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 - Including External Examiners
Supervision and Examinations Proposed Changes – Drivers for revision

• Confusion following 2012-2013/14 changes
• New technology allows more flexible best practices
• Input from students, ombuds and Associate Deans FGSR on perceived bias and need to improve practices for examination outcomes
Supervision and Examinations Proposed Changes –

Most recent revisions

• 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 –
Most recent 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 –
Process to Develop Revisions

- Gathered issues from stakeholders –
  - GPAC, Tour of GradCouncils 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 –
Changes to highlight

• Size limits to committees
• Conduct of examinations – common procedures
• Guidance for use of Conditional Pass for doctoral candidacy examination
• Neutral Chair for doctoral examinations*
Supervision and Examinations Proposed Changes – Neutral Chair Sensitivity

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

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