

**FGSR Policy on Criteria and Selection of Supervisors of Graduate Students
at Saint Mary's University**

Approved by FGSR Council on 27 April 2012

The development of future researchers and societal leaders within graduate schools depends on responsible and effective supervision of graduate students. In addition to having relevant expertise, supervising research and writing, and guiding students through their graduate programs, supervisors should also strive to be mentors to their graduate students (see FGSR's Guiding Principles for Graduate Student Supervision). Specifically, a potential supervisor must demonstrate both scholarly experience and prior supervisory skills that are demonstrably relevant to the content and goals of the graduate program(s) in which they are contributing.

Policy Statement:

A department or program's Graduate Program Committee shall have the responsibility and authority to determine who may supervise graduate students within its graduate program. In addition to any particular departmental or program requirements, the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research requires that a supervisor be a full-time Faculty member or Professor Emeritus of Saint Mary's University, or appointed to the University as an Adjunct Professor for the period of supervision of the graduate student (see Graduate Academic Regulation 16.h.).

In evaluating a potential supervisor, Graduate Program Committees will normally adhere to the following guidelines. A supervisor shall:

- 1) hold an earned PhD in a relevant discipline;
- 2) have a demonstrable record of scholarly work, both past and present, as defined by the Collective Agreement between Saint Mary's University and Saint Mary's University Faculty Union, relevant to the Graduate Program ;
- 3) be able to provide evidence of having supervised (or co-supervised) thesis research at the appropriate level (e.g., at least at the Honour's level for supervision of a Master's student; at least at the Master's level for supervision of a PhD student); and
- 4) have been a member of a graduate student supervisory committee.

Dispute Resolution:

In the event of a disagreement between a Graduate Program Committee and a full-time faculty member concerning the Committee's evaluation of the faculty member's potential supervision of a student within the specific Graduate Program, the matter shall be forwarded to the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research. The Dean of Graduate Studies shall consult with the graduate program in question, the faculty member, the relevant Deans of Arts, Science or the Sobey School of Business, and any other relevant persons, in order to come to a decision. The decision of the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, after due consideration to all parties and their respective contributions to the matter, shall be final, and shall in all cases be guided by the best interests of the students.