



SOCIETY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS
THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

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Dear Councillors,

I am calling a special session of Council on Tuesday, September 18, 2007 to address two items of business related Western's ongoing plans for expanding graduate studies.

The first item is an open consultation with members of the Ad-hoc Faculty of Graduate Studies Review Committee. They are seeking the input of SOGS before they present their proposed plan for the restructuring of FGS to Senate on September 21st. Most of you should recall that an initial consultation with the committee took place at our March 2007 Council meeting. Our input was a fundamental part of formulating some of the recommendations outlined in the report. The report was published in June and open for comment from the Western community at large, until the end of August. The Ad-hoc Committee is again seeking our input. In this case, members of the committee will be in attendance to give a presentation summarizing the recommendations in the report, as well as the salient points from the comments received to date. For those of you who have not read the report, or those that have read it some time ago; I ask that you review it so that we can have an informed discussion. The report can be found at the following URL:

<http://www.uwo.ca/pvp/vpacademic/greview/html>

The second item of business also pertains to the graduate expansion. As I've mentioned in my two previous Council reports, the Board of Governors has invited myself and a small number of graduate student representatives to participate in the annual Board of Governors retreat on September 24th. I will be participating in a three-person panel along Dr. Jerry White and Dr. David Bentley to lead a discussion session about the critical factors in the graduate expansion. Our presentation will examine three main classes of factors:

- Quality,
- Recruitment and Retention,
- Obligations to Community Stakeholders.

We as graduate student leaders have an opportunity to voice our opinions, whether they be positive or cautionary, about what we feel are the critical issues involved in ensuring that the expansion is managed with the appropriate focus on issues that matter to students. I am asking for your input so that we can properly craft our message to the Board of Governors. This item of business will also be an open discussion.

Sincerely,
Duane Jacques
President