

**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, February 28, 2012 in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

Present: B. Boudreau (Chair), D. Pelzer, B. Baldrige, S. Bearne, Y. Fedortchouk, A. Fenety, Q. Gao, J. Grant, S. Heaslip, K. Johnson, J. Kozey, R. Oomen, S. Parcell, D. Patterson, R. Robski, N. Schepp, A. West, H. Whitehead, G. Kipouros, D. Tamlyn, P. Tyedmers, R. Maitzen, M. Scott (Secretary).

Regrets: E. Whelan, K. Toughill, Y. Zhao, J. Grant, P. Ellis, D. Patterson, M. Cada, G. Scherkoske,

In attendance: K. Humes (FGS)

FC11/12.30 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

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

FC 11/12.32 Q&A with Dr. Traves, President

Dr. Boudreau welcomed Dr. Traves. Dr. Traves introduced himself and indicated that his purpose at the meeting is twofold: 1) To provide context on a number of issues, and 2) to create a dialogue around some long-term issues affecting Dalhousie. He indicated that, since he will be retiring in June 2013, he would like to start compiling lists for his successor. He encouraged members to bring up any issues they think should be addressed during the Q&A period.

Dr. Traves began by discussing the three-year Memorandum of Understanding between the University and the province, indicating there was a 3.1% decrease in the grant for 2012-2013, and there likely will be similar cuts in coming years. The MOU also introduces regulation of tuition fees, which translates into a 3% increase in tuition, with the exception of Medicine, Law, Dentistry and International students (for whom there is no cap). Dr. Traves indicated that continued growth in enrolment is expected, but on-going issues could be threatening this (pedagogical issues re. international students, and an expected 20% decline in Nova Scotia high school graduates over the next 10 years). He explained that Dal currently has no unfunded debt, and is in strong financial shape compared to other Universities. An ongoing goal is to retain capacity for innovation in the budget.

Dr. Traves then opened the floor to questions from members. There was discussion on competitiveness and cooperation with other Nova Scotia Universities, the protection of tenured faculty, recruitment, growth of student numbers, large vs. small universities, and recruitment scholarship funding.

Dr. Boudreau thanked Dr. Traves for attending the meeting.

FC11/12.31 Minutes of the Meeting

It was moved by S. Bearne, seconded by A. West to approve the minutes of January 24, 2012 with one correction. The motion carried.

FC 11/12.33 Reports

i) Dean's Report (B. Boudreau)

- a) New Scholarship money - Dr. Boudreau informed the group that a scholarship for Physics, Computer Science and Engineering students of \$10,000 per year for five years has been set up. He also confirmed that CIBC is in discussions about offering \$500,000 for a graduate scholarship. Discussions are on-going over the terms of this award.
- b) International applications - Dr. Boudreau mentioned that the number of applications from Chinese students has grown since last year, while the number of applications from Middle Eastern students has decreased.
- c) Success stories sought - Dr. Boudreau asked FC members to email him any "success stories" about graduate students from Dal. He told members to focus on stories that have "economic impact" (i.e., someone who has found success in either entrepreneurship or philanthropy). It is hoped that these stories will aid in attempts to persuade both alumni and the NS government to invest in graduate education.
- d) LATEX Template - Work being done on drafting a standardized LATEX template for thesis formatting. He is looking for a commitment from LATEX experts to set up and maintain this template because it is not a project FGS has the resources to take on.

ii) PDF Report (S. Oldford and A. West)

- a) National Postdoc Conference Report: Dr. Boudreau welcomed Sharon Oldford to the meeting. Dr. Oldford indicated that approx. 25% of attendees at the conference were PDF's, approx. 55% were administrators and 20% Deans and Associate Deans. One of the main focuses was on the day-to-day administration of PDF's. She came away with a greater understanding of expectations and career advancement opportunities. Dr. Oldford indicated that the Western University draft documents on governance will be circulated when available.
- b) Adrian West gave a quick update on some new legislation surrounding PDF's: He explained that the Ontario Labour Board ruled that PDF's are considered employees at University of Toronto and are part of the CUPE union. Adrian explained that, even though this ruling took place in Ontario, there could be wide, long-term implications for PDF's across Canada thanks to this decision (pressure to make salary changes, changes to the status of PDF's, etc).

iii) DAGS Report (R. Robski)

- a) Ryan announced that registration opened today for the MITACS Step Professional Development Workshop.

- b) He mentioned that DAGS has been meeting regularly with DSU exec's, DFA and CUPE (that represents TA's) to discuss possible effects and strategies if there happens to be a labour dispute.
- c) He mentioned that DAGS is interested in talking to faculties that do not already have a graduate student society about setting one up.

iv) Associate Dean – (D. Pelzer)

- a) MITACS Step Program - Dr. Pelzer reiterated Ryan's announcement above regarding the MITACS workshop. He informed the group that this workshop will still go ahead in the event of a strike.
- b) Scholarship competitions – Killam Pre-doctoral Scholarship competition will be deferred until after a strike
- c) Killam Postdoctoral Fellowships – These will be completed before any work stoppage.
- d) NSHRF – FGS is looking into having the files reviewed by other means if necessary.

FC11/12.34 Joint Degree Programs

Dr. Boudreau asked if any members had any objections to the Joint Degree Policy (as distributed prior to the meeting). B. Baldrige suggested that the point regarding the differential fee not applying to Dal students should be emphasized to avoid confusion.

Dr. Boudreau explained that this program is being moved forward by institutions in France, who are joining together in conglomerations to partner with Canadian Universities to send 10-12 students per year to Dalhousie to study. These are top students in their programs and would bring money to the University and the region. The French institutions are very motivated and would like this program in place by June. Dr. Boudreau reminded everyone that students can withdraw from the Joint Program once they are enrolled, but they cannot decide to enrol partway through their studies.

It was moved by D. Tamlyn, seconded by A. Fenety to approve the Joint Degree Program proposal, with one change. The motion carried.

FC11/12.35 Graduate Calendar Changes

Dr. Boudreau indicated this item would be discussed at the next meeting due to time constraints.

FC11/12.37 Other Business

There was no other business.

FC11/12.38 Next Meeting

- i) Faculty Council Meeting – Tuesday, March 27th, 2012, at 11:30 am, in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05pm.