Graduate Studies Executive Council (GSEC)
Highlights from the November 2014 meeting

Dean’s report:
- B. Brouwer, K. McAuley and D. Jansen attended the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies (CAGS) Annual Meeting in St. John’s Newfoundland, October 27-30. The conference theme was “Rethinking the PhD”. Many interesting presentations and panel discussions highlighted the disconnect between stakeholder perspectives. B. Brouwer will continue on the CAGS board as the new Vice-President.

- On Monday November 17, B. Brouwer attended a CALDO meeting in Ottawa. CALDO is a consortium of nine of the U15 universities and serves as a single point of contact to assist sponsored students in applying for graduate studies, and finding a faculty supervisor. Brazil’s Ministry of Education has been tweeting the Science Without Borders (SWB)-CALDO call for doctoral students; the CALDO-specific call enables simultaneous application for a place in a CALDO university and for an SWB scholarship.

- Fall Convocation (November 18 & 19) saw the installation of Jim Leech as the 14th Chancellor and the awarding of 777 advanced degrees. The first diplomas from the Community Relations in the Extractive Industries and from the Master of Science in Healthcare Quality were conferred.

- Queen’s submitted 33 proposals in response to the call from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities for proposals for the development of online courses/modules. Seven of these were graduate level courses, including a module on Clinical Trials Methodology, which was part of an Ontario Council of Graduate Studies initiative to develop a suite of modules in research methods and data analysis for graduate students.

- The SGS has the 2015-16 graduate enrolment projections for all programs which informs the budget process and the SGS funding memos to be distributed at the end of January. Discussion of the QGA changes raised previously at GSEC and at Faculty Graduate Councils/Committees will wrap-up before the memos can be sent.

- The Fall 2014 Graduate Studies Forum takes place on November 26, 1pm, in Kingston Hall 201.

Reports from Faculty Graduate Councils/Committees and SGPS:
Some graduate councils and committees hosted MITACS representative N. Kumar at recent meetings, and learned of funding opportunities for students though MITACS. Councils in the Faculty of Arts and Science received presentations on the new budget model, graduate student recruitment, and establishing new graduate programs. The SGPS continues to explore strategies for career mentorship to help graduate supervisors advise their students about the wide range of post-graduate career opportunities. The SGPS will pilot a Student-Supervisor Meeting Record-Keeping form as a means of strengthening and improving student-supervisor communication.
GSEC approved:
1. Preapproval of New Graduate Programs Proposal: Graduate Diploma and Professional Master of Science in Biomedical Computing
2. Preapproval of New Graduate Program Proposal: Master of Earth and Energy Leadership
3. 2015-16 SGS Sessional Dates
5. Report of the Fellowship Committee November 2014