

# Dean's Report

January 2019

*\*additional information presented by the Dean at Faculty Board*



## KUDO'S TO YOU

[Beijing Normal University and Queen's University geography departments develop faculty and student exchange](#)

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## STUDENT LEARNING EXPERIENCE

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The **Thursday Start of Term/Reading Break** Survey went out via the eNewsletter to all faculty. We received 70 responses. Briefly, 18 respondents cancelled one or more of their courses on the Thursday and/or Friday at start of term while 52 instructors did not cancel any classes. The primary reason for cancelling classes at the start of term was the challenge of synchronizing multiple sections (lecture, lab or tutorial) of a course. When asked about the midterm Reading Break which also fell on a Thursday and Friday, 18 cancelled classes that week and 37 did not. Overall, the feedback regarding the Thursday start of term and Thur/Fri midterm break was negative although a few instructors had positive comments. The complete report will be made available to Faculty Board later in the term.

### Next Steps

We would like a larger sample of first year course instructors, so we will be asking Undergraduate Chairs to ask instructors of their first year courses to complete the survey if they have not done so already. This is because we are especially interested in the impact of the new sessional dates on our first year students. Stay tuned for complete results of the survey. For more information, contact Jill Atkinson at [asc.teachingandlearning@queensu.ca](mailto:asc.teachingandlearning@queensu.ca).

### Student Academic Success

The Faculty Office will be launching a survey to identify the factors that affect the academic success of our undergraduate students. We would like to hear from as many, and as diverse a group, of our undergraduate students as possible to better understand what they need to succeed academically. This survey is particularly important as we continue to diversify our campus to ensure that we understand, and have in place, the services necessary to support student success. Look for the launch of the Your Academic Success Survey the week of **January 21st**.

### Timetabling

The Faculty Office will soon be circulating some forms to help departments systematically solicit timetabling information from their instructors. The goal is to help you collect accurate and complete information for input into the Data Collection Unit in February. These forms will ask instructors to identify any needs related to their teaching schedule and properly identify them as Tier I or Tier II requests. They will also ask for information about class size and room needs to ensure the most accurate and equitable timetable.

### Deferred Exam Pilot

In November of 2018, Student Services and the Central Exams Office approached a number of departments to discuss a deferred exam pilot project. The concept was to centrally book and proctor deferred exams for three or four large, first-year courses on a common date. PSYC 100A, MATH 121A, ENGL 100A and BIOL 102 all agreed to take part and the exams were scheduled for January 12th. A total of 54 students required a



deferred exam including accommodated exams. There were two students who missed three exams and in both cases the third exam was addressed outside the pilot by the department. A review of the pilot will take place over the coming week (including departmental and instructor input) to determine next steps.

The winter term Meeting for Instructors of Large Courses will be held **February 25th, 12:15-2:00 in Watson Hall Rm. 517**. Any instructors of large courses or their designate are encouraged to attend. This is an opportunity to discuss challenges to implementing active learning and testing as well as handling accommodations, considerations, deferred exams, etc., all of which are magnified when dealing with large numbers of students and TA's. If you have not attended this meeting previously and wish to be included, please contact Diane Reid at reiddm@queensu.ca.

### Teaching Awards

If you or someone you know is an innovator in the classroom, please nominate them for one of the teaching awards below. While the application packages take time to pull together, once you have done it once, it is easier to repurpose for future awards or to resubmit if you are not successful on your first try! Previous winners are often willing to provide guidance and support.

[STLHE's Alan Blizzard Award in Collaborative Teaching](#)

Deadline: February 15, 2019

[Chancellor Charles A. Baillie](#)

Deadline: March 4, 2019

The **Spring 2019 Convocation** format has been modified which will allow more time to perform the administrative and behind the scenes tasks (degree lists, printing parchments and programs etc.) . The university will be holding four ceremonies in the ARC at the end of the Convocation schedule for those programs that have outgrown Grant Hall. As a result of the ARC ceremonies, the total number of ceremonies will be reduced from 21 to 18.

We hope that all faculty members will join us at convocation. It's rewarding to be part of a celebratory day for our graduating students and it's also a very important function.

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## INTERNATIONAL

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There are a number of opportunities for students, staff or faculty to study, do research or teach abroad. Some of the opportunities are government-sponsored programs, and others offered through our partner universities. The deadline for applications vary so please visit the program websites for more information and eligibility criteria.

### Faculty Mobility Program for Emerging Leaders in the Americas (ELAP)

The ELAP Faculty Mobility Program provides Canadian faculty with short-term opportunities to teach or conduct research in Latin America and the Caribbean, at the college, undergraduate and graduate levels.

### Internal Queen's Deadline: 11 February 2019

For more information about the [ELAP Faculty Mobility Program](#), including eligible country information, please see the information provided by University Research Services. Professors cannot apply directly, the applications have to be submitted by Queen's URS.

We've been BUSY *cont'd*



### **Canada-China Scholars' Exchange Program**

The Canada-China Scholars' Exchange Program (CCSEP) for outgoing students, faculty, and researchers to China offers short-term scholarships to Canadians wishing to study abroad in China. Scholarships are awarded for studies, research, language studies or a combination of studies and language studies at participating Chinese institutions.

#### **Deadline: 1 March 2019**

For more information about CCSEP, please see: <https://www.scholarships-bourses.gc.ca/scholarships-bourses/can/ccsep-peucc.aspx?lang=eng>.

### **Canada-ASEAN Scholarships and Educational Exchanges for Development (SEED)**

The Canada-ASEAN Scholarships and Educational Exchanges for Development (SEED) program provides incoming students, from member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), with short-term exchange opportunities for study or research in Canadian post-secondary institutions at the college, undergraduate and graduate levels. The SEED program aims to reduce poverty in the developing countries of ASEAN and to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

#### **Deadline: 5 March 2019**

For more information about SEED, please see: <https://www.scholarships-bourses.gc.ca/scholarships-bourses/can/institutions/asean-anase.aspx?lang=eng>.

### **University of St Andrews Global Fellowship Scheme (Scotland)**

The Global Fellowship Scheme provides prestigious awards enabling talented scholars to spend anywhere between one week to a month at St Andrews to undertake a course of research and study, to explore potential collaborations, enhance existing relationships, advance research work, or simply to find the space to think in an inspirational environment. Global Fellowships are open to researchers based outside the UK who can demonstrate a strong commitment to quality research and collaboration. Expenses for Global Fellows will be covered by the Fellowship for the duration of a visit of between one week and one month.

Full details of the new Fellowship including eligibility criteria and details of how to apply can be found at: <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/research/global-fellowship-scheme/>.

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## **GRADUATE STUDIES**

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Faculty of Arts and Science (FAS) has made the enhancement of our graduate programs a priority this year. Due to pressing concerns regarding domestic enrolments, our efforts this year are focused once again on recruiting new domestic graduate students. A list of initiatives, already in place, is outlined below. These initiatives have been developed through consultation with departments, and represent a set of actions that build on the success of last year's efforts and that can be advanced in the short time frame within which we are working. To ensure that we have a robust plan in the future, the effectiveness of these initiatives will be tracked to identify actions that should be retained, modified, or eliminated in upcoming years. Last year, we asked departments to report on the effectiveness of the initiatives they used, and we have refined FAS support of departments based on this feedback.



## 2018-19 Graduate Enrolment Initiatives:

### 1) **Promotion Funding**

This initiative encourages the promotion of students who are currently registered in a master's program at Queen's into a doctoral program in FAS through reimbursement of their application fees. The Promotion Funding is new, and resources have been made available to support it. Graduate Coordinators should contact FAS Marketing Manager Vicky Arnold for further information.

### 2) **Named Doctoral and Masters Fellowships**

Entry-level graduate fellowships, each \$3,000 and one year in duration, for use by FAS in promoting of its graduate programs and by programs for recruitment purposes. These fellowships function as enhancement awards for use in the final stages of the conversion process and are intended to serve as a contribution to the funding package of a top-flight candidate that confirms our recognition of the student's potential contribution to scholarship and society. These awards are designed for use by Graduate Coordinators working within the tight timelines of the conversion process. Coordinators should contact Associate Dean (Graduate) Lynda Jessup directly for further information.

### 3) **Bridge Funding for NSERC Applicants**

Faculty apply for NSERC funding in the fall, but do not receive the results of these competitions until the spring. Unfortunately, this period of time corresponds to that during which faculty members must make decisions regarding whether to accept new graduate students into their groups. To alleviate the uncertainty that arises around graduate student recruitment as a result, FAS will provide awards that faculty members can apply for while they await the results of the tri-council competition. These awards would correspond to the amount of the research assistantship included in a student funding package in the faculty member's unit for one year per student and would potentially be renewable if the faculty member is unsuccessful in receiving NSERC funding for the student.

### 4) **Assistantship Funding for Researchers**

Faculty members in the sciences provide a research assistantship as part of a graduate student's funding package. The amount of research funding a faculty member has limits the number of graduate students they can support; however, some faculty members could supervise additional students if additional funding was available. As such, when potential graduate students contact these faculty members for positions in their groups, those students are turned away. This program would provide funding for faculty members to accept these students. In addition to growing the graduate program, these funds will help researchers improve HQP scores on funding applications.

### 5) **Teaching Fellowships**

This initiative is providing funding to enable doctoral programs to guarantee TFs to a potential graduate student in 2022-23 (the 4th year of a student who enters a PhD program in 2019-20). Graduate Coordinators should contact Associate Dean (Graduate) Lynda Jessup for details.

### 6) **Dean's Award for Project-based and Portfolio PhD Research**

To advance its intermediate and longer-term goal of re-envisioning the doctoral study, the Faculty has introduced the FAS Awards for Project and Portfolio PhD Research (<https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/staff-and-faculty/awards-for-project-based-portfolio-phd-research>). On one level, the program encourages programs to make more use of the portfolio PhD (which is currently available under SGS regulations),

## We've been BUSY *cont'd*



and in doing so, to think creatively about its use in addressing the interests of prospective graduate students. On another, it provides financial support for students already pursuing doctoral research who are undertaking a project option and/or a portfolio PhD. The Award supports costs directly related to the completion of the degree to a maximum value of \$3,000. It will support graduate programs in FAS that are responding to increased student demand for non-traditional, or "alternative" doctoral formats that accommodate different research contributions and applications, new forms of knowledge mobilization, the development of new competencies (i.e. digital, entrepreneurial), and that foster student awareness of the transferable skills acquired in the completion of the doctoral degree.

### 7) **Department-led initiatives**

FAS is reimbursing departments for expenses to support department-based recruitment activities this year.

### 8) **Winter Grad Days**

FAS is encouraging department coordination with its winter Grad Days. Graduate Coordinators are currently working with Vicky Arnold to the make the events a success. Advertising began the first week of January.