Vice Dean, Students Updates

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Vice Dean, Students
Topics to be covered

• Review of Graduate Supervision Best Practices
• Admission and Programs Committee
• Review of SGS Regulations and Guidelines
• Academic Integrity
• SGS Student Orientation Events
• Workshops and seminars
Graduate Supervision

• Most recent SGS Best Practices guidelines published in 2012

• Working group with representatives from faculties and students is currently reviewing the guidelines

• Anticipated completion date: June 2016

• Events to promote the best practice guidelines will be organized in the 2016-17 academic year
Admission and Programs Committee

- The Admissions and Programs (A&P) Committee is delegated the power from the Graduate Education Council (GEC) to waive, or modify in individual students cases, the application of an SGS regulation concerning admissions, registration, or enrolment.

- The Committee also considers requests from graduate units regarding non-standard admissions, leaves of absence, course extension deadlines, grading, program requirements, time limits, and posthumous degrees.

- The Committee will consider requests for individual student exemptions only when submitted by the Chair or Director or designate of the relevant graduate unit.

- The Committee has delegated parts of its authority to the Vice-Dean Students
Review of SGS Regulations and Guidelines

- Part of SGS ongoing review of existing regulations (SGS Calendar) and guidelines
- Potential revisions are considered and the necessary governance approvals obtained
- One example currently under review: the 75% liberal arts and science content.
Academic Integrity

• Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters

The University and its members have a responsibility to ensure that a climate which might encourage, or conditions which might enable, cheating, misrepresentation or unfairness not be tolerated. To this end, **all must acknowledge that seeking credit or other advantages by fraud or misrepresentation, or seeking to disadvantage others by disruptive behaviour is unacceptable, as is any dishonesty or unfairness in dealing with the work or record of a student.**
Academic Integrity

• Why comply with the Code?
  – Academic integrity fundamental to our mission
  – Ensures fairness
    • Need dispassionate judgment, consistent sanctions across University
    • Must respect rights of all parties
  – Identify repeat offenders
  – No choice: “instructor shall make a report to the department chair”
Help Prevent Offences By

- Considering workshops for students and faculty (SGS is happy to assist)
- Including information on the Code of Behaviour and plagiarism in course outlines
- Ignorance is no excuse!
  - "Wherever in the Code an offence is described as depending on “knowing”, the offence shall likewise be deemed to have been committed if the person ought reasonably to have known.” (Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters)
- Reducing temptations and opportunities – sources for information:
  - UofT Academic Integrity website: http://www.viceprovoststudents.utoronto.ca/publicationsandpolicies/academicintegrity.htm
  - the SGS website for ‘Academic Integrity’ http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/currentstudents/Pages/Academic-Integrity-Resources.aspx
  - FAS Academic Handbook for Instructors at http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/faculty-staff/teacher-info
  - ELWS courses on working with sources and citations
SGS student orientation events

- Usually at the beginning of the academic year in September
- 3 sessions (morning, afternoon, evening)
- Currently under review, with input sought from various Faculties on campus
  - Content
  - Format
  - Timing
Future SGS Workshops And Information Sessions

- Best practices in graduate supervision (for faculty and students)
- Academic Appeals
- SGS workshops for administrative staff
- Learning cafes – at least one each session
- International credentials workshop (internal and external participants)
- One-on-one as needed
- other
Contact Vice Dean Students

Thank you

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Questions?

Thank you