



Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) Annual Report for Senate
2021-2022 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 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	Christopher Henry	2023
Applied Economics, GPC	Melanie O’Gorman	2022
Bioscience, Technology and Public Policy, GPC Chair	Craig Willis	2023
Criminal Justice, GPC Chair	Michael Weinrath	2022
Cultural Studies, GPC Chair	Bruno Cornellier	2023
Environmental Studies and Sciences, GPC Co-Chairs	Ryan Bullock Nora Casson	2022
History*, GPC Chair	Ryan Eyford	2023
Indigenous Governance, GPC Chair	Mark Ruml	2022
Kinesiology and Applied Health, Faculty member	Danielle Defries	2022
Physics, Faculty member	Russell Mammei	2023
Physics, Faculty member	Christopher Bidinosti	2023
Marriage and Family Therapy, Department Chair (or designate)	Narumi Taniguchi (Carl Heaman-Warne while Dr. Taniguchi is on leave)	Ex Officio
Master in Development Practice, GPC Chair	Jaime Cidro	Ex Officio
Master in Management, GPC Chair	Michael Breward	2023
Peace and Conflict Studies*, GPC Chair	Eliakim Sibanda	2023
Public Administration*, GPC Chair	Linda DeRiviere	2022
Religious Studies, Theological Studies*, GPC Chair	Carlos Colorado	2022
Graduate student appointed by the UWSA	Katherine Lynn Rempel	2022

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

Work of the Committee

In 2021-2022, the GSC convened for meetings in every month but July and August. 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.

Work of the Subcommittees

The following standing subcommittees continue to address recurrent issues. These subcommittees are:

1. Appeals Subcommittee – chaired by Linda DeRiviere

This subcommittee considers student requests for leaves of absence or extensions of time limits to complete programs. The subcommittee reviewed and approved 16 appeals: 6 for an extension of program limit, 5 for retroactive leaves of absence, and 5 for leaves of absence.

2. Curriculum Subcommittee – chaired by Danielle Defries

This subcommittee reviews new course, course revision, and course deletion proposals. It reviewed, revised, and approved 7 proposals: a package from the Joint Master's Program in History, new courses and revisions from the Master of Environment and Social Change and Master's in Development Practice programs, a name change from Applied Computer Science, and a program revision from the Criminal Justice Program. The committee also undertook a revision and update of curriculum forms used in Graduate Studies, and initiated a discussion at GSC to clarify the definitions and recommended practices for cross-listing and double-numbering courses.

3. External Examiner Subcommittee – chaired by Craig Willis

This subcommittee reviews the CVs of external examiners proposed by graduate programs for thesis and practicum examinations. The subcommittee reviewed and approved 12 external examiners, whose affiliations included the Universities of Manitoba, Brandon, Saskatchewan, Guelph, Toronto, Iowa State, Symbiosis International, and the Université de Sherbrooke, Quebec. The committee also approved its first 3-year appointment for a Knowledge Keeper, Phil Fontaine, formerly affiliated with the Assembly of First Nations. The subcommittee advised the GSC that it is necessary to adapt the existing criteria for external examiners who might be experienced practitioners, such as government workers or Knowledge Keepers, but who may not have an active academic research program. The subcommittee is continuing to develop these criteria.

4. Policy Subcommittee – chaired by Michael Weinrath

This subcommittee reviews the existing Faculty of Graduate Studies Policies and Guidelines document. The subcommittee reviewed and approved a policy amendment concerning the wording and criteria for the "Student of Highest Distinction" award and transcript notation. The subcommittee responded to a report and recommendations from the Senate Standing Rules Committee (SSRC) to revise the constitution of the Graduate Studies Committee, presented a recommendation to the GSC in April 2022, and forwarded it to the SSRC on April 28, 2022. The subcommittee also considered the issue of PhD instructors who express an interest in supervising graduate student advisors, but whose terms of hiring do not allow them to supervise. The subcommittee recognized that this issue is complex and important, but was not persuaded that a policy change was appropriate at this time, and so deferred this matter for future consideration.

Higher Education Teaching Certificate (HETC) Academic Oversight Committee

The Faculty of Graduate Studies took over the academic oversight of the HETC from Professional Applied and Continuing Education (PACE) in June 2021. A subcommittee of Graduate Program Chairs was formed to oversee HETC, chaired by Melanie O'Gorman (Business and Economics) and made up of representatives from the Faculties of Arts, Science, and Education.

Additionally, the GSC:

- Provided and continues to provide advice on measures taken in response to COVID-19 (May 2021-present).
- Participated in the Graduate Program Orientation (August 2021).
- Planned for the transfer of responsibility for awards distribution from the Awards Office to the Graduate Studies Office (Spring and Fall 2021, Winter 2022).
- Welcomed new officers to the Graduate Studies Office, including a new position: the Recruitment and Training Officer (Fall 2021, Winter 2022).
- Customized Program Intention pages and Reference Forms for the new Recruit online application system (October 2021-January 2022).
- Reviewed proposed self-identification statements for Canadian and International students to identify as Indigenous (sent back to Scholarship Committee for further review) (November 2021).
- Began discussions about creating partnerships with Universities in India (November 2021).
- Participated extensively in the Graduate Studies Policy Subcommittee's proposal for reformed Graduate Studies committee structures, and approved the proposal sent to SSRC in April 2022.

April 29, 2022