Hello GPDs and ADs Grad,

The Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) is seeking professors and students who are interested in contributing their thoughts and ideas on emerging forms of scholarship with respect to the current FGS Thesis and Dissertation Regulations. As stated in the Executive Summary of the *Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS): Report of the Task Force on the Dissertation* (September, 2018):

“The purpose, meaning, and scope of the PhD are changing in response to profound changes in both the academy and society. University researchers are increasingly engaged with other societal sectors and across disciplinary boundaries to address contemporary challenges. Doctoral graduates are contributing to society in increasingly varied ways and contexts. To engage in these diverse forms of research and to work and communicate both within and beyond the confines of the academy, doctoral students and graduates require new competencies. As the core of the PhD, the doctoral dissertation is diversifying in its forms and content in step with these changes… The report concludes with a call to action for universities. The dissertation is changing, and it is crucial that our policies and practices acknowledge and facilitate this reality, so that we can fulfill our mandate to promote and ensure the highest standards of scholarly rigour.”

Issues and trends identified in the CAGS report may be ones you are already noticing in the dissertation proposals arising in your programs. If so, or if the future of the dissertation interests you generally, then please volunteer. We would like to assess these matters as colleagues and be ahead of the curve with our guidelines.

**Ad-Hoc Committee Overview**

**Purpose:** To examine the FGS Thesis and Dissertation Regulations (<http://gradstudies.yorku.ca/current-students/thesis-dissertation/>) and make recommendations that will allow the Regulations to accommodate different dissertation formats with appropriate graduate standards of academic assessment

**Required Reading:** *Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS): Report of the Task Force on the Dissertation*: <https://cags.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/CAGS-Dissertation-Task-Force-Report-1.pdf>, and the *CAGS Rethinking the PhD: Broadening the Dissertation* web resource: <https://cags.ca/rethinkingphd-dissertation/>

**Ad-Hoc Committee Composition:** Graduate Program Directors, Associate Deans Graduate, faculty members, and graduate students

**Ad-Hoc Committee Chair:** Tom Loebel, Dean & Associate Vice-President Graduate

**Frequency of Meetings:** Once per month from May-June 2019; once per month from September-October 2019 (if needed) – Meetings to be 2-hours in length

If you are interested in joining the Ad-Hoc Committee, please reach out to me at wmoir@yorku.ca by **Thursday, April 18**.

Thanks,

Wes

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