

Memo: E&S advisors

To: E&S Collaborative Program graduate students
Supervisors of E&S Collaborative Program graduate students
Faculty members associated with the CES (potential E&S Advisors)

From: Sheila Macfie, Chair, E&S Collaborative Graduate Program

Date: Mon. Nov. 15, 2010

Hello Everyone.

The roles and expectations of E&S Advisors (formerly called E&S thesis advisory committee members) were discussed at last week's meeting of the E&S Collaborative Graduate Program Committee. Members unanimously supported the requirement for each E&S collaborative program graduate student to have an extra-departmental E&S Advisor. However, we have slightly modified the expectations of these Advisors to better meet the needs of the graduate students and the CES (Centre for Environment and Sustainability) community.

A summary of our discussion and decision follows:

1. E&S Advisors offer an excellent opportunity to build research collaborations that extend beyond individual departments and faculties.
2. E&S Advisors offer an excellent opportunity for students to discuss their individual research projects within a broader E&S perspective.
3. The above two objectives are best met by having an E&S Advisor from outside the student's Home Department; therefore, each E&S collaborative graduate student must have an extra-departmental E&S Advisor. In some programs students are required to establish a thesis advisory committee and many students have selected Home Department faculty members who are also associated with E&S to sit on these committees. We encourage this practice but these faculty members do not fulfill the requirements to be the student's E&S Advisor.
4. E&S Advisors are not expected to play a major role in directing the content or trajectory of a graduate student's research project. In many cases, input from E&S Advisors may inform the thesis research but this is not a requirement.

5. Notwithstanding point #4, students are encouraged to choose an E&S Advisor whose research interests overlap with their thesis research areas, or who have expertise that the student wishes to explore. Supervisors may wish to give students guidance on suitable Advisors.

A list of potential E&S Advisors can be found at:

<http://www.uwo.ca/enviro/Research/researchindex.html#ResearchFaculty>. Faculty members who wish to be added to this list should contact Holly Sanderson <hsanders@uwo.ca>.

6. Graduate students are required to meet with their E&S advisors at least once per academic year (minimum two meetings for Masters students, four meetings for PhD students). Students are encouraged to combine this meeting with a Home Department thesis advisory committee meeting, if one exists. Alternatively, the student could meet with his or her E&S Advisor and thesis supervisor, or there could be a one-on-one meeting between the student and the E&S Advisor. Students and E&S Advisors will be required to complete and sign an E&S thesis advisor meeting form to verify these meetings.
7. Starting in January 2011, one criterion for eligibility for E&S scholarships and travel awards will be evidence of meetings with the E&S Advisor (i.e. a copy of the signed form).

Sincerely,



Sheila Macfie
Chair, E&S Collaborative Graduate Program
Associate professor in Biology