

**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, September 25, 2012 in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

Present: S. Bearne, B. Bisset, Y. Fedortchouk, A. Fleet, Q. Gao, J. Grant, K. Humes (FGS, Acting Secretary), K. Johnson, G. Kipouros, J. Kozey, N. Morgunov, S. Parcell, D. Patterson, D. Pelzer (Acting Chair), N. Schepp, D. Tamlyn, K. Toughill, A. West, E. Whelan, H. Whitehead.

Regrets: K. Beazley, B. Boudreau (Chair), G. Brown, M. Cada, A. Fenety, R. Maitzen, G. Scherkoske, M. Scott (secretary), Y. Zhao

FC12/13.01 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

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

FC12/13.02 Approval of the Minutes of previous Faculty Council meeting, June 26, 2012

Y. Fedortchouk clarified a couple of points regarding the Earth Sciences review: The requirement for students to submit a proposal at the end of the course is not new; it has always been a requirement. Also, the note about a “more present Graduate Coordinator” should be reworded to be clearer (the issue is not that the Graduate Coordinator was not present).

It was moved by E. Whelan, seconded by S. Bearne: to approve the minutes of June 26, 2012 with minor corrections. The motion carried.

Matters arising from the minutes –

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

FC 12/13.03 Reports

i) Dean’s Report (B. Boudreau)

Dr. Boudreau was away and could not attend the meeting so there was no Dean’s Report.

ii) PDF Report (A. West)

a) Postdoctoral Fellows Research & Appreciation Day: A. West indicated that this year’s event is taking place October 12th. There will be a broad range of presenters, including the keynote by Jorge Cham, creator of the “PhD Comics” website. He said this is a free ticketed event and to date 200 tickets have been reserved. He asked members to encourage all of their PDF’s to attend the event, and mentioned that faculty can also attend if they wish. Members can email A. West or Alicia Kirk in the FGS office for further information. Dr. Pelzer also encouraged everyone to attend.

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

- a) **Meetings:** A. Fleet reported that Council will be meeting before the end of the month, and they also plan on having a general meeting soon. There have been some constitutional changes, and they also need to elect two Board members to vacant positions.
- b) **International Student Information Session:** DAGS partnered with the International Centre to host an information session for International students that went well.
- c) **Orientation:** Orientation was held at the beginning of the month, and it was successful. A. Fleet felt the event gave students a good introduction to what the society offers.

iv) **Associate Dean – (D. Pelzer)**

- a) **Scholarships:** Dr. Pelzer reminded everyone that the NSERC/Vanier/Banting deadline is coming up next week.
- b) **MITACS Step Program:** Dr. Pelzer reminded everyone that this event is in October and all graduate students should be encouraged to attend. He indicated that preference is given to PhD's beyond their second year and to Postdocs. The application deadline is October 1st. The sessions will cover professional development topics, such as presentation skills, networking, and time and project management. There is no fee to register, however those who register and do not show up will be charged a fee of \$50 (a credit card number is required at the time of registration). Details can be found on the FGS website.
- c) **Killam Lectures:** Dr. Pelzer informed the group that the Killam lecture series is also coming up soon. This year's topic is "Novel Insights into the Future of Human Health" and the lectures will take place from October 10th to 26th, 2012.
- d) **University Rankings:** Dr. Pelzer indicated that annual rankings of international Universities have been released, and Dalhousie is #243 (last year Dal was #234). Unfortunately, he said that Dal does not have a very good "Academic Reputation" rating, and this brought the overall rating down. He pointed out that, if you remove the reputation rating, Dal's ranking would be #187 overall.

FC12/13.04 October Convocation List ratification (Heather Nowlan, FGS, invited for 11:40am)

Dr. Pelzer invited H. Nowlan to explain the convocation list to members. H. Nowlan explained that the list would go to Senate from here, then it will be posted on the Convocation website. She indicated that there are 579 graduate students in total, including the first graduate from the new MSc in Pharmaceutical Science program. There will be one degree given out post-humously to a student in the Occupational Therapy Post-Professional program; the degree will be presented to her family. Dr. Pelzer asked members to take a few moments to review the list of students from their own Faculty to ensure it is correct. K. Toughill asked where the Interdisciplinary PhD students are listed. H. Nowlan explained that those are listed under their respective supervisor's department.

It was moved by K. Toughill, seconded by K. Johnson: that the list of candidates for receipt of degrees be approved as distributed. The motion carried.

It was moved by H. Whitehead, seconded by D. Patterson: that the Dean of FGS, in consultation with the Registrar's Office and Senate, be given authority to make additions or corrections as appropriate to the list of candidates prior to submittal to Senate. The motion carried.

FC12/13.05 Adjunct Categories (for information and expression of support)

Dr. Pelzer explained that FGS membership applications have become unmanageable, due to the number of categories, and they no longer line up with Senate regulations. Dr. Pelzer and Dr. Boudreau reviewed the guidelines to bring them back in line with Senate rules. At this point this information is still confidential and still must be approved by Senate before it is added to the Calendar. There is now one category entitled “Adjuncts” and appointments can be made in two categories and there is a new category called “Professional Preceptor”.

G. Kipouros wondered how these changes affect the discussion surrounding Professor Emeriti. Dr. Pelzer explained that this is a different issue, as Professor Emeritus is an honorary appointment only. Professors Emeriti will need Adjunct status if they wish to continue supervising graduate students and teaching graduate classes. If they have a post-retirement appointment, they will automatically keep their status as full members. He mentioned that Adjuncts can co-supervise several students; External Scholars can only supervise one and they must have an “active research program”, in order to supervise. An “active research program” is defined as a combination of publications plus external funding.

Some members had issues with the regulation changes (i.e., students committees may now not be considered appropriate in terms of FGS regulations). It was suggested that each department make a list of any issues and attempts will be made to rectify situations so that students are not adversely affected and progress/defences are not delayed.

It was moved by E. Whelan seconded by K. Toughill: that Faculty Council support the changes in the Adjunct Appointments to conform to the current Senate regulations, as submitted. The motion carried.

FC12/13.06 Master of Fine Arts in Creative Nonfiction Program Proposal – Kelly Toughill, Stephen Kimber (School of Journalism, University of Kings College), and Kim Kierans (Vice President, University of Kings College) invited for 12:00pm.

Dr. Pelzer welcomed K. Toughill, S. Kimber and K. Kierans from the University of Kings College. He indicated that no members of the Internal Review Committee were able to make it to the meeting today, but Michael Deturbide sent him some comments to read on his behalf: The committee sent an initial list of questions to the department, who addressed the concerns satisfactorily. This was a model proposal with all the required pieces in place and this is an ambitious program that they believe will be successful. The committee wholeheartedly recommends the program to move forward SAPRC.

Dr. Pelzer mentioned that the proposal was discussed at APCC on September 11th and members raised some questions that are addressed in this revised proposal. He asked S. Kimber to give an executive summary of the program proposal:

S. Kimber explained that the program is a two-year limited residency. He defined “Creative Nonfiction” as “short stories with real names”, i.e., nonfiction stories written using fiction elements (character, plot, etc). Examples of this are magazine writing, literary travel and memoir. There is a series of intense residency each year, including two weeks here and time in either Toronto or New York City networking with publishers. In the end students will have a professional book proposal and a

publishable manuscript. S. Kimber indicated that this program is expected to attract traditional undergraduates but also mature students because they can continue to work full time while completing the program. This is the first program in the country to focus exclusively on creative nonfiction and it is also the first to use this limited-residency format.

K. Toughill explained that students would be working one-on-one with professional writers as mentors. She indicated that the mentors are an important aspect of the financial modelling as well because they are paid for each student they work with; as enrolment grows, revenue will also grow. She said that there are many award-winning writers that are very enthusiastic about serving on the Advisory Board and as mentors. K. Toughill explained that there are not enough spots in other similar programs across Canada (most get hundreds of applications per year for approx. 25-30 spots) so there is definitely demand. Tuition will be \$7,000 per year plus a mentorship fee of \$3,000 per year. Students are responsible for travelling costs.

K. Kierans said that she feels this program will serve to deepen the already collaborative relationship between Dalhousie and Kings; the alliance is beneficial for both institutions regarding registration and enrolment. She said that this program has the potential to be the “star” on the Dalhousie/Kings roster.

E. Whelan asked whether there would be any funding available for students. K. Toughill answered that there is no funding for students and does not anticipate that there will be because it is a limited residency program. She reminded the group that, despite there being no funding, because of the program structure, students can work full time while they study and this will ease the financial burden for many. Dr. Pelzer wondered how the workload of current faculty will be affected by this program. K. Toughill indicated that they will exclusively use their current tenured faculty for the first few years; then, if the program is successful, Kings will consider hiring more faculty. K. Johnson asked whether this program would attract mainly Canadian students. K. Toughill and S. Kimber both answered that it would be mostly Canadian students; however, S. Kimber pointed out that because of the uniqueness of the program and the low tuition (compared to American Universities), the program could very well attract students throughout North America.

It was moved by D. Tamlyn, seconded by G. Kipouros: that the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Nonfiction be recommended to Senate for approval starting July 2013. This start date is conditional upon approval of all courses in the proposal by the Faculty of Graduate Studies at least three months prior to the start of the program.

FC12/13.07 Mathematics and Statistics Departmental Review – Karl Dilcher (Chair, Department of Mathematics and Statistics), Keith Johnson (Grad Coordinator, Mathematics), David Hamilton (Grad Coordinator, Statistics), and Qigang Gao (FGS representative on Internal Review Committee) invited for 12:30pm.

Dr. Pelzer welcomed K. Dilcher, K. Johnson, D. Hamilton (Mathematics and Statistics) and Q. Gao (Internal Review Committee) and invited Q. Gao and K. Johnson to give a brief description of the review findings.

Q. Gao indicated that many recommendations were made by the Internal Review Committee, and they are listed in detail in the report. He said the department responded well in discussions. K. Johnson

mentioned that a total of four recommendations were made, and that this report was actually submitted in 2010, so some things have progressed since then. The financial issues have been cleared up, new courses are being offered, the Graduate Student Handbook is now in its 2nd edition, and the program has expanded (there were some questions raised regarding the size of the program during the review).

S. Bearne asked how the department's dependence on NSERC for funding has improved. K. Johnson answered that there has been a lot of improvement here – they have received all but two grants they applied for, and one faculty member received a major contract through the US government. Dr. Pelzer pointed out that the stipends for PDF's have also considerably improved. K. Dilcher said they have come up with an institutional mechanism for transferring credits from the AARMS Summer School to Dalhousie; this is not easy process but it is functioning. Dr. Pelzer wondered if they have considered using the Chemistry model of offering ¼ credit courses. K. Dilcher said that mathematics and statistics as subjects do not lend themselves to such short courses. He mentioned that the addition of reading courses has helped fill the gaps. Dr. Pelzer asked if the department has a strategic academic plan, and K. Dilcher answered they are about to begin working on it but they likely will not be able to meet before the winter term.

G. Kipouros wondered whether more collaboration between Engineering and Math should be considered. K. Dilcher said that applied mathematics lends itself more to Physics, but there is potential there. He said it could be something to consider in the future. Dr. Pelzer asked about the department's drop in faculty numbers and wondered what the approach to this is. K. Dilcher indicated that most 2nd year courses contracted from two sections to one, and there is now more sessional instruction than ever before as well as more qualified PDF's available to teach. K. Dilcher concluded by saying that overall, the weaknesses have been addressed and these changes have been accepted by the Faculty of Science.

In general, it was concluded that there has been improvement within the department, but since this report is two years old, an update should be drafted and presented in the next few months.

It was moved by S. Bearne seconded by H. Whitehead: that the Mathematics and Statistics departmental report be rated as “satisfactory with no changes required”, pending an update within six months. The motion carried.

FC 12/13.08 Other Business

There was no other business.

FC 12/13.09 Next meeting – Tuesday, October 23, 2012, Lord Dalhousie Room.

The meeting adjourned at 1:11pm.

Dieter Pelzer, Acting Chair

K. Humes, Acting Recording Secretary