

Guiding Principles in Proposing New Graduate Programs

K. Vessey, Dean FGSR

March 2009

The FGSR has defined “Normal Procedures for Proposing New Graduate Programs” (see http://fgsr.smu.ca/documents/ProceduresforProposingNewGraduatePrograms_001.doc). Identified here are guiding principles that should be considered by proponents who are thinking of proposing new graduate programs. The following principles are based upon priorities within the current Academic Plan and upon MPHEC requirements for Proposing New Graduate Programs.

Building on Strength: New graduate programs must be built upon a foundation of existing academic expertise, supportive curriculum offerings, and a competitive record of relevant scholarly activity.

A Good Fit within Saint Mary’s: New graduate programs should have positive relationships and impacts on existing program at Saint Mary’s.

A Good Fit within the Maritime Region: New graduate programs should be contextually well situated relative to other graduate programs offered elsewhere in the Maritimes (will need a compelling rationale for introduction of the program if a similar one is already offered in the region).

A Reasoned Balance of Programs across the FGSR: New graduate programs should contribute to a reasonable balance between Master and PhD programs and Professional to Research-Based programs (especially amongst the graduate programs offered within science, arts and commerce disciplines at Saint Mary’s).

Sound Resources: New graduate programs must be affordable and bring demonstrable benefits to Saint Mary’s for the investments to be made in the program.

Meeting a Need (a.k.a. Student Demand): Graduates from the new graduate programs must meet clearly defined social and economic needs of society.

Specific for Research-Based Programs

Demonstrated Supervisory Capacity: New graduate programs must be supported by faculty with excellence records of research and demonstrated ability to provide long-term supervision of graduate students.

Specific for Professional-Based programs

A Compelling Opportunity with External Entities: New graduate programs must have sound relationships with external entities and be positioned to meet their professional needs (e.g. fit within the profession, relationship to accreditation programs, etc.)