



## Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) – Senate Report 2019-2020 Academic Year

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

### Membership Committee

The GSC includes representation from all graduate programs:

- Applied Computer Science (MSc) (rep: Christopher Henry);
- BioScience, Technology and Public Health (MSc) (rep: Beata Biernacka);
- Criminal Justice (MA) (reps: Bronwyn Dobchuk-Land/Michael Weinrath);
- Cultural Studies (MA) (rep: Doris Wolf);
- Environmental, Resource and Development Economics (MA) (rep: Melanie O’Gorman/Stefan Dodds);
- Master in Management: Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (MSc) (rep: Peter Moreira);

en);  
Gabriel Nemoga);  
MFT) (rep: Narumi Taniguchi);  
(MDP) (rep: Jaime Cidro);  
Malcolm Sims) (MScu\* (MA)  
William Dickson);  
)

University of Manitoba

cludes three representatives from departments that do not  
at present:

ogy and Applied Health)

was held by Bronwyn Dobchuk (Criminal Justice), appointed by  
year.

ed for seven months. The GSC continued its work of  
s and guidelines for program proposals, curriculum proposals,

external examiners for thesis defenses, appeals for students for variances in their terms of study, and nominations for the Graduate Student of the Year 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 development workshops, pathway programs to graduate studies, and new video-conferencing examination procedures in response to COVID-19.

### **Work of the Sub-Committees:**

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

- Appeals Sub-Committee
- Curriculum Sub-Committee
- External Examiner Sub-Committee
- Policy Sub-Committee

Appeals Sub-Committee considers student requests for leaves of absence or extensions of time to complete programs (9 appeals reviewed; 8 approved and 1 denied).

Curriculum Sub-Committee reviews course proposals (28 new course/course revision/course deletion proposals were reviewed and approved).

External Examiner Sub-Committee reviews the CVs of external examiners proposed by graduate programs for thesis exams (3 external examiners reviewed and approved).

Policy Sub-Committee reviews the existing Graduate Studies Policies and Guidelines document (in 2019-20, thesis evaluation and thesis distinction policies were reviewed).

Additionally, the GSC:

Revised the Graduate Program Review Protocol to allow for a longer period to write the self-study report. This is to meet the particular needs of programs undertaking their first review and to include Area Deans more fully in the discussion of recommendations and the development of implementation plans. (October 2019)

Revised Conditional Admission to Graduate Programs to allow a conditional offer of admission to highly-qualified graduate applicants who do not meet the minimum ELP requirements for admission to graduate programs. This is intended to facilitate admission of academically qualified, degree-seeking students who have not achieved the minimum ELP requirement, but are being considered for admission to a graduate program. Conditional admission allows students to apply for a study permit (if necessary) and begin their studies in the University's English Language Program, entering their graduate studies program once they have satisfied their language requirements. (January 2020)

Provided and continues to provide advice on measures taken in response to COVID-19. This includes discussion on protocols for videoconference thesis examinations and the viability of retaining this option for the post-pandemic period; the possibilities of deferred acceptances and reorganizing curricular offerings of core courses to permit such