

## FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES UNIT REVIEW

### Summary Report

The Site Visit of the Unit Review Team for the Faculty of Graduate studies took place from December 5-6, 2016. The Unit Review Team consisted of:

Brenda Brouwer, Queen's University

Brian Corman, University of Toronto

Patrick Osmer, Ohio State University

Susan Graham, University of Calgary

Following the Site Visit, the Unit Review Team prepared a written report containing comments and recommendations. The

Under the leadership of the current Dean, FGS has achieved considerable positive recognition as an essential element in the success m1 0 Tw (2)Tj124.51

**Recommendation 3:** Moderate pace of new initiatives while graduate units absorb & adapt to recent changes

**Faculty Response:**

This is an entirely reasonable recommendation and will be respected to the best of our ability. Focus is shifting toward implementation of these new policies and procedures, and providing support for graduate program directors and administrators involved in their implementation. The policy governing supervision is particularly demanding from an administrative point of view, and adjustments to implementation are being made to lessen the administrative burden on graduate program directors.

**Recommendation 4:**

## **Institutional Level Recommendations**

**Recommendation 6:** FGS should play active role in unit reviews

### **Faculty Response:**

The Faculty of Graduate Studies assists Faculties preparing for Unit Reviews by assisting with provision of data, if not available through OIA. The Dean sits in on the closing meeting for the unit review, and is sometimes invited to participate as part of a panel of cognate Deans during the review. Departmentalized faculties vary in their processes for reviewing departments; the Faculty of Arts invites the Dean of Graduate Studies or designate to meet with review teams to discuss the graduate program in the department. In the absence of formal reviews for graduate programs, there is merit to including the Dean of Graduate Studies in departmental reviews.

The quality assurance framework for graduate education will be reviewed in 2017, to make the metrics-based review process for graduate programs more rigorous. This should improve the oversight of graduate program quality on an ongoing basis.

**Recommendation 7:** Development/implementation of online scholarship application system

### **Faculty Response:**

A proposal for this system was included in a recent budget submission. It is our understanding that it has been funded to be developed in 2017/18 and 2018/19. The Scholarships office is reviewing its staffing levels in order to ensure it can provide appropriate involvement in the development.

**Recommendation 8:** Consider revising post-candidacy fee reductions

### **Faculty Response:**

Tuition fees fall within the jurisdiction of the Board of Governors, and are regulated by the Government of Alberta. In the event that the current provincial Tuition Review results in an opportunity to revisit graduate tuition fees, this proposal might be considered.

**Recommendation 9:** Adapt the budget model such that a portion of the revenue flows in accordance with enrolments

### **Faculty Response:**

The University's budget model falls outside the jurisdiction of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

## **Follow-up**

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The Review Team recommendations will be revisited mid-way through the Unit Review cycle. At that point, the Faculty of Graduate Studies will be required to report on its status in acting on the recommendations, providing explanations and timelines for those which have not been met. This

interim report should be submitted to the Provost in June 2019, with the next full review scheduled in 2021-2022.