

**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, January 24, 2012 in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

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

Regrets: P. Ellis, G. Kipouros, K. Toughill, G. Scherkoske, D. Tamlyn, P. Tyedmers, R. Maitzen, Y. Zhao.

In attendance: K. Northam (FGS)

FC11/12.21 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

The Dean called the meeting to order. The agenda was approved with the addition of approval of new Faculty Council member.

FC11/12.22 Minutes of the Meeting

Approval of the minutes of November 30, 2011. It was moved by K. Johnson, seconded by A. Fenety: that the November 30, 2011 minutes be accepted with corrections. The motion carried.

Matters arising from the minutes –

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

FC 11/12.23 New Faculty Council Member welcome and approval

Welcome to Jill Grant replacing Patricia Manuel as the School of Planning's representative.

Welcome to Emma Whelan returning to Faculty Council as the representative from Sociology and Social Anthropology.

FC11/12.24 Research Performance at Dalhousie

Dr. Boudreau welcomed Martha Crago, VP Research, John Newhook, Associate VP Research, and Stephen Hartlen, AVP Industry Relations & Executive Director of Industry Liaison & Innovation to give a presentation about Dalhousie's research performance.

Dr. Crago summarized the total amount of Dalhousie's research funding from 2009 – 2011 and explained where Dalhousie's record stands in relation to other research-intensive universities in Canada. She then summarized the amount Dalhousie received per award for each Tri-Council funding agency and the extent of 'research intensity' (amount of money received compared with number of faculty). She also described the amount of grants awarded over the last five years separated by faculty, highlighting the amount of each award, what kind of award it was, and where it went within the university. Dr. Crago reminded Faculty Council that grant money is important because it leads to more Canada Research Chairs and Canadian Foundation for Innovation awards.

She summarized the overall situation in the following ways:

- Awards competitions are becoming increasingly competitive;
- Dalhousie Research Services and Faculties must work together to promote success
- All high quality applicants should apply for grants and opportunities to mentor and assist struggling applicants must be offered. There should also be more emphasis on collaborative grants;
- Dalhousie is growing in contract research areas.

Stephen Hartlen summarized Research Services' strategic focus over the next few years and ways in which Research Services could partner with FGS to help graduate students and to provide support for grant applications. Research Services is hoping to introduce a peer-review system for grants that will allow faculty with success in a similar field to review the applications of their colleagues before they are sent to funding agencies with the hopes this will increase the number of successful applications.

In the question and answer period, some faculty pointed out that the success of research cannot be measured only in dollars but also in quality of the research and the various outputs it creates. Dr. Crago agreed and informed Council that they are looking into acquiring performance data in order to better measure the success of Dalhousie research from a non-monetary perspective. Other discussions dealt with how to help faculty balance workload with the expectation that they put more emphasis on grant-writing.

FC 11/12.25 Reports

i) Dean's Report (B. Boudreau)

- a) FGS has received a \$10,000-per-year scholarship for a graduate student in the field of physics, electrical and computer engineering, or computer science. A large bank has also approached FGS about setting up a scholarship fund, but the target demographic for this award has not been established yet.
- b) In collaboration with Research Services and DAGS, FGS has signed a contract with MITACS to provide a 4-day professional development session for upper-level PhD students and postdoctoral fellows. It will be open and free to the first 35 students and postdocs who apply. FGS encourages faculties to give their students time off to attend. There are hopes that if it is successful FGS will be able to hold similar events later in the year that will be open to more students.
- c) Extensive changes have been made to certain calendar regulations. These will be reviewed in the next Faculty Council meeting.
- d) With regards to FGS's matching funds scheme, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, the Faculty of Medicine, and the Faculty of Engineering have all come up with \$50,000 each

to put towards graduate student funding. FGS will be matching those funds with \$37,500 each.

- e) Dr. Boudreau disseminated the newly composed policy on joint degree programs for members to review for discussion at next month's meeting. The policy is confidential since some financial matters have not been confirmed.
- f) Dr. Tom Traves will be in attendance at the next Faculty Council meeting, and members are encouraged to prepare questions for him.

ii) PDF Report (A. West)

- a) Dr. West reported Dr. Sharon Oldford attended the Canadian Post-Doctoral Policy Meeting in November in Ottawa where issues of fair compensation were discussed. Dr. Oldford will report to Faculty Council once the official report from the conference is released.
- b) Dr. West discussed the issue of benefits for post-docs who are not paid through Dalhousie with Human Resources. He reported that given current practices, there seems to be no solution for benefits to postdocs that are not on Dalhousie's official payroll. He suggested a possible solution could be to encourage post-docs to have their funding paid to them through the university as opposed to directly from the funding agency. Further discussion and investigation needs to happen.

iii) DAGS Report (R. Robski)

- a) DAGS has been restructuring and engaging in capacity building this year. They have hired a full-time office manager that students can approach during office hours with any questions or concerns.
- b) DAGS is working on offering more extra-curricular activities to encourage collaboration between departments and to create more of a social atmosphere for graduate students.
- c) DAGS is working with FGS on the MITACS program as well as other professional development programs.
- d) DAGS has been doing some lobbying surrounding the recent MOU signed by the government and universities. They are encouraging the DSU to also lobby for reduced tuition for graduate students who currently pay some of the highest tuition in the country. Presently the focus of government is on keeping only undergraduate tuition at national levels.
- e) Mr. Robski participated in a week-long lobby with CASA in Ottawa. They met with numerous government ministers, MPs and bureaucrats and are hoping to see some positive outcomes for students in the next budget as a result.

iv) Associate Dean – (D. Pelzer)

- a) The number of successful Tri-council applications is declining. Dalhousie has been barely reaching their quotas this year.
- b) Dr. Pelzer indicated a notice will be sent out to the Deans providing clarification surrounding the equivalency of a 3-year Bologna degree to a Dalhousie 4-year undergraduate degree.

FC11/12.26 Prize Panel Committee Call for Nominations to committee

Dr. Boudreau called for volunteers to sit on the Prize Panel Committee. Interested members are asked to submit their names ASAP.

FC11/12.27 Associate Dean – Review Committee

Dr. Pelzer is interested in extending his Associate Dean appointment with FGS. His performance in the position will be reviewed by a committee. Dr. Boudreau is calling for three volunteers to sit on this review committee. Volunteers would submit their name to M. Scott in FGS.

FC11/12.28 Other Business

There was no other business.

FC11/12.29 Next Meeting

- i) Faculty Council Meeting – Tuesday, February 28th, 2012, at 11:30 am, in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

The meeting adjourned at 1:07 pm.

Bernard Boudreau, Chair

M. Scott, Recording Secretary