

**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, May 15, 2012 in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

Present: S. Bearne, G. Brown, M. Cada, Y. Fedortchouk, A. Fenety, A. Fleet, J. Grant, K. Humes (FGS), K. Johnson, J. Kozey, S. Parcell, D. Patterson, D. Pelzer (Acting Chair), H. Whitehead, G. Kipouros, D. Tamlyn, P. Tyedmers, R. Maitzen, M. Scott (Secretary), Y. Zhao.

Regrets: B. Boudreau, Q. Gao, S. Heaslip, R. Oomen, R. Robski, G. Scherkoske, E. Whelan

FC11/12.46 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

The Associate Dean called the meeting to order and noted the addition of discussion item “Additional FC Membership” under “Other Business”. The agenda was approved.

It was moved by J. Grant, seconded by R. Maitzen to approve the agenda as amended for May 15, 2012. The motion carried.

FC11/12.47 Minutes of the Meeting

Corrections: K. Toughill should be added to the “Present” list. From section 12.43 of the minutes: Graduate Calendar Changes, there was some confusion as to how many credit hours 1 ECTS is equal to [1 credit hour=7.5 ECTS]. It was noted that the discussion of the changes to the Graduate Studies Calendar that started at the March 27th meeting has to be deferred to the next Faculty Council since the Dean is not present.

Approval of the minutes of March 27th. It was moved by A. Fenety, seconded by R. Maitzen to approve the minutes of March 27, 2012 with corrections. The motion carried.

Matters arising from the minutes –

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

FC 11/12.48 Reports

i) Dean’s Report (B. Boudreau)

Dr. Boudreau was absent; no report was given.

ii) PDF Report (Adrian West)

Dr. A. West indicated that the PDF Society is working on planning another research day for Medical, Science and Engineering PDF’s. The event will include presentations as well as evening/social events

(example, drinks at the Grad House). The hope is to encourage more socializing, particularly among International PDF's. Dr. Pelzer mentioned that one of the speakers will be an author of "PhD comics" to inject some humour into the event and attract a wider audience.

iii) DAGS Report (A. Fleet)

- a) **New President:** Alana mentioned that DAGS is currently without a President but the election will take place at the June council meeting.
- b) **Grad House Manager:** DAGS is currently searching for a new manager for the Grad House, for a Fall start (there is a temporary manager for the summer). They also hope to make some changes to the menu.

iii) Associate Dean – (D. Pelzer)

- a) **Killam Predoctoral Scholarships:** Dr. Pelzer indicated that offers were made to 8 Master's students and 18 PhD's. Dr. Pelzer said they are hoping to implement a new system for these offerings: First round offers will hopefully be at the end of February and a wait list will be established and shared with Grad Coordinators. Then 2nd round offers will be made after the NSERC/SSHRC/CIHR results are announced. This new system is on the agenda for the June Killam meeting.
- b) **SSHRC Doctoral Awards:** Dr. Pelzer indicated that 8 CGS awards were offered and 4 Doctoral awards. The results from the Master's competition have not yet been released.
- c) **PDF's at MUN:** Dr. Pelzer announced that Postdoctoral Fellows at Memorial University have unionized. The impact this will have on Dal remains to be seen. He explained that the eligibility for benefits varies for PDF's across Canada because some institutions (such as Dal) classify them as "trainees", while others consider them to be "employees". Dr. A West added that PDF's are considered "trainees" at Dal but have the option of being considered "employees" (with the consultation of their supervisor). He said Dal PDF's are not planning to unionize anytime soon but they hope that this development will encourage Tri-Council to update PDF regulations.
- d) **Changes to Academic Calendar format:** Dr. Pelzer informed APCC that, as of the 2013/2014 Academic year, the Graduate Studies Calendar will only be available online. This eliminates the need for yearly calendar edits since calendar changes can be made year-round. This should enable graduate programs to update the calendar in a more timely fashion.

FC11/12.49 Final Report: Master of Nursing – Dr. R. Martin-Misener, Graduate Coordinator, and Dr. P. Sullivan, Director, invited for 12:00

Dr. Pelzer welcomed Dr. Ruth Martin-Misener and Dr. Patricia Sullivan from the School of Nursing to discuss the department's final report for the Master's program.

Dr. Martin-Misener explained that she has been managing the Master's program changes in an acting role, taking over for Dr. Marilyn MacDonald who is on sabbatical (as of January 1st). Much of the work was completed under Dr. MacDonald's leadership. She explained that they have tried to address the recommendations from the Internal Review Panel, including processes to move students through the program more quickly and changing administrative procedures to reflect the change in student body (i.e. younger applicants with higher GPA's, on average). Faculty are being engaged to provide

more support to students and to have a more active dialogue with them (particularly those that are actual supervisors).

Dr. Sullivan explained that major changes have been made to the long-standing, dysfunctional governance model for the program. Part of the process involved hiring consultants specializing in governance to educate faculty on the “bi-cameral” model of management. Other changes include further development of job descriptions for staff and faculty, setting up a shared drive, and the development of a draft constitution and terms of reference, which has gone to Senate for review. Dr. Sullivan indicated that there is a palpable change in attitude within the department because of these changes.

Drs. A. Fenety and P. Tyedmers, who serve on the Advisory Committee for the School of Nursing’s graduate programs, agreed that improvements are happening within the department and they are encouraged, but the progress needs to continue moving forward. A new Director for the School of Nursing will be chosen soon, and it was noted that this appointment will drastically affect improvements moving forward.

Dr. Pelzer suggested that FC wait to make further recommendations until the new Director is chosen and the Advisory Committee report is reviewed. It was moved by K. Toughill, seconded by S. Bearne. The motion carried.

FC11/12.50 Other Business

At the Full Faculty meeting on May 9th, FGS received permission to nominate two faculty to serve on Faculty Council for 2012-2013.

Additional Faculty Council members (3-year terms):

Nick Morgunov (Physiology and Biophysics)

Anne Fenety (Physiotherapy)

It was moved by R. Maitzen, seconded by P. Tyedmers: that N. Morgunov and A. Fenety be approved as members of the FGS Faculty Council for the period of July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2012. The motion carried.

FC11/12.51 Next Meeting

- i) Faculty Council Meeting – Tuesday, June 26, 2012, at 11:30 am, in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

The meeting adjourned at 12:59pm.

Bernard Boudreau, Chair

M. Scott, Recording Secretary