



Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) Annual Report for Senate
2020-2021 Academic Year

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

Committee Membership

The GSC includes representation from all graduate programs and two representatives from departments that do not administer graduate programs at present:

Faculty	Name	Term
Dean of Graduate Studies Chair, GSC	Mavis Reimer	Ex Officio
Applied Computer Science and Society, GPC Chair	Sergio Camorlinga	2021
Applied Economics, GPC	Melanie O’Gorman	2021
Bioscience, Technology and Public Policy, GPC Chair	Beata Biernacka	2021
Criminal Justice, GPC Chair	Michael Weinrath	2021
Cultural Studies, GPC Chair	Doris Wolf	2021
Environmental Studies and Sciences, GPC Co-Chair	Ryan Bullock	2022
History*, GPC Chair	Janis Thiessen	2021
Indigenous Governance, GPC Chair	Gabriel Nemoga	2021
Kinesiology and Applied Health, Faculty member	Danielle Defries	2022
Kinesiology and Applied Health, Faculty member	David Telles-Langdon	2021
Marriage and Family Therapy, Department Chair	Narumi Taniguchi	Ex Officio
Master in Development Practice, GPC Chair	Jaime Cidro	Ex Officio
Master in Management, GPC Chair	Peter Moreira Debbie Mortimer	2021
Peace and Conflict Studies*, GPC Chair	Eliakim Sibanda	2021
Public Administration*, GPC Chair	Linda DeRiviere Joan Grace	2021
Religious Studies, Theological Studies*, GPC Chair	Carlos Colorado	2021
Graduate student appointed by the UWSA	VACANCY	

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

The graduate student representative position was not filled by the UWSA during this academic year.

Work of the Committee

In 2020-2021, the GSC convened for nine monthly meetings. The GSC continued its work of reviewing and approving policies and guidelines, program proposals, curriculum proposals, external examiners for thesis examinations, appeals for students for variances in their terms of study, and nominations for the Graduate Student of Highest Distinction Awards. In addition, the GSC hosted four informal meetings to discuss a variety of issues and best practices across programs. At these meetings, graduate program

chairs made recommendations on such processes and events as virtual learning modalities in response to COVID-19, recruitment, registration forms and instructions, Indigenization of graduate studies, and student community-building.

Work of the Subcommittees

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

1. Appeals Subcommittee – chaired by Janis Thiessen

This subcommittee considers student requests for leaves of absence or extensions of time limits to complete programs (11 appeals reviewed, all were approved).

2. Curriculum Subcommittee – chaired by Peter Moreira/Danielle Defries

This subcommittee reviews new course/course revision/course deletion proposals (27 proposals, including the new Master in Environmental and Social Change program curriculum and MAIG Comprehensive Examination Stream, were reviewed, revised, and approved).

3. External Examiner Subcommittee – chaired by Beata Biernacka

This subcommittee reviews the CVs of external examiners proposed by graduate programs for thesis examinations (6 external examiners were reviewed and approved).

4. Policy Subcommittee – chaired by Michael Weinrath

This subcommittee reviews the existing Faculty of Graduate Studies Policies and Guidelines document (9 policy amendments were reviewed and approved including Visiting Graduate Fellow, residency requirement, gender neutral language in the policies, thesis examination guidelines for video conference examinations, inactive status, and continuance terms). The subcommittee also gathered information about program governance and management structures across disciplines and explored the development of an Academic Integrity Module.

Additionally, the GSC:

- Provided and continues to provide advice on measures taken in response to COVID-19 (May 2020-present).
- Participated in Graduate Program Orientation (August 2020).
- Developed recommendations for improving the online student registration system and student tracking processes (October 2020).
- Developed recommendations to address structural and resourcing issues between graduate programs and departments (November 2020).
- Collaborated in the development of the Faculty of Graduate Studies recruitment strategy (December 2020).
- Participated in the Working Group on Indigenous Graduate Education to discuss ideas, objectives, and strategies for initiatives related to Indigenizing graduate education at UW (December 2020-present).
- Reviewed the Senate Standing Committee Rules and submitted recommendations for revisions (February 2021).
- Collaborated in the development of a document on the Roles and Responsibilities of a GPC Chair (April 2021).