



The following Motions and Documents were considered by the GFC Executive Committee at its February 4, 2013 meeting:

Agenda Title: **Timing of the Public Availability of a Thesis: Proposed Change to Section 96.1.5 of the GFC Policy Manual**

APPROVED MOTION: THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, a proposed revision to the Research Policies section of the GFC Policy Manual, specifically Section 96.1.5 (Withholding of Thesis), as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (and as set forth in Attachment 1), to take effect upon final approval.

Final Item: 4

Agenda Title: **Faculty of Arts Proposed New Course Designator – Women’s and Gender Studies (WGS) to Replace Women’s Studies (W ST)**

APPROVED MOTION: THAT GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, a new course designator of Women’s and Gender Studies (WGS), as submitted by the Faculty of Arts, effective Fall Term, 2013.

Final Item: 5

FINAL Item No. 4
OUTLINE OF ISSUE

Agenda Title: **Timing of the Public Availability of a Thesis: Proposed Change to Section 96.1.5 of the GFC Policy Manual**

Motion: THAT the GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, a proposed revision to the Research Policies section of the GFC Policy Manual, specifically Section 96.1.5 (Withholding of Thesis), as submitted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (and as set forth in Attachment 1), to take effect upon final approval.

Item

Action Requested	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval <input type="checkbox"/> Recommendation <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion/Advice <input type="checkbox"/> Information
Proposed by	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
Presenter	Joanna Harrington, Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
Subject	Timing of the release of the thesis

Details

Responsibility	Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
The Purpose of the Proposal is (please be specific)	The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, with the support of its Council, wishes to propose a change to the timing of the release of a thesis for public availability, currently governed by Section 96.1.5 in the "Research Policies" section of the GFC Policy Manual, found online at: http://www.gfcpolicymanual.ualberta.ca/en/96ResearchPolicies.aspx
The Impact of the Proposal is	The proposed amendments do not entail a substantive change to existing policy, but are needed in the interests of administrative practice. It is impossible to meet the current policy of releasing a thesis as soon as possible after a successful defence, as many students need time to make corrections. It would be more practical to time the release of a thesis as soon as possible after a student's convocation, with convocation marking the end of a student's degree program.
Replaces/Revises (eg, policies, resolutions)	GFC Policy Manual Section 96.1.5.
Timeline/Implementation Date	N/A
Estimated Cost	N/A
Sources of Funding	N/A
Notes	N/A

Alignment/Compliance

Alignment with Guiding Documents	<i>Dare to Discover</i> : Talented People; Learning, Discovery, and Citizenship; Transformative Organization and Support
Compliance with Legislation, Policy and/or Procedure Relevant to the Proposal (please quote legislation and include identifying section numbers)	<p>1. Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA): The PSLA gives GFC responsibility, subject to the approval of the Board of Governors, over "academic affairs" (26(1)).</p> <p>2. GFC Executive Committee Terms of Reference (Mandate): "To act as the executive body of General Faculties Council and, in general, carry out the functions delegated to it by General Faculties Council. (3.) [...] Matters which are routine in carrying out policies approved by General Faculties Council are delegated to the Executive Committee. (3.2) [...]"</p>

FINAL Item No. 4

Routing (Include meeting dates)

Consultative Route (parties who have seen the proposal and in what capacity)	Policy Review Committee, January 10, 2013; Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, January 16, 2013
Approval Route (Governance) (including meeting dates)	Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Council (for recommendation) – January 17, 2013; GFC Executive Committee (for final approval) – February 4, 2013
Final Approver	GFC Executive Committee

Attachments:

1. Attachment 1 (page 1) – Public Availability of a Thesis: Proposed Changes to Section 96.1.5 of the GFC Policy Manual

Prepared by: Joanna Harrington, Associate Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research,
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Timing of the Public Availability of a Thesis
Proposed Change to Section 96.1.5 of GFC Policy Manual

This proposal concerns a specific change needed to an existing university policy. Specifically, the proposal concerns the following sentence found in section 96.1.5 of the General Faculties Council Policy Manual, which reads: “A thesis should be made freely available to the public as soon as it has been successfully defended.”

This policy requirement is impossible to meet, with many students being required to make corrections to a thesis after the defence. Changing the timing of the release to coincide with a student’s convocation is a practical solution to fix this matter, with convocation marking the end of a student’s degree program. A similar policy of release upon convocation has long been used elsewhere, including the University of Toronto, with no problems. Note that no change is being proposed to the remainder of the existing policy, including the possibility to apply for exemptions to the default rule of public access.

This proposal was developed with the Policy Review Committee of the Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research. It was brought before Council for its endorsement on 16 January 2013. However, FGSR Council cannot, in fact, make the proposed change, as the provision exists in the GFC Policy Manual and thus it is for GFC to change.

Current Provision	Proposed Changes
<p>5. Withholding of Thesis</p> <p>In principle, graduate students should not undertake, nor supervisors involve students in research for a thesis when the thesis project is part of a contract which prohibits public access to the thesis. A thesis should be made freely available to the public as soon as it has been successfully defended. It is the responsibility of the supervisor and the supervisory committee to inform the student of the University policy on public access to thesis results and to explore with the student the possible ramifications of his/her research, at the outset of the thesis project.</p> <p>...</p> <p>(GFC 19 APR 1988, Amended GFC 7 FEB 2011)</p>	<p>5. Withholding of Thesis</p> <p>In principle, graduate students should not undertake, nor supervisors involve students in research for a thesis when the thesis project is part of a contract which prohibits public access to the thesis. A thesis will be made freely available to the public as soon as possible after the student’s convocation. It is the responsibility of the supervisor and the supervisory committee to inform the student of the University policy on public access to thesis results and to explore with the student the possible ramifications of his/her research, at the outset of the thesis project.</p> <p>...</p> <p>(GFC 19 APR 1988, Amended GFC 7 FEB 2011)</p>

The full-text of the GFC Policy can be found online at:

<http://www.gfcpolicymanual.ualberta.ca/en/96ResearchPolicies.aspx>

OUTLINE OF ISSUE

Agenda Title: **Faculty of Arts Proposed New Course Designator – Women’s and Gender Studies (WGS) to Replace Women’s Studies (W ST)**

Motion: THAT GFC Executive Committee approve, under delegated authority from General Faculties Council, a new course designator of Women’s and Gender Studies (WGS), as submitted by the Faculty of Arts, effective Fall Term, 2013.

Item

Action Requested	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval <input type="checkbox"/> Recommendation <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion/Advice <input type="checkbox"/> Information
Proposed by	Faculty of Arts
Presenter	Lise Gotell, Chair, Department of Women’s and Gender Studies
Subject	Proposed new course designator for Women’s and Gender Studies (WGS)

Details

Responsibility	Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
The Purpose of the Proposal is (please be specific)	<p>(<u>Note:</u> Members of the GFC Executive Committee are being asked to consider only the proposed new course designator, WGS. Changes to degree program names are within the purview of the GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) to consider.)</p> <p>The proposed Calendar changes will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change the names of our undergraduate degree programs from Bachelor of Arts (BA) (Honors) in Women’s Studies to BA (Honors) in Women’s and Gender Studies and from BA Major/Minor in Women’s Studies to BA Major/Minor in Women’s and Gender Studies (in Section 44.33 of the Calendar). • Change the existing course subject name from “Women’s Studies” to “Women’s and Gender Studies” and course prefix from W ST to WGS (in Section 321.269 of the Calendar). <p>Purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These Calendar changes are meant to ensure that the names of our undergraduate programs, as well as the subject and prefix our courses, are consistent with the new name of the teaching department and the name of the new Master of Arts (MA) program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Of 47 Canadian undergraduate programs, most have recently been renamed. A plurality of programs (20/47) have been renamed Women’s and Gender Studies. The main scholarly association, formerly the Canadian Women’s Studies Association, is now called Women’s and Gender Studies et Recherches Féministes. ○ Intellectual focus has shifted significantly since the establishment of Women’s Studies at the University of Alberta. No longer confined to the exclusive goal of making women’s experiences visible, our course offerings



	<p>have expanded to include an analysis of gender and sexuality, locally and globally. These shifts in our pedagogical emphasis reflect the discipline's contemporary focus on gender and sexual diversity, masculinities, and sexuality studies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Our curriculum currently includes courses that reflect the field's original focus on women (for example, W ST 101 - "Representations of Girls and Women"), and also those that examine masculinity (for example, W ST 460 - "Masculinities"), gender relations in a global context (for example, W ST 310 - "Gender, Development and Beyond") and sexuality (for example, W ST 370 - "Feminism and Sexuality").
The Impact of the Proposal is	Students of all genders are attracted by the unit's excellent courses in such important and popular areas of the field as masculinities studies and sexuality studies. Yet, some of these students see the designation of our programs (Honors Women's Studies, BA Major/Minor Women's Studies) as a barrier to applying to the Honors program or to declaring majors or minors. The re-designation of our programs and courses as Women's and Gender Studies is tremendously important in attracting future honors students and students to the majors and minors.
Replaces/Revises (eg, policies, resolutions)	Existing courses in W ST.
Timeline/Implementation Date	Fall, 2013.
Estimated Cost	Administrative (staff time) costs to the Department, Faculty, and Office of the Registrar to make the changes to records are minimal.
Sources of Funding	Existing funds.
Notes	N/A

Alignment/Compliance

Alignment with Guiding Documents	Aligns with <i>Dare to Deliver</i> and <i>Dare to Discover</i> values: Enrich the student experience; foster new joint degree programs that unite academic units/professional schools; promote interdisciplinary collaboration, create learning opportunities for students and creative collaborations to address global challenges and initiatives; provide an intellectually superior educational environment for students; diverse, yet inclusive, dynamic collegial community that welcomes change.
Compliance with Legislation, Policy and/or Procedure Relevant to the Proposal (please quote legislation and include identifying section numbers)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA): GFC is responsible, generally, for the academic affairs of the University and specifically, for programs of study in Faculties (Sections 26(1) and 26(1) (b)). 2. GFC Executive Committee Terms of Reference/Mandate of the Committee: In 1996, GFC delegated its authority to the GFC Executive Committee to ratify new course subject names and their abbreviations (Section 3.14). 3. GFC Policy: "Course subject names shall designate broad areas of study (often an entire department) and shall not be used to designate numerous specializations. Faculty Councils shall endeavour to keep the number of subject names in the Faculty to an acceptable minimum.



	Subject names shall not be added or changed except for strong academic reasons.” (Section 37.2 of the GFC Policy Manual)
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Routing (Include meeting dates)

Consultative Route (parties who have seen the proposal and in what capacity)	Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, 2011-2012; Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Student Services, October, 2012; Faculty of Arts Academic Affairs Committee, October, 2012 (by e-mail); Faculty of Arts Executive Committee, November, 2012; Faculty of Arts Council, November, 2012
Approval Route (Governance) (including meeting dates)	Faculty of Arts Council, November, 2012 (for recommendation); GFC Executive Committee, February 4, 2013 (for final approval of the new course designation of WGS)
Final Approver	GFC Executive Committee

Attachments (each to be numbered 1 - <>):

None.

Prepared by: Robin A Cowan, Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Student Services, robin.cowan@ualberta.ca