

Policy on external members on dissertation committees

WCGS welcomes, but does not require, students to add an external member to their dissertation committee. WCGS envisions:

- The external member should have expertise that will add value to the committee.
- Ideally, the external member would engage in the process well before the dissertation defense (perhaps as soon as shortly after the student's ACE) to facilitate meaningful contributions.

Advantages of external members may include:

- Provide student with additional expert advice (especially if the external member fills a niche not filled by other dissertation committee members).
- Serve as a PR opportunity for the graduate school – one by one, faculty from other institutions will engage with our students and see their work.
- Provide a networking opportunity for the student (perhaps even a reference-letter writer).
- Augment the sense of stature/importance of the dissertation defense.

The following logistical/administrative points pertain:

- The external member would be in addition to the standard required members of the committee.
- The external member would be non-voting.
- The external member would be expected to provide written comments on the dissertation.
- WCGS would provide a \$250 honorarium to the external member after the dissertation defense.
- Participation via video conference for committee meetings would reduce travel burden.