

**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, December 18, 2012 in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

**Present:** S. Bearne, K. Beazley, B. Boudreau (Chair), G. Brown, Y. Fedortchouk, A. Fenety, K. Humes (FGS), J. Kozey, R. Maitzen, N. Morgunov, S. Parcell, D. Patterson, D. Pelzer, M. Scott (Secretary), D. Tamlyn, O. Theou, A. Vidovic, E. Whelan, H. Whitehead.

**Regrets:** B. Bisset, M. Cada, A. Fleet, Q. Gao, G. Kipouros, K. Johnson, F. Palermo, N. Schepp, G. Scherkoske, K. Toughill, Y. Zhao

**FC12/13.25 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

The Chair called the meeting to order. The agenda was approved.

**FC12/13.26 Approval of the Minutes of previous Faculty Council meeting**

**It was moved by R. Maitzen, seconded by N. Morgunov: to approve the minutes of November 27, 2012 as circulated. The motion carried.**

**Matters arising from the minutes –**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**FC 12/13.27 Reports**

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

- a) Departing members:** B. Boudreau indicated that this will be the last meeting for K. Johnson and A. West. K. Johnson (who was not present at the meeting) is going on sabbatical, and A. West's term as President of the Dalhousie Postdoctoral Society is ending. The Dean thanked them both for serving on Faculty Council.
- b) FGS Senate review:** FGS will be undergoing a Senate review in 2013. Documents and motions will be brought forward to Faculty Council for approval throughout the year.

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

- a) Annual Meeting:** The Postdoctoral Society held their annual meeting on December 14, 2012 and passed constitutional amendments to allow for representation of PDFs from the Faculty of Agriculture. A. West noted that postdoc salary averages are creeping up and that currently there are 75 members registered in the health plan, and 35 members registered in the dental plan. A. West indicated that over the next year there will be a push for professional development of PDFs. Medicine, IHRTP, FGS and CLT are keen to move forward in working to develop programs.

- b) **Research Day Feedback:** The comments from attendees of Postdoctoral Appreciation Day activities in November were overwhelmingly positive. The reviews for specific research sessions were mixed.
- c) **Elections:** A new council has been elected. A. West introduced his successor as President, Dr. Olga Theou. Dr. Theou will be attending Faculty Council as the PDF representative going forward.

iii) **DAGS Report (A Vidovic)**

There was nothing new to report from DAGS.

iv) **Associate Dean – (D. Pelzer)**

- a) **Assistant to the Deans:** The Associate Dean welcomed Stephanie Theriault to the meeting and announced that, as of January 2<sup>nd</sup>, she will be moving to the new position of Assistant to the Deans.
- b) **SSHRC:** The deadline has passed and applications have gone to reviewers. Decisions will be announced the first week of February.
- c) **Killam Postdoctoral Fellowships and Predoctoral Scholarships:** Dr. Pelzer reminded members of the deadlines for these prestigious awards.

**FC12/13.28 Membership on FGS Faculty Council – addition of Director of IDPhD (ex-officio)**

B. Boudreau explained that the IDPhD program is currently not represented on any faculty council, which is not ideal given it is the largest PhD program on campus. Therefore, FGS requests the IDPhD Director, be added as an ex-officio member of FGS Faculty Council. The Director would have all member privileges, including voting power. The Dean reminded members that this membership would be given to the position, not the person.

Concerns were raised regarding conflict of interest, since the IDPhD program is “housed” within FGS. The Deans clarified that whenever a conflict of interest is acknowledged at the time of the discussion, the member can still participate in the discussion.

**It was moved by E. Whelan, seconded by A. Fenety: that Faculty Council approve that the Director of the Interdisciplinary PhD Program be added as an ex-officio member of FGS Faculty Council, with all privileges. Two abstentions. The motion carried.**

**FC12/13.29 Department of Pathology Survey Report update and approval of FGS representative on upcoming Pathology review**

The survey report update was circulated to members prior to the meeting. Dr. Pelzer indicated that although this is one of the smallest graduate program in the Faculty of Medicine, it is valuable to the Faculty of Medicine.

A full survey and search committee has been struck and Dr. Michael Lee has agreed to serve as the FGS representative.

**It was moved by J. Kozey, seconded by H. Whitehead: that Faculty Council approve Dr. Michael Lee as the FGS representative on the Survey/Search Committee for the department of Pathology. The motion carried.**

### **FC12/13.30 3 Minute Thesis Competition presentation**

Dr. Boudreau welcomed Katelynn Northam (FGS Recruitment Assistant) to the meeting and asked her to give a brief overview of this upcoming event:

K. Northam explained that the concept of a 3-Minute Thesis Competition originated at the University of Queensland in Australia and several Canadian Universities have hosted their own competitions in recent years. This is a skills development competition for thesis students. They are to present their thesis research to a non-specialist audience within a 3 minute time frame. The Dalhousie event will hold preliminary heats on March 6<sup>th</sup> and finals on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Students will not be judged on content, but on communications style, comprehension and engagement. Scholarship prizes of \$250-\$1,000 will be awarded to first place, second place, and one people's choice. Registration will open in the new year, on a first-come-first-served basis and will be capped at 100 students.

Members were encouraged to spread the word about the event in their respective Faculties and to volunteer to serve as judges. Department support is needed in order for this event to be successful. K. Northam indicated that she will be making a presentation on the event to some faculty councils in the new year. Information will be sent to departments for circulation to students and faculty.

### **FC12/13.31 New Programs, Minor Modifications and Curriculum Changes**

#### **i. Concept paper for new MSc in Psychiatry Research**

This concept paper was presented to APCC on December 11<sup>th</sup> and members approved it to proceed to Faculty Council for review. Dr. Boudreau welcomed Drs. Sherry Stewart and Kim Good (Department of Psychiatry) and asked them to give a brief overview of their concept paper:

S. Stewart explained that they are proposing a two year program with a thesis component. There is currently no graduate student training program in Psychiatry. There appears to be a lot of interest in such a program. The program would be open to both MDs and residents who want to gain more research experience. The anticipated annual enrolment is 3-5 students. The APCC concerns related to admission criteria and anticipated enrolment were reiterated.

The Deans clarified that concept papers for new graduate programs come to FGS APCC and Faculty Council prior to SAPRC. This provides a preliminary look and if approved, the go-ahead to prepare and submit a fully developed proposal. SAPRC can override the FGS Faculty Council approval. A fully developed proposal goes through FGS APPC, FC and the different levels of Senate for approval prior to being endorsed and submitted to MPHEC for approval.

**It was moved by D. Tamlyn, seconded by A. Fenety: that Faculty Council recommend that the concept paper for the new MSc in Psychiatry Research proceed to SAPRC for consideration. The motion carried.**

**ii. Concept paper for new PhD in Health (discussion)**

This discussion was a continuation of the November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Faculty Council meeting. Dr. Pelzer indicated that an update from the Faculty of Health Professions was sent to Council members addressing some of the concerns raised by Faculty Council.

There was extensive discussion around the same issues raised in the previous Faculty Council meeting. Three main recommendations came out of these discussions:

- 1) the name of the program should be explored (is “health” too broad?)
- 2) wider consultation with other departments/faculties within Dalhousie University
- 3) more thought about the value this program provides to students

**It was moved by H. Whitehead, seconded by D. Patterson: that Faculty Council recommend that the concept paper for the new PhD in Health, along with the list of further recommendations, proceed to SAPRC for consideration. Two abstentions, two against. The motion carried.**

**FC12/13.32 Other Business**

**FC 12/13.33 Next meeting – Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013, Lord Dalhousie Room.**

The meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

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B. Boudreau, Chair

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M. Scott, Recording Secretary