

Administrative Officer, from the Graduate Studies Office.

- a presentation by Mike Emslie, VP Finance on Graduate Tuition Increases
- a presentation by Gabrielle Prefontaine and Brianne Selman from the Library on The rising cost of journals
- a presentation by Allison Norris, Graduate Studies Awards, Training and Communications Officer on Graduate Studies Research Week.