Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

- Policies and Regulations

Supervision and Examinations

- Supervision and Supervisory Committees
- The Structure of Examining Committees
- Conduct of Examinations
- Thesis Requirements
Supervision and Examinations Proposed Changes – Context

- High Stakes for Thesis-based Graduate Students
- Maintain Institutional Standards
- Fairness
- Transparency
- Reputational Risk (external examiner)
Supervision and Examinations Proposed Changes – Prior Revisions

- 2012 – substantive changes to the parallel section of the Graduate Program Manual
  - Broadened pool of examiners
  - Redefined categories of examiners (internal/external became arm’s length)
  - Removed most procedures for conduct of examinations
Supervision and Examinations Proposed Changes –
Recent revisions (issues arising)

• 2012 – substantive changes to the parallel section of the Graduate Program Manual
• 2013 – authority for approvals of supervision and examinations delegated to the Faculties
• 2013 – Corresponding calendar changes approved for the 2014-15 Calendar (ASC final approver)
• 2015-16 – small change (consequence when thesis not submitted) appeared in 17-18 Calendar
Supervision and Examinations Proposed Changes – Process to Develop Revisions

• Gathered issues from stakeholders –
  – GPAC, Tour of Grad Councils of Faculties, FGSR staff
• FGSR Policy Review Committee reviewed and compared with other institutions
• FGSR Council – Preliminary Discussions, Notice of Motion, Motions
• Student Input – Student members of FGSR-PRC, 20 student members on FGSR Council, GSA solicited input from students at large on the proposal
• Input from ASC-SOS & ASC
Supervision and Examinations Proposed Changes –

Highlights

• Size limits to committees
• Conduct of examinations – common procedures
• Guidance for use of Conditional Pass for doctoral candidacy examination
• Neutral Chair for doctoral examinations*
Neutral Chair for doctoral examinations

*from encouraged to required*

- Separate Motion at FGSR Council
- Known burden to programs with small faculty complement
- FGSR will support Faculties/Programs to create pool of skilled chairs for loan
Supervision and Examinations Proposed Changes –
Communication for Implementation with 2018/19 Calendar

• FGSR Council Members – All Program Coordinators and Associate Chairs Grad
  – Our link to supervisors
• Program Administrators (GPAC)
• Associate Deans Graduate (GEFAC)
• Students