

**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, May 10, 2011 in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

Present: S. Faridi, D. Patterson, R. Singer, M. Bliemel, A. Fenety, R. Mopoho, S. Parcell, S. Faridi, S. Marche (Chair), M. Lee, D. Pelzer, M. Scott (Secretary), L. Bennett, B. Baldrige, S. Tirone, J. Bannister, M. Heywood, N. Schepp, D. Scott, P. Tyedmers, M. Cada, G. Kipouros, S. Lucas.

Regrets: P. Ellis, P. Gardiner-Barber, S. Guppy, R. Robski, A. West, E. Pegolo, T. Romanuk.

FC10/11.49 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

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

FC10/11.50 Minutes of the Meeting

Approval of the minutes of April 26, 2011. It was moved by P. Tyedmers, seconded by D. Patterson: that the April 26, 2011 minutes be accepted as circulated. The motion carried.

Matters arising from the minutes –

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

FC 10/11.51 Reports

i) Acting Dean's Report

Libyan students – The majority of graduate students from Libya receive their funding from Ottawa, but due to the financial embargo imposed by the UN Security Council their money has not been coming through. Dal will make whatever accommodations we can to assist these students by loaning money for their food and rent, and deferring their fees if necessary.

Recruiting - Dr. Marche reported FGS has lost M. Clarke as the Recruitment and International Services Coordinator. FGS is looking at ways of providing effective recruitment support for departments.

ii) PDF Report (A. West) –

Dr. West sent his apologies for the meeting.

iii) DAGS Report (S. Lucas)

GG13 student conference – This conference was held at Dalhousie this May. The conference provided the students an opportunity to collaborate and dialogue. There were a large number of students at this conference, many issues were discussed, and the feedback was very positive. DAGS thanked Bryce Swerhun for his contribution and FGS for their financial contribution to the conference.

iv) Acting Associate Dean - PDF, Professional Development and ID PhD

PDF Benefits package – Dr. Lee reported the PDF benefits are available. The coverage is optional for postdocs that started before June 1, 2011 but will be mandatory for those starting June 1, 2011. So far there has been little response from the current postdocs but they are encouraged to speak to their supervisors regarding enrolling. If any postdocs have questions they should go directly to Human Resources or the FGS website for information.

DAGS discussions – Dr. Lee is currently undertaking discussions with DAGS members over e-theses dissemination and, IP protection issues.

v) Associate Dean – Curriculum & Reviews

PhD Nursing Program – The recommendations for this program are currently being reviewed by Legal Council and the Communications Department. If anyone is looking for a comment they should be directed to Dr. Pelzer.

Tri-council deadline updates – The Tri-council deadline for the Vanier nominations is November 9th and the Banting PDFs is November 2, 2011.

Scholarship results – Dr. Pelzer reviewed the Dalhousie results of the NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR, Killam and Trudeau competitions.

FC10/11.52 Program Reviews

i) Biology Department Graduate Program Review –

Dr. Pelzer welcomed Dr. Whitehead and Dr. Walde, Department of Biology to the meeting and invited Dr. Singer, FGS representative to give a brief overview of the review report. Dr. Singer indicated the department is doing well and is well administered. The report commented on the imbalance between the marine biology and the rest of the biology program, and the low number of graduate classes and high number of modules available to students, as well as the high level of adjunct professor involvement in the department.

Dr. Whitehead responded on behalf of the department and there was general discussion on classes, the use of modules, the communication class, student funding, adjunct membership as co-supervisors, interaction with NSAC, membership on the curriculum committee, and recruitment.

Dr. Pelzer thanked Dr. Whitehead and Dr. Walde for attending the meeting. There was brief discussion on recommendations.

It was moved by R. Singer, seconded by M. Cada: that the Biology Graduate Programs be rated as satisfactory with the following recommendations to be address in a follow-up report to FGS Faculty Council within 18 months:

- **improve the quality of modules**
- **consider formalizing modules**
- **develop more listed classes in the different biology streams with more options available to students**
- **decrease or formalize the directed readings classes**
- **create a handbook to guide students and faculty to give expectations of students and supervisors including adjuncts**

The motion carried.

FC10/11.53 Other Business

There was no other business.

FC10/11.54 Upcoming Meetings - reminder

- i) FGS Full Faculty Meeting – Thursday, May 12, Room 1011, Kenneth C. Rowe Building, 2:30 – 4:30.
- ii) Additional Faculty Council Meeting – (Open to all faculty members): Tuesday, June 7, to discuss Postdoctoral Fellow Guidelines – minimum stipend.
- iii) June Faculty Council – all members outgoing, incoming and continuing (lunch to be provided)

The meeting adjourned at 12:48 pm.

Sunny Marche, Chair

M. Scott, Recording Secretary