Graduate Studies Executive Council (GSEC)
Highlights from the March 2015 meeting

Dean’s report:
- Queen’s final of the Three Minute Thesis competition was held Tuesday, March 24, to a full house. Congratulations to Chenman (Cara) Yin, a Master’s student in Engineering Physics who is this year’s winner. Ms Yin will represent Queen’s at the Provincial competition at Western University on April 23rd with her presentation: ‘Seeing the world at the tip of a laser beam’. Runner up was Nicole Domnik, a PhD student in Biomedical and Molecular Sciences, and the People’s Choice winner was Changhai Zhu, a Master’s student in Biology.
- Queen’s and the Royal Military College will co-host a roundtable to address the question “What new ways of learning in graduate education, will Canadians need to thrive in an evolving society and labour market?” This event is supported by SSHRC under the ‘Imagining Canada’s Future” initiative and is one of 20 roundtables held across the country.
- The graduate programs in Aging and Health will go to Senate in March 2015 for approval, with the target launch date of September 2015.
- The agenda for the Spring Forum April 13, 2015 will be circulated soon. S. Korba and S. den Otter will talk about supports available for our graduate students and T. Harris will present on advancement and fundraising initiatives in support of graduate students.
- B. Brouwer was in Ottawa last week and met with representatives from each of the Tri-Councils. There were over 7,000 applications in the Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master’s (CGS-M) competition (similar to last year); this translated into 12,000 reviews. 74% were submitted to one institution only. The workload associated with reviewing CGS-M applications of students who have not applied to a university identified in the application was discussed; reconsideration of the number of universities that an applicant can identify was requested. The doctoral competition (CGS-D) will remain a national competition.
- Preparation of the final recipient lists for the CGS-M competition involves cross checking that an application to a graduate program has been received and whether the department/program has made a decision. To avoid submitting names of people who have been refused admission or who have declined our offer, programs are urged to enter their decisions on the system and applicants should be encouraged to enter their response to an offer made on the system, respectively.
- B. Brouwer and C. Steer will be travelling to Brazil in May (May 10-15) as part of a CALDO recruitment effort and to meet with counterparts at Sao Paulo, Campinas, Brasilia and Minas Gerais Universities as well as representatives from Science Without Borders if possible. If there is other graduate-related business that could be conducted on behalf of any unit or researcher, please advise the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) as soon as possible.

Reports from Faculty Graduate Councils/Committees and SGPS:
Graduate councils and committees reviewed and approved changes to courses and similar routine matters. The SGPS reported that the transition to the new executive for 2015-16 is underway, as is the Student-Supervisor Meeting Record Keeping Pilot Project.

GSEC approved:
1. Major Modification: Addition of a new field of International Business, M.Sc/Ph.D. programs in Management, Queen’s School of Business (with revision)
2. Major Modification: Cornell-Queen’s Executive MBA Program, Queen’s School of Business (with revision)
3. Major Modification: Addition of new delivery site at Renmin, M.Fin, Queen’s School of Business
4. Elimination of the accessible customer service training as a graduate degree requirement and abolishment of the associated SGS regulation and AODA-800
5. Omnibus Report March 2015
6. Report of the Fellowship Committee March 2015

GSEC discussed:
7. 2014 Applicant Survey Report (overview provided by Dr. R. Hugler, SGS)
8. Annual Progress Reports Process Review
9. Revision to Graduate Council/Committee manuals: Advanced Standing for Prior Course Work