NOMINATION OF EXAMINERS

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RECENT CHANGES

• Only 2 examiners not 3 for PhD theses
  – Now similar to most Australian universities
  – Reserve examiner should still be nominated

• No internal (UNSW) examiners permitted
  – Examiners cannot have held any UNSW appointment (even conjoint) within the last 5 years

• Clarification of procedures when examiners have awarded lower scores.
WHAT DOES STUDENT DO?

• Triggers process by advising the GRS of intention to submit 2 months beforehand
• Submits 3 paper copies to GRS in soft covers
  – Includes Abstract in prescribed format
• Submits Originality Statement
• Once thesis is passed, student submits one hard bound copy and a digital copy to GRS, plus a hard bound copy to supervisor and/or Head of School.
WHAT DOES SUPERVISOR DO?

• NOMINATES EXAMINERS

• SIGNS SUPERVISOR CERTIFICATE
  – Signing indicates the thesis is in a form suitable for examination, but does not imply the thesis is expected to pass.
  – If the supervisor does not approve thesis submission, the candidate may apply to the HDC to submit independently of the supervisor.
EXAMINERS – nomination

• Supervisor may seek advice from co-supervisor, PGC etc.
• Examiners should be independent of each other.
• Student should NOT know who the examiners are, but MUST have opportunity to veto:
  – Can ask student to name anyone (s)he does not want to examine;
  – Can show student a list of several possible examiners and ask if any are unacceptable.
• Examiner identity remains confidential until examination is completed (an examiner may request that their identity is not revealed).
EXAMINERS – academic reputation

Must be academically reputable in the general field of the thesis:

1. Should regularly publish in Medline or equivalent;
2. Should have academic appointment;
3. Should have PhD, though not essential if points 1 and 2 are fine;
4. Should have post-graduate supervision experience, again not essential if points 1 and 2 are fine.
EXAMINERS – conflict of interest

• Examiners should not have collaborated or published with the student.
• Examiner should be independent of supervisor:
  – Extensive co-publication or collaboration with co-supervisor is not appropriate;
  – Occasional co-publication with supervisor is acceptable.
EXAMINER GRADES

• (a) Pass
• (b) Minor corrections
• (c) Further work
• (d) Revise & re-submit
• (e) Non-award (Fail)
FLOW CHART

AFTER REPORTS ARE RECEIVED
KEY POINTS IN FLOW CHART

• If all examiners recommend (a) or (b), the revised thesis is approved by the PGC and sent to the GRS.

• Other cases go to the HDC.

• If the lowest mark is (c), the revised thesis is submitted to the HDC.

• If one or more marks are (d) or (e), the case is assessed by the HDC. Usually a revised thesis is sent for re-examination, either by the original examiner(s) or by another examiner appointed by the HDC.
REFERENCES

• UNSW Thesis Examination Procedures: