



GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

Report to Academic Council
at its meeting of February 14, 2012

FOR ACTION

1. Graduate Studies Academic Regulations – Amendments

The Graduate Studies Committee recommends:

That the following graduate academic regulations be amended as outlined in the attached report:

- a) 4.5.15.3 Research progress (p.1)
- b) 4.8.1.1 Outcomes of PhD candidacy examination (p. 2)
- c) 4.8.4.5 Examination procedure (p.2)
- d) 4.8.4.6 Outcomes of completion of the oral examination (p.3)
- e) 4.8.5 Project or major paper evaluation (p.4)
- f) 4.8.7 Permission to withhold thesis from public domain (p.5)
- g) 4.4.X Transfer from a PhD to a Master's program (new) (p.6)
- h) 4.4.4 English language proficiency (p.6)
- g) 4.4.8 Non-standard applicants (p. 7)

Rationale

The Graduate Studies Committee is proposing a number of changes to existing graduate academic regulations and two new regulations. While some changes are relatively minor and self-explanatory, others are more substantive and as detailed below.

- a) **Research progress:** The proposal to remove the word “full-time” so that the regulation will apply to all students in research degrees and as such would have their research progress monitored.
- b) **Outcomes of the PhD candidacy examination:** The amendments clarify that, where a failing grade is received for a candidacy exam, a grade must subsequently be assigned within a four-month timeframe even if the student does not retake the examination.
- c) **Examination procedure:** This regulation is being amended to address issues that have arisen in thesis defences relating to attendance by other interested parties.
- d) **Outcomes of the completion of the oral examination:** As above, the amendments address issues that have arisen in thesis defences relating to evaluation decisions.

- e) **Project or major paper evaluation:** The language has been revised to be consistent with the above regulations.
- f) **Permission to withhold thesis from public domain:** The language has been revised to remove the word “dissertation.”
- g) **Transfer from PhD to masters:** This regulation provides clarity that a transfer to a master’s must be appropriate to the goals of the student.
- h) **English Language Proficiency** The amendments have been made to help clarify the ESL requirements and to reflect current practice.
- i) **Non-Standard Applicants (Mature Applicants):** The amendments provide clarity for prospective applicants who do not have a degree.