



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WINNIPEG

Faculty of
Graduate Studies

Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) Annual Report for Senate
2024-2025 Academic Year

Committee Membership

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

Faculty, position	Name	Term
Dean of Graduate Studies – Chair	Manish Pandey (Acting until December 20, 2024) Kyle Devine (began January 1, 2025)	Ex Officio
Applied Computer Science and Society, GPC Chair	Sheela Ramanna	2025
Applied Economics, GPC Chair	Melanie O’Gorman	2025
Criminal Justice, GPC Chair	Michelle Bertrand	2025
Cultural Studies, GPC Chair	Peter Ives	2026
Environmental and Social Change, GPC Chair	Jay Maillet	2026
Bioscience, Technology and Public Policy, GPC Chair	Craig Willis	2027
Indigenous Governance, GPC Chair	Jacqueline Romanow	2026
History*, GPC Chair	Ryan Eyford	2025
Masters in Development Practice, GPC Chair	Tamara Dionne Stout	Ex Officio, designate
Masters in Management, GPC Chair	Maryam Zadeh	2025
Public Administration*, GPC Chair	Malcolm Bird	2025
Religious Studies*, Theological Studies, GPC Chair	Yongshan He	2025
Peace and Conflict Studies*, GPC Chair	Saad Khan	2025
Marriage and Family Therapy, GPC Chair	Narumi Taniguchi	Ex Officio
Education, Faculty member	Jake Bergen	2026
Mathematics & Statistics, Faculty member	Payman Eskandari	2026
Rhetoric, Writing, and Communications, Faculty member	Andrew McGillivray	2026
Graduate student appointed by the UWSA	Fran Obtil	2025

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

Work of the Committee

In 2024-2025, the GSC convened for meetings on Zoom in every month but July 2024, August 2024, and March 2025. The December 2024 meeting was held in hybrid format. 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. The GSC also gathered news about programs, conveyed information about opportunities and events to their students, grad program committees, and instructors, and advised the Dean of Graduate Studies on matters pertaining to UWinnipeg graduate programs.

Work of the Subcommittees

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

1. Appeals Subcommittee – chaired by Malcolm Bird

This subcommittee considers student requests for leaves of absence or extensions of time limits to complete programs. The subcommittee reviewed and approved 12 appeals: three for an extension of program limit, and nine for leaves of absence.

2. Curriculum Subcommittee – chaired by Narumi Taniguchi

This subcommittee reviews new course, course revision, and course deletion proposals. In 2024, this subcommittee followed an earlier deadline for curriculum proposals in grad studies, moved from October 31 to September 30. Based on the experience of 2024, this deadline is being moved to April 30, 2025 for proposals for the 2026-2027 calendar year.

Curriculum business reviewed by the subcommittee and brought to GSC in 2024 included:

- Changing the course code for the Master of Arts in Cultural Studies from GENG to GCST to distinguish it from the Department of English, and more clearly identify it as an inter-disciplinary program.
- Changes to program requirements and courses offered in the Cultural Studies program.
- Establishment of a PhD program in Bioscience, to begin in Fall 2025.
- New courses and course revisions in Marriage and Family Therapy, Environmental and Social Change, and History.
- Review of the newly created *Curriculum Guide*, produced by the Grad Studies Office, to clarify the process of submitting curriculum changes to GSC. Now in circulation among graduate programs.

3. External Examiner Subcommittee – chaired by Sheela Ramanna

This subcommittee reviews the CVs of external examiners proposed by graduate programs for thesis and practicum examinations. They were appointed to approve examiners on behalf of the Dean and report to GSC their approved examiners for information, not approval. 11 external examiners were approved between May 1, 2024, and April 25, 2025. Their affiliations include the Universities of Manitoba, Madras, Plymouth, Santa Cruz, Dalhousie, Toronto, Brandon, and the Canadian Institute of Health Research.

4. Policy Subcommittee – chaired by Manish Pandey until December 2024, then by Kyle Devine after January 1

This subcommittee reviews the existing Faculty of Graduate Studies Policies and Guidelines document.

They are currently wrapping up an intensive review of the FGS Policies and Guidelines, with significant changes to:

- formatting of the document to make it accessible, using headings features to make it navigable for e-readers.
- introduction of numerical coding for easy identification of specific policies.
- removing and clarifying redundancies.
- removing (and creating links to) procedural matters that are not actual policy, such as thesis exam procedures better described in the newly revised *Thesis Handbook*.
- where the policy describes administrative processes, aligning policy with practice for the sake of accuracy.
- Revision of confusing or contradictory policies regarding minimum academic standards and student thesis supervision.

Additionally, the GSC:

- Participated in the Awards Ceremony and Grad Students' Meet & Greet October 2 and the Convocation Luncheon October 13
- Carried news of events and programs to their students and faculties, such as the 3-Minute Thesis Competition, the Indigenous Summer Scholars Program, and Award deadlines.
- Advised the Dean of Graduate Studies on issues pertaining to:
 - Changing the UWGSS from a competitive to an allocative model
 - Changes to Policy
 - Funding of graduate students
 - Workshops for graduate students

April 25, 2025