Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Master of Arts

of

MANNIX CHAN

BSc (University of Ontario Institute of Technology, 2014)

“Understanding Undergraduate Student Engagement: Motivations and Experiences”

School of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies

Monday, August 28, 2017
9:30 a.m.
Clearihue Building
Room B215

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Tatiana Gounko, School of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Carolyn Crippen, School of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies, UVic (Co-Supervisor)

External Examiner:
Dr. Ralf St. Clair, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Dan Smith, Department of Geography, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies
Abstract

An undergraduate student’s level of engagement in non-academic activities has demonstrated to be a robust predictor of their success in higher education. Previous research indicates positive outcomes associated with student engagement including social benefits and sense of community gained by the students. Little is known about what motivates millennial students to join these activities and what students gain through these types of experiences. This study explores motivations and experiences of 11 undergraduate millennial students involved with student-run organizations at the University Of Victoria. The findings of the study suggest that today’s students are motivated to become engaged in non-academic activities due to professional and social benefits, encouragement from others, and personal interests. Additionally, through their participation, students have a better experience in university and learn about ideas of leadership and leadership skills. The findings from this study provide insight on how universities can create programs and policies to foster student engagement and student success.