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

Dean’s report:
- B. Brouwer and K. McAuley attended the Council of Graduate School’s (CGS) meeting in Washington in early December. CGS is a US-based organization with international membership providing broad perspective on graduate issues.

- The site visit for the external reviewers of the proposed new Master of Entrepreneurship and Innovation (MEI) occurred the week of December 8. The reviewers’ report has been received and all documents submitted for January’s Senate Committee on Academic Development (SCAD) meeting. The program is expected to launch in September 2015.

- Application to the 2015-16 Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master’s (CGS-M) competition applications closed December 1. A total of 472 applications were received by Queen’s – 96 CIHR, 191 NSERC and 185 SSHRC. We can make a total of 80 awards (8 CIHR, 27 NSERC and 45 SSHRC).

- The Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) competition will get underway in the New Year, with heats in March and the final on April 24 at Western University. Councils are encouraged to promote the competition among constituents and to encourage participation.

- Changes in the fees charged to visiting graduate students under the Ontario Visiting Graduate Student (OVGS) program are to be implemented in September 2015. The fees of $500 for a half course, $1,000 for a full course have been in place since the early 90’s and will increase to $1,100 for a half course, $2,200 for a full course. There is a commitment to review fees every three years. A communication will be released in early 2015.

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. The Arts Graduate Council reviewed and approved changes to the MPL program and PhD program in Economics. The Engineering and Applied Science Council reviewed and approved changes to the coursework requirements for promoted and direct entry PhD students. The Graduate Committee for Business approved the addition of a field in Strategy to the PhD. The SGPS plans to conduct a comprehensive survey among its membership in the New Year to look at demographic information, student living conditions, the use of SGPS services and the health and dental plan, experiences of minority groups on campus, and perceived barriers to degree completion.

GSEC approved:
1. New Graduate Programs: Diploma, Master of Science, and PhD in Aging and Health, Schools of Nursing and Rehabilitation Therapy
2. Major Modification, Addition of a field to the PhD in Management program
3. Omnibus Report December 2014
5. November 2014