



Bulletin

Master's Thesis Supervision Teaching Credits

In the current *Collective Agreement*, Letter of Understanding (LOU) #1 (Teaching Credit for Master's Thesis Supervision) recognized the importance of teaching credit for Master's thesis supervision. "The University and the StFXAUT have recognized the importance of the role of thesis supervision with a teaching release credit system. Supervision of Master's theses outside of the Faculty of Education were excluded from the system. As obtaining credit for Master's thesis is a priority for StFXAUT Members and as the tuition waiver system represents an important consideration in obtaining major research funding, the University and the StFXAUT agree to establish a committee to investigate existing graduate studies support systems. The committee will develop recommendations for revision to these systems that will promote research, support graduate students, and allow for a Master's thesis teaching credit release program" (p. 255, *Collective Agreement*).

The LOU required that a committee be struck to develop recommendations for systems of tuition funding and thesis credits. The committee was comprised of the Associate Vice President Research (Richard Isnor), the Dean of Science (Petra Hauf) and three Faculty Members (Russell Wyeth, Ranke DeVries and Mike Melchin) who were elected at a StFXAUT regular meeting. The committee was required to prepare a report to the Academic Vice President (AVP) by May 31, 2017. The report was submitted to the AVP in May 2017 for his consideration. The

report contained several recommendations related to the graduate program structure, but it was the recommendation related to Master's thesis supervision that was relevant to the StFXAUT.

Outcome: In a response to the recommendations on teaching credit for thesis supervision, the AVP agreed to provide members who supervise a Master's thesis, in the Faculty of Science or Faculty of Arts, with teaching credit in the amount of one-third (1/3) of a three credit course per completed graduate thesis.

This rate of one-third (1/3) of a three credit course per thesis raised the issue of equity across faculties as it was an increase from the rate negotiated for the Faculty of Education in the most recent *Collective Agreement*, (i.e., one-sixth (1/6) of a three credit course per completed graduate thesis). In an effort to achieve equity across faculties, the Academic Vice President, Kevin Wamsley, and the StFXAUT agreed that the one-third (1/3) of a three credit course per completed graduate thesis will be extended to the Faculty of Education. Further, this rate for earning teaching credits for thesis supervision would be retroactive to July 1, 2016 for all Faculty members.

You can access the StFXAUT *Collective Agreement* at www.stfxaut.ca