

**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, October 25, 2011 in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

**Present:** R. Apostle, B. Baldridge, S. Bearne, B. Boudreau (Chair), A. Fenety, Q. Gao, K. Johnson, G. Kipouros, J. Kozey, S. Lucas, P. Manuel, S. Parcell, E. Pegolo, D. Pelzer, R. Robski, N. Schepp, M. Scott (Secretary), K. Toughill, P. Tyedmers, A. West, Y. Zhao, R. Maitzen.

**Regrets:** M. Cada, H. Whitehead, D. Patterson, D. Tamlyn, G. Scherkoske, D. Scott, P. Ellis.

**FC11/12.08 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

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

**FC11/12.09 Minutes of the Meeting**

**Approval of the minutes of September 27, 2011. It was moved by S. Lucas, seconded by K. Johnson that the September 27, 2011 minutes be accepted with corrections. The motion carried.**

**Matters arising from the minutes** – There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**FC 11/12.10 Reports**

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

- a) Convocation** – FGS facilitated the convocation of 503 graduate students at this October's ceremonies. Dr. Boudreau requested that faculty members remind their students to arrive at least an hour before the start time to allow marshalls to properly organize the students and to allow the Dean to learn the pronunciation of international students' names.
- b) Killam Event and Killam Trusts Meeting**– These were held on October 6<sup>th</sup>. The Dalhousie Annual Killam Report was presented at the meeting with the Dalhousie Killam Committee and the Killam Trustees. This meeting was very positive with the Trustees endorsing the way Dalhousie is running the Killam programs. The Killam event, in the evening, was well attended and considered successful.
- c) CAGS** – Dr. Pelzer will be attending the CAGS conference next week along with two members of FGS staff.
- d) Course issues and memberships** – Dr. Boudreau reminded members that course and program-related changes to the calendar should be submitted to FGS before September. This request also applied to membership applications and adjunct renewals.

**ii) PDF Report (A. West) –**

- a) **PDF National Meeting**– Dalhousie will be sending Dr. Sharon Oldford as the PDF representative to attend the National Policy and Administrative Meeting November 24 and 25. At this meeting policy, challenges, best practises, the proposed reinstatement of minimum stipends, and PDFs receiving employee status will be among the issues discussed.

**iii) DAGS Report (E. Pegolo) –**

- a) **Representation** - DAGS now officially represents all graduate students at Dalhousie except for MBA students.
- b) **Grad House** - The Grad House is planning to sign a deal with the Dalhousie Alumni Association for use of their conference space to enhance opportunities for networking between the two groups and provide more personal development opportunities for students.
- c) **CAGS** - Ryan Robski will be attending on behalf of DAGS.
- d) **Mona Campbell Graduate Student Space**– Given the number of course-based graduate students without office space, DAGS is hoping that the issue of graduate study space being displaced for classroom space in the Mona Campbell will be resolved by January.
- e) **Funding** – DAGS has spoken informally to students about the new fund-matching scheme, and many are seeking clarification on what this would mean for their departments and how to get more information on it. DAGS requests a list of faculty contacts who students could talk to about this.

**iv) Associate Dean – (D. Pelzer)**

- a) **Scholarships** – The Vanier, Banting, NSERC and NSHRF awards are running concurrently producing a high workload for FGS. Dr. Pelzer reiterated the need for departments to submit documentation to FGS before September, for this reason.
- b) **APCC** – APCC met two weeks ago for the first time in this academic year and voted to officially eliminate the MA Psychology program as well as Dalhousie’s involvement in the Atlantic Regional Training Centre. They also voted to approve a new Graduate Certificate in Translational Neurotechnology.

**FC11/12.11 Program Reviews and Updates**

**i) Department of German Update –**

Dr. Boudreau welcomed Dr. J. Sidler, Chair, Department of German, and Dr. R. Summerby-Murray, Dean of FASS to the meeting and invited Dr. Sidler to update Council on the graduate program in German.

Dr. Sidler reported that the Department has begun to hold more regular meetings and has developed a strategic plan. She did not agree with FGS’s concern about the small size of the program since it is comparable to the program size of many other language and humanities departments at Dalhousie. The department believes they offer an efficient program given their limited faculty and resources and are able to offer many classes to graduate students by cross-listing with undergraduate classes. The Department is working towards a number of initiatives, including a recruitment focus on Canadian students, the development of a non-thesis option specializing in translation, as well as the development of a Trans-Atlantic joint 2-year MA program with the University of Freiburg.

Dr. Boudreau thanked Dr. Sidler and Dr. Summerby-Murray for attending the meeting and providing FC with an update.

There was further discussion on the new non-thesis option, which members felt was a good idea. Dr. Pelzer requested an amendment to the motion to require the Department of German to provide another progress report in 12 months. The amendment was carried.

**It was moved by R. Maitzen, seconded by K. Toughill that the Interim Report from the Department of German be accepted with a progress update required in 12 months. The motion carried.**

**ii) French Department Review of Graduate Programs –**

Dr. Boudreau welcomed Dr. V. Frigerio, Chair of the French Department, Dr. Milicevic, Graduate Coordinator, and Dr. Anini, FGS Representative on the Internal Review Committee to the meeting, and invited Dr. Anini to begin by providing a brief overview of the Internal Review Committee report.

The review committee felt that the Department of French is highly proficient at producing high-quality students with an impressive post-graduation placement rate, especially given their limited resources. The Department has a high number of committees and extra administrative roles that the Committee recommended either combining or eliminating to reduce the workload on faculty. They also proposed a non-thesis option to attract more students. They recommended that the number of required courses for each graduate degree be lowered to better fit with the national average, and that the doctoral exams be streamlined.

Dr. Frigerio and Dr. Milicevic were invited to provide their remarks. Dr. Frigerio reported that they are taking all the recommendations very seriously. The recommendation for a non-thesis option is well-taken but it must be investigated further given the amount of extra time it would require from faculty. They find the suggestion to mentor undergrad students for recruitment purposes to be a good one and are currently engaging in this. The suggestion of reducing the coursework requirements is still in discussion, as faculty are divided as to whether it is in the best interests of the program.

There was further discussion about the course load, which Dr. Pelzer remarked is high above the national average. The Department feels that the workload contributes to high-quality students, but admits it may be impacting their ability to recruit and have their students receive funding.

Dr. Boudreau thanked Dr. Frigerio, Dr. Milicevic, and Dr. Anini for attending the meeting and providing FC with an update.

Dr. Pelzer was satisfied with the progress so far but wanted to amend the motion to request an update from the department in 12 months. The amendment carried.

**It was moved by J. Kozey, seconded by R. Robski: that the Department of French Graduate Programs be rated as satisfactory with an update required in 12 months. The motion carried.**

**iii) Department of Oceanography Update –**

Dr. Boudreau welcomed Dr. D. Kelley, Graduate Coordinate for the Department of Oceanography to the meeting and invited him to update Council on the graduate program in Oceanography.

Dr. Kelly addressed Council regarding the two primary concerns expressed by FGS. The first was the above-average amount of time it is taking most Oceanography students to graduate. Dr. Kelley produced data that showed that the completion times in the recent past were skewed by two cases, now gone. He also explained that the nature of Oceanography is such that many students enter the program without a background in it, and require extra time to fill in the gaps in their education. Their research is also dependent on external factors sometimes out of their control. The second issue was regarding the supervision of graduate students which FGS felt was inadequate at times. Dr. Kelley responded by informing Council that the Department has now developed an Oversight Committee to track each student's progress through the program, and is also now holding more meetings.

Dr. Boudreau thanked Dr. Kelley for attending the meeting and providing an update.

There was no further discussion.

**It was moved by A. Fenety, seconded by E. Pegolo: that the update from the Department of Oceanography be accepted. The motion carried.**

#### **FC11/12.12 Other Business**

Dr. Boudreau reminded all members that Departmental handbooks are to carry a waiver that the contents of the handbook does not supersede what's been written in the Graduate Calendar.

#### **FC11/12.13 Upcoming Meetings**

- i) Faculty Council Meeting – Tuesday, November 22, 2011, at 11:30 am, in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

The meeting adjourned at 12:58 pm.

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Bernard Boudreau, Chair

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M. Scott, Recording Secretary