

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES
FACULTY COUNCIL

These minutes have been approved.

A regular meeting of Faculty Council was held at 11:30 am, Tuesday, March 22, 2011 in the Room 3107, Mona Campbell Building.

Present: M. Cada, D. Patterson, R. Singer, M. Bliemel, A. Fenety, R. Mopoho, S. Parcell, H. Elliott, E. Snow, A. West, S. Marche (Chair), M. Lee, D. Pelzer, M. Scott (Secretary), P. Ellis, L. Bennett, S. Tirone, G. Kipouros, N. Schepp, P. Tyedmers..

Regrets: B. Baldrige, J. Bannister, S. Faridi, P. Gardiner-Barber, S. Guppy, M. Heywood, T. Romanuk, D. Scott, B. Swerhun.

FC10/11.35 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

The Dean called the meeting to order. The agenda was approved as circulated.

FC10/11.36 Minutes of the Meeting

Approval of the minutes of February 22, 2011. It was moved by A. Fenety, seconded by P. Ellis: that the February 22, 2011 minutes be accepted as circulated. The motion carried.

Matters arising from the minutes –

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

FC10/11.37 Vice President Academic – Dr. Carolyn Watters

Dr. Watters was welcomed to the meeting and indicated that she was attempting to attend one Faculty Council meeting with each of the Faculties to introduce herself and to inform them of projects that are currently being undertaken from her office.

Dr. Watters indicated that the V.P. Academic is currently undertaking the task of creating a strategic plan that will cover the next five years. Included in the plan are three big projects that encompass undergraduate, graduate education and research.

1. Pathways – This will be to look at the College of Continuing Education to create a non-credit service to facilitate getting certain communities into undergraduate and graduate education. Create way for international students to be more successful. To cover all aspects of academic behaviour. Possibly including reduced course loads, slow down and support these students. This could include support programs or Aboriginal and Black students to increase their success. Other initiatives could include summer institutes that would assist Saudi, Chilean and sometimes Chinese students (sponsored by their governments to study abroad) to provide support for

integration and English language skills for the year before their program. For graduate students that are struggling, have a small tutorial for student to get basic skills up to speed.

2. Internationalization – Dr. Watters announced that a new Executive Director of International Strategy, Dr. Alain Boutet would be joining Dalhousie on April 1st. The position of Executive Director of International Strategy has been set up to coordinate the many services and initiatives Dalhousie has and to create a strategy. This will include many of the ideas discussed by the DISC but were not operationalized. Dr. Watters pointed out that the ideas are not the same for undergraduates, graduates, the university, faculty and research. She indicated the targeting of the Capital Campaign for scholarship dollars is usually aimed at undergraduates.
3. Interdisciplinarity – This has been activated at the graduate level. Dr. Watters indicated it is easy to visualize a College of Interdisciplinarity. Dalhousie currently has several programs at the graduate level with joint degrees, and internal and external degrees.

Dr. Watters also indicated the University is struggling with the budget issues. It is anticipated there is going to be a 10% decrease over the next three years. A cut of 4% is effective from April 1st. The issue is more complicated by cut-able base and non-cut-able base services. This means some departments / services currently will not have their budget cut. Administration is reviewing these services to see if they can also be cut. She indicated that Graduate Studies is an anomaly.

There was discussion on support for students to succeed, continuing education and the programs they can offer, and the aligning of graduate studies, research and undergraduate studies. Also discussed were different ways of offering degrees and doing education; degree combinations; programs that make students more employable that may include study abroad.

FC 10/11.38 School of Nursing Program Review

Dr. Pelzer welcomed Dr. Patricia Sullivan, Director, Dr. Marilyn MacDonald, Graduate Coordinator, Dr. R. Martin Misener, School of Nursing, Dr. Will Webster, Dean, Faculty of Health Professions, and Dr. Adrian Levy, Internal Review Committee to the meeting.

Dr. Levy thanked the members of the review committee, Drs. J. Gantar, F. McGinn, and T. Lee. Dr. Levy indicated the report received unanimous support from every stakeholder. Dr. Levy indicated that some issues negatively affect students, and faculty hires. One unusual factor is the reporting structure in the department, with the Director reporting to the faculty members and not to the Dean of Health Professions and the Dean of Graduate Studies. A change in this structure is one of the recommendations coming out of this report. Dr. Levy reported that many of the students in the graduate nursing programs are returning to school after many years in the profession, and they are frequently the only breadwinner. This leads to difficulties with students becoming research assistants. It was noted that there is not a culture of research in the department and that there needs to be an elevation in publishing levels. The expectation of research activity would need to be explained to students when they apply to the program. Dr. Levy indicated that the shortage of supervisors for PhD students and the need for greater funding are essential.

Dr. Sullivan thanked Graduate Studies and members of the review teams for the reports indicating the recommendation are very constructive and provide direction. She indicated that had been several meetings

There was considerable serious discussion of the recommendations and implications of these recommendations.

Dr. Pelzer thanked the guests for attending Faculty Council.

There was additional discussion on implications.

It was moved by P. Tyedmers, seconded by L. Bennett: that the Master of Nursing Program review be rated as unsatisfactory with required changes, to be implemented within a specific time frame.

The next steps to address the areas of concern regarding the Master of Nursing program and the time frame for these steps to be implemented are as follows:

- **With the guidance of the Faculty and FGS Deans, the School is to develop and implement a feasible strategy to address the issues of governance, recruitment, and culture within 12 months, with the goal of creating a research intensive and nurturing environment.**
- **The Dean of the Faculty of Health Professions should ensure that the Director has the necessary tools to feasibly implement the strategy.**
- **An interim report on actions taken and progress/outcomes with respect to the recommendations is due September 30, 2011. This report will be reviewed by the FGS Faculty Council.**
- **At the end of the 12-month period (i.e., March 31, 2012), a formal report highlighting the progress in each of the areas of concern will again be reviewed by the FGS Faculty Council.**
- **Both the interim and the final report need to be endorsed by the School Director and the Dean of the Faculty of Health Professions.**
- **If the outcome of the 12-month review is positive, the School is to develop and implement a longer-term strategy to increase and sustain its master of Nursing program. If the outcome is negative, the master of Nursing program will be recommended to Senate for suspension or closure.**

The motion carried.

It was moved by R. Singer, seconded by P. Tyedmers: that the Ph.D. (Nursing) program be rated as unsatisfactory with a recommendation to Senate for suspension or closure. The motion carried.

FC10/11.39 Postdoctoral Fellows Issues

These items are deferred due to lack of time.

- i) Revised Guidelines**
- ii) Co-supervision of Masters students**

FC10/11.40 Reports

All reports were deferred due to the lack of time.

FC10/11.41 Other Business

The first two items were deferred due to the lack of time.

- i) Tuesday, May 10 possible Faculty Council meeting (to replace APCC)
- ii) Full Faculty Meeting – Thursday, May 12, 2:30 – 4:30

iii) Slate for the Dean Search Committee

The Acting Dean, the Associated Dean, and the Acting Associate Dean recused themselves for the remainder of the meeting. Dr. Fenety, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented Faculty Council members with the names of faculty to stand on the Dean's Search Committee.

There was discussion on the process followed to select the names for the slate, specifically the names submitted by the Deans of the line Faculties. It was noted that some of the council members were unhappy that names were submitted by Deans without broad consultation of their faculty members. When asked if the nomination committee was comfortable with the slate and the process for the selection of the committee members, Dr. Fenety's response was 'yes', the nominating committee was comfortable with the slate. Dr. Fenety noted that she could not comment on how widely Deans has sought people for the search committee.

Mr. Snow requested that the two motions be dealt with together. Faculty Council agreed.

It was moved by A. Fenety, seconded by N. Schepp: that FGS Faculty Council accept the slate of the 'selected' members to the Faculty of Graduate Studies Dean's Search Committee, and as soon as the outstanding nomination of the student representative for the Dean's Search Committee is confirmed, acceptance will be determined by FGS Faculty Council members via an electronic vote. The motion carried with three abstentions.

FC10/11.42 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

The meeting adjourned at 1:32 pm.

Sunny Marche, Chair

M. Scott, Recording Secretary