



FACULTY OF  
GRADUATE STUDIES  
& RESEARCH

March 16, 2023

### **FGSR AUR Five Year Update to CCAM: April 5, 2023**

Dear Council Committee on Academic Mission (CCAM) Members,

I am very pleased to submit a 5-year follow up in the attached report, summarizing initiatives undertaken in response to the outcomes of the 2018 Academic Unit Review of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR). The Faculty has proactively engaged with the External Review recommendations and undertook several initiatives since **2018** to enhance the long-term success of graduate students, staff and our relationship with the University community. As the new Dean of FGSR, I have launched a multi-year project to revitalize the unit and offer student-centered supports as well as innovative programming in alignment with the University of Regina's strategic priorities.

The attached report shows the significant progress and immense strides we have made in implementing the advice and best practices the External Review Report suggested, which supports the long-term success of students, staff and our relationship with the University community. Some of our accomplishments over the past few years focused on the following areas:

1. *Graduate Education at the University of Regina*: A student-centric, five-year FGSR strategic plan (2021-2026) underscores the importance of graduate education to the institution's strategic priorities (creativity and discovery, student experience, collaboration and partnerships, and impactful communication);
2. *FGSR mandate*: Leadership in graduate education; Indigenous graduate student funding; student recruitment initiatives; high quality graduate student supervision; oversight of graduate programs structure, as well as quality of graduate programs and instruction;
3. *Graduate student success initiatives*: Enhance student experience to meet students' learning needs and goals; career readiness, professional skill development and entrepreneurship programming; streamlined funding;
4. *Operational issues*: Improved staff morale and engagement (retention and expansion of FGSR team); automation of administrative processes (e.g., application processing, degree audit...); decentralization (e.g., grade approvals);
5. *Communication and stakeholder engagement*: Regular and clear communication with students, faculty members and other units on campus with respect to the role of FGSR relative to the role of graduate programs and line Faculties.

The health of the Unit and graduate education enterprise at the University will be maintained through on-going stakeholder engagement, collaboration, effective and efficient use of resources, and accessible/transparent leadership. The initiatives outlined in the report demonstrate that FGSR will continue to meet the University's goals, priorities and education, as articulated in "All Our Relations," the UofR Strategic Plan (2020-2025), including the objectives of enhancing student success, research impacts and commitment to our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Aziz Douai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "D".

Aziz Douai, PhD  
Dean, The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

cc: Dr. David Gregory, Provost and Vice-President Academic (Interim)  
Dr. Chris Yost, Vice-President Research (Interim)