

**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, November 27, 2012 in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

**Present:** W. Barker (IDPhD program), S. Bearne, K. Beazley, B. Bisset, B. Boudreau (Chair), M. Cada, Y. Fedortchouk, A. Fenety, A. Fleet, Q. Gao, K. Humes (FGS), K. Johnson, G. Kipouros, J. Kozey, D. Patterson, D. Pelzer (Acting Chair), N. Schepp, G. Scherkoske, M. Scott (Secretary), A. Vidovic, E. Whelan, H. Whitehead, Y. Zhao

**Regrets:** G. Brown, R. Maitzen, N. Morgunov, F. Palermo, S. Parcell, D. Tamlyn, K. Toughill, A. West

**FC12/13.18 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

The Chair called the meeting to order. The agenda was approved with no corrections.

**FC12/13.19 Approval of the Minutes of previous Faculty Council meeting**

**It was moved by K. Johnson, seconded by D. Patterson: to approve the minutes of October 23, 2012 with no corrections. The motion carried.**

**Matters arising from the minutes –**

Dr. Pelzer gave a brief update on the follow-up discussions with the Dean of FASS with respect to resourcing of the International Development Studies program.

**FC 12/13.20 Reports**

- i) Dean's Report (B. Boudreau)**
  - a) Killam Celebration:** This event took place on November 7<sup>th</sup> and went extremely well.
  - b) CAGS Conference:** The Dean indicated that he, D. Pelzer, M. Scott, D. Pottie (Scholarship Officer, FGS), and W. Fletcher (Program Officer, FGS) attended the CAGS Conference in Ottawa November 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. More details would be reported later.
  - c) George Brown class action suit:** The Dean circulated a story from the Toronto Star about a recent class action suit won by students at George Brown College. Dr. Boudreau reminded everyone that more and more students are taking legal action against Universities and it is imperative for all programs to ensure their calendar entries are absolutely correct.
  - d) List of Nominees for Killam Committees:** B. Boudreau called for a motion to approve the following list of nominees for the Killam Predoctoral Scholarship and Killam Postdoctoral Committees:
    - Ian Folkins - Physics - Killam Predoctoral committee - 2013-2015
    - Olav Krigolson - Psychology - Killam Predoctoral Committee - 2013-2015

**It was moved by H. Whitehead, seconded by K. Beazley: that the list of nominees for Killam Predoctoral Scholarship, and Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship Committees be approved. The motion carried.**

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

**CAPA Meeting Report (Sharon Oldford):** B. Boudreau invited Dr. Sharon Oldford, a Postdoctoral Fellow in Microbiology and Immunology, to give her report on the inaugural meeting of the Canadian Association of Postdoctoral Administrators (CAPA), which took place at the CAGS Conference on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Oldford highlighted the main subjects explored in the meeting which included current issues affecting Postdocs in Canada are:

1. The need for more professional and skills development,
2. Clarity of the status of Postdoctoral Fellows and,
3. Action items for future implementation.

She explained that the National Postdoc Association (NPA) has developed an online Professional Development Core Competencies Toolkit that includes guidance within six competencies:

1. Discipline-specific conceptual knowledge,
2. Research skill development,
3. Communication skills,
4. Professionalism,
5. Leadership and management skills, and
6. Responsible conduct of research.

At the session regarding professional development for postdocs, the panellist from MITACS indicated that they are very willing to work with Universities to develop professional development programs.

D. Pelzer indicated that Dr. Oldford's full report would be circulated to members following the meeting.

**iii) DAGS Report (A. Fleet)**

- a) **Professional Development:** A. Fleet reported DAGS is looking at professional development workshops for non-professional based programs.
- b) **Graduate Student Space:** She also reported that recently concern was raised about the graduate students possibly losing the study space in the Killam Library, but DAGS has been assured that this will not happen anytime soon.

**iv) Associate Dean – (D. Pelzer)**

- a) **NSERC:** Nominations have gone out for the national competition. FGS forwarded 85 nominations altogether (41 Master's, 44 PhD's).
- b) **CAGS Conference:** D. Pelzer added to B. Boudreau and S. Oldford's comments about the event. He indicated that two major issues stood out for him: 1) Professional development for PDF's and graduate students, and 2) the future of the PhD degree. Another highlight of the conference was the Annual Killam Lecture given by Kevin Lynch, the newest Killam Trustee.

## **FC12/13.21 New Programs, Minor Modifications and Curriculum Changes**

### **i. Concept paper for new Engineering program – MEng in Project Management**

B. Boudreau explained to members that this concept paper was presented to APCC on November 13<sup>th</sup>. He welcomed Dr. Josh Leon (Dean of the Faculty of Engineering) and asked him to present the main points of the concept paper:

J. Leon explained that this program has grown out of the need for skilled project managers within the engineering, manufacturing and construction sectors. He indicated that the University of Calgary has a similar program but does not have enough space to meet demand. The Faculty of Engineering discussed the potential degree with local companies (such as Irving Oil and Nova Scotia Power) and many committed to funding their employees to take such a program. The program would be taught by a mix of existing faculty (from Engineering, Law and Management) and professionals, with two new hires planned. Classes will be delivered Fridays and Saturdays with some online components.

It was pointed out that some of the numbers in the revenue section of the paper were incorrect and J. Leon indicated those would be edited. When asked who would be paying tuition and whether the program would attract local or national students, J. Leon replied that many students would be funded by employers, and that students would come from across the Atlantic Provinces. He pointed out that there are currently approximately 5,000 practicing Engineers in Nova Scotia and that there also is the possibility of students from Alberta being attracted to the program, given the wait list at the University of Calgary and the tremendous project management needs in the oil sands. One issue that was raised is the lack of online courses available at Dalhousie, which could hinder a student's ability to complete the program through distance.

There was discussion on having these project management courses open to students from various faculties/programs, such as Management, but the importance of consistent fees was mentioned. Issues were also raised regarding the enrolment projections (the target number of students proposed in the concept paper is 25). J. Leon explained that this number is based on the number of seats companies were willing to sponsor. He agreed that this number is optimistic, but the program will be an expensive one to maintain and without the local company support it will not be sustainable. Overall, members agreed that there seems to be a demand for the program.

Dr. Boudreau thanked Dr. Leon for attending the meeting. There was further discussion on the issues raised.. D. Pelzer explained that this concept paper must be approved by the Engineering Faculty Council, the numbers need to be firmed up (the math errors corrected and the enrolment projections examined), the Faculty needs to look at opening the program's courses to other faculties, and consideration be given to developing more of an online learning component. It was suggested discussing the latter more vigorously with Dwight Fisher and Carolyn Watters.

**It was moved by G. Kipouros, seconded by K. Johnson: that Faculty Council recommend the concept paper for the MEng in Project Management to SAPRC for consideration, provided the edits requested by Faculty Council (and APCC) are incorporated. The motion carried.**

### **ii. Concept paper for new PhD in Health**

B. Boudreau explained to members that this concept paper was presented to APCC on November 13<sup>th</sup>. He welcomed Drs. John Kozey, Cheryl Kozey, Tanya Packer and Pat Cleave (Faculty of Health

Professions) and invited them to present the main points of the concept paper. He also welcomed Dr. William Barker (Director of the IDPhD program), indicating he has a vested interest in the proposed program as there could be some overlap with the Interdisciplinary PhD.

C. Kozey gave a brief overview of the proposed program: This PhD will be housed within the Faculty of Health Professions and it is designed to provide an avenue for students whose health research currently would not fit within any existing Dalhousie programs. They wish to give trainees the opportunity to attain the highest level of excellence in health research and training. They have discussed the program with the Dean, Associate Dean and VP Research and have developed two foci based on WHO guidelines: 1. Body structure and function, and 2) Health policy. C. Kozey indicated that concern raised by APCC around space and funding are currently being looking into.

Discussion covered the need for the program, other similar programs already on campus, concern about overlap, breadth of the program, and the name and focus. There was suggestion that the concept paper be made more specific and the proposers be more widely consultative before moving forward.

The Dean thanked the guests for attending the meeting. There was further discussion on the issues above. Due to insufficient time to thoroughly discuss this issue, the discussion will continue at the December Faculty Council meeting.

**It was moved by G. Kipouros, seconded by E. Whelan: that Faculty Council table the discussion regarding the concept paper for the PhD in Health until the next Faculty Council meeting, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The motion carried.**

**FC12/13.22 Anatomy and Neurobiology departmental**

This agenda item was postponed until a later meeting.

**FC 12/13.23 Other Business**

There was no other business.

**FC 12/13.24 Next meeting – Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Lord Dalhousie Room.**

The meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m.

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B. Boudreau, Chair

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M. Scott, Recording Secretary