

**Proposed Graduate Academic Calendar Change**  
**Section: Supervisory committee**  
**Academic Council – November 15, 2016**

**Rationale:** The proposed change will specifically emphasize that the supervisory committee needs to be formed and meet with the student in year 1. Many of the difficult cases that the Office of Graduate Studies has been involved in were related to students for which no supervisory committee had been formed. The lack of supervisory committee often makes things more difficult in resolving student/supervisor conflict.

**Supervisory committee**

Each graduate student in a program that requires a thesis has a supervisory committee. Early formation of a supervisory committee, along with regular meetings and formal meeting records, help ensure higher completion rates.

**Appointment**

The supervisory committee is appointed by the graduate program director after consultation with the research supervisor and the student. The appointment is made once the research supervisor is satisfied that the student has made adequate progress in the chosen research area. The appointment of committee members is made no later than 8 months after the student begins their program.

**The first meeting**

The supervisory committee must have at least one scheduled meeting in the first year of study.