

**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY**  
**FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES**  
**FACULTY COUNCIL**

These minutes have been approved.

A regular meeting of Faculty Council was held at 2:30 pm, Wednesday, November 30, 2011 in Room 430, Goldberg Computer Science Building.

**Present:** R. Apostle, B. Baldrige, S. Bearne, B. Boudreau (Chair), P. Ellis, Y. Fedortchouk, A. Fenety, Q. Gao, G. Kipouros, J. Kozey, R. Oomen, D. Pelzer, R. Robski, N. Schepp, M. Scott (Secretary), K. Toughill, P. Tyedmers.

**Regrets:** M. Cada, S. Heaslip, K. Johnson, R. Maitzen, P. Manuel, S. Parcell, D. Patterson, G. Scherkoske, D. Tamlyn, A. West, H. Whitehead, Y. Zhao

**In attendance:** K. Northam (FGS)

**FC11/12.14 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

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

**FC11/12.15 Minutes of the Meeting**

**Approval of the minutes of October 25, 2011. It was moved by G. Kipouros, seconded by P. Tyedmers: that the October 25, 2011 minutes be accepted as circulated. The motion carried.**

**Matters arising from the minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**FC 11/12.16 New Faculty Council Members welcome and approval**

Welcome to Rebekah Oomen and Susan Heaslip, new DAGS executive members to Faculty Council. Yana Fedortchouk replacing David Scott as Earth Sciences representative.

**It was moved by G. Kipouros, seconded by R. Apostle: that Y. Fedortchouk be approved as a member of FGS Faculty Council.**

**FC11/12.17 Master of Healthcare Management Program Proposal**

Dr. Boudreau welcomed Ms. S. Spence-Wach, Chair, Internal Review Committee, Dr. J. Kirby, Internal Review Committee member, as well as Dr. J. Byrne, Director, School of Health Administration, Dr. W. Webster, Dean, Faculty of Health Professions, and Mr. K. Moors, Financial Manager, Faculty of Health Professions. Dr. Boudreau invited Ms. Spence-Wach to summarize the committee's recommendations regarding the proposed Masters of Healthcare Management program.

Ms. Spence-Wach acknowledged the work that had gone into the development of this program proposal and summarized the various methods the committee used to compile their final recommendations. Their recommendations can be summarized as such:

1. While predicting prospective student numbers is difficult, the committee felt that the assumptions underlying the enrolment predictions were limited, and that experimenting with a different approach to predicting prospective student enrolment may have been beneficial;
2. The School of Health Administration (SHA) should clarify their expectation that employers would be primarily funding students to enrol in this program;
3. The information provided was not sufficient to explain why this program will be offered as a premium fee program;
4. The committee expressed concern about the relatively small number of resources being allocated for the program, particularly in light of its premium fee status;
5. The SHA should look into options for interdisciplinary collaboration with other faculties at Dalhousie who have relevant expertise on the subject matter of the MHM program;
6. The proposal should be submitted to AACHR for consideration.

Dr. Webster offered general comments explaining the intended demographic for this program and the School of Health Administration's long history offering successful online, part-time programming in the field of health education. While the new program would be similar and complementary to existing programs, it would not duplicate them. The program is heavily supported by all the leadership in the faculty as well as community leaders in healthcare.

Dr. Byrne addressed the comments and recommendations offered by APCC at their November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. The SHA has met with the library and have made note of the library costs associated with the program. Dr. Byrne also clarified the School's understanding of the term 'sessional faculty', which in the case of this program would mean individuals with decades of experience handling large organizations and financial portfolios. This program would be one of only three programs in Canada with CAHME certification and would have membership in APHA, providing access to highly qualified instructors. Regarding course differentiation, Dr. Byrne clarified that five of the ten classes are brand new and completely different from those in the MHA program, while the other five have 60-70% new content, as well as new course numbers and titles. He reminded Council that course content can be more thoroughly reviewed later.

Regarding the survey conducted by the School to determine interest, Dr. Byrne clarified that the survey was a population sample of Dalhousie FHP alumni and not a random sample, meaning that it should provide more accurate information. A more comprehensive survey would have cost a lot and would have not necessarily produced reliable results.

The \$25,000 fee for the program is more expensive than the McMaster program, but it is still \$100 cheaper per course than McMaster's program. The difference is that Dal offers more content and a potential CAHME accreditation. Dr. Byrne does not feel that \$25,000 is too much for professional students making a relatively high salary, particularly since they will be able to continue to work during their studies. Dr. Byrne reminded Council of the School's extensive connections and experience in the field of healthcare.

During the course of questioning from members of Council, Dr. Byrne mentioned that McMaster's program is now moving to an online system, creating potential competition for Dalhousie. The question of workload for faculty was raised, and Dr. Byrne clarified that the School will not be hiring 10 sessionals to teach all ten classes as this would disqualify them for CAHME certification. There is still one full time faculty member yet to be hired who will take on much of the work for this program. He assured council that the faculty in the FHP were not concerned about extra workload, and will not be asked to take on more. Dr. Byrne admitted that they are aware of the possibility of sessional faculty drop-off, and are working hard to prevent it. They have many sessional instructors in the school who have been teaching for decades, and so they have good experience mitigating this issue. Dr. Byrne also clarified the structure of the program and explained how the blended onsite online model will work, and that they have chosen a non-ERBA funding model because it is the only way this type of program would be financially viable.

The internal review committee raised final concerns regarding the availability of faculty to spend time with students given their busy roles in the private sector, and in light of the premium fee for this program which would possibly increase the expectation of quality programming and access to faculty in the eyes of students. They also raised the issue of the possibility of the full time faculty position not being filled due to the university's current fiscal climate. They also felt that the SHA was making an assumption that they would receive CAHME accreditation when that was not a guarantee. The SHA finished up by stating that they are confident in their ability to gain CAHME accreditation, and that they believe the program will be financially sustainable, even if it is not profitable in the first few years.

Dr. Boudreau thanked the committee members and representatives from the Faculty of Health Professions for their comments. There was further discussion on the proposal. The Council agreed that in general, there is still uncertainty about whether students will actually register for this program and its long-term sustainability. Nonetheless, there is no overwhelming reason not to pass it to Senate.

The motion was amended to add that the proposal should not be forwarded to SAPRC without the library information inserted into the original program proposal, as this was not done so after the last APCC meeting. The amendment was moved by A. Fenety, seconded by R. Robski and was carried.

**It was moved by K. Toughill seconded by A Fenety: that the MHM program proposal should be recommended to Senate for consideration. Approval is conditional on the approval of all pertinent classes at least three months prior to the start date of the program and the insertion of the library base budget transfer in the original proposal document. The motion carried.**

## **FC 11/12.18 Reports**

### **i) Dean's Report (B. Boudreau)**

- The legal disclaimer for handbooks was distributed for insertion into all department handbooks.
- The issue of department employees and faculty members taking degrees within their own departments was discussed again. The graduate calendar already addresses this, but

the wording will be slightly altered for the upcoming calendar to add clarity and to include employees.

- Dr. Boudreau briefed council on CALDO and the potential for Dalhousie to receive both new post-doc appointments as well as grad students as part of joint degree programs through this arrangement. Dalhousie will be looking into how to develop a policy to allow joint-degree programs as Dalhousie currently does not have one that will accommodate this type of program. Organizations like CALDO are appealing because Dalhousie is only responsible for funding the portion of studies that the student undertakes at Dalhousie.
- The IDPhD Director position will soon be vacant due to the imminent departure of Acting Director Marina Pluzhenskaya. A call for expressions of interest will be distributed to all departments.

**ii) PDF Report (A. West)**

- No PDF report was given as Dr. West was absent.

**iii) DAGS Report (R. Robski) –**

- DAGS underwent new elections and restructuring. R. Robski is the new President, replacing E. Pegolo. The new Vice President Academic,
- S. Heaslip, and Senate Representative R. Oomen will be the DAGS representatives on Faculty Council until the end of May 2012.
- R. Robski and the DAGS VP External V. Jones attended a CASA conference in Ottawa where they were able to meet with multiple government ministers and officials to lobby the government regarding student issues.
- S. Heaslip is working in conjunction with FGS to develop more professional development opportunities for grad students, the need for which was raised at the most recent CAGS conference in Vancouver.

**iv) Associate Dean – (D. Pelzer)**

- Dalhousie did not meet its Vanier application quota this year. The NSERC quota was filled but the committee felt that many applications were not competitive. There is therefore a chance our NSERC quota will be decreased for next year's competition.

**FC11/12.19 Other Business**

There was no other business.

**FC11/12.20 Upcoming Meetings**

- i) Faculty Council Meeting – Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at 11:30 am, in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

The meeting adjourned at 4:23 pm.

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Bernard Boudreau, Chair

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M. Scott, Recording Secretary