

**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, March 26, 2013 in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

**Present:** W. Barker, S. Bearne, K. Beazley, B. Bisset, B. Boudreau (Chair), G. Brown, M. Cada, S. Faridi, A. Fenety, A. Fleet, J. Grant, K. Humes (FGS), J. Kozey, S. Parcell, D. Patterson, D. Pelzer, N. Schepp, M. Scott (secretary), O. Theou, S. Theriault (FGS), E. Whelan, Y. Zhao.

**Regrets:** Y. Fedortchouk, G. Kipouros, R. Maitzen, N. Morgunov, G. Scherkoske, D. Tamlyn, K. Toughill, A. Vidovic, H. Whitehead

**FC12/13.42 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

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

**FC12/13.43 Approval of the Minutes of previous Faculty Council meeting**

**It was moved by A. Fenety, seconded by S. Parcell: to approve the minutes of February 26, 2013 with no corrections. The motion carried.**

**Matters arising from the minutes –**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**FC 12/13.44 Reports**

**i) Dean's Report (B. Boudreau)**

- a) 3 Minute Thesis:** This event was a great success and feedback from all involved was positive. The top students all gave superb talks and were very enthusiastic. The overall winner was Jacob Cookey from the Faculty of Medicine, whose research concerns the affects of cannabis use on developing schizophrenia. Dr. Boudreau thanked the students who participated, Katelynn Northam (FGS) for organizing the event and the FGS staff for helping to run the event.

**ii) PDF Report (O. Theou)**

- a) Dalhousie Postdoctoral Association Meeting:** A meeting was held with the President of CIHR. Some of the discussion that took place at this meeting centred about training postdocs as academics and the lack of availability of academic jobs. This group is also looking for feedback regarding professional development opportunities.
- b) Canadian Postdoctoral Survey:** The Canadian Association of Postdoctoral Scholars (CAPS) has opened the 2013 Canada Postdoctoral Status Survey. The survey asks about where postdocs are and where they are going to. The survey will be available until April 29<sup>th</sup>.

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

- a) **DAGS AGM:** The DAGS Annual General Meeting takes place on April 9<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting DAGS is hoping to make some constitutional changes and to fill two vacant Board positions.
- b) **Upcoming Events:** A variety of events are taking place the week of April 8<sup>th</sup> for Graduate Student Appreciation Week which will include a spelling bee. An event for Dal student society presidents took place the week of March 18<sup>th</sup> with some good ideas around devising better systems of communicating with students. B. Bisset attended a graduate seminar where graduate students presented their research in an informal setting. This multidisciplinary event had between 25-30 people making presentations. It is hoped that this will be organized on a monthly or bimonthly basis providing students with the opportunity to present their research.

iv) **Associate Dean (D. Pelzer)**

- a) **Killam Scholarship Update:** The first-round of Killam Scholarship offers has been made to 5 Master's students and 9 PhD students.
- b) **New SSHRC Awards:** On March 20<sup>th</sup>, SSHRC launched a new suite of awards focused on research originality. Five awards complete the suite of SSHRC Impact Awards:

Gold Medal (\$100,000): The Gold Medal for achievement in research is SSHRC's highest research honour. It is awarded to individuals whose sustained leadership, dedications and originality of thought have inspired students and colleagues alike. The exceptional quality of their research, the impact of their work and their ongoing efforts to share the results of this work will have greatly enriched Canadian society and contributed to social, cultural, economic and intellectual life in Canada and/or internationally.

Talent Award (\$50,000): The Talent Award recognizes outstanding achievement by a current SSHRC doctoral or postdoctoral fellowship or scholarship holder. The Talent Award is given to an individual who maintains academic excellence, has a talent for research and knowledge mobilization and has demonstrated clear potential to be a future leader within or outside the academic sector.

Insight Award (\$50,000): The Insight Award recognizes outstanding achievement arising from a research project funded partially or completely by SSHRC. It is given to an individual or team whose project has resulted in significant contribution to knowledge and understanding about people, societies and the world.

Connection Award (\$50,000): The Connection Award recognizes and outstanding SSHRC-funded initiative to facilitate the flow and exchange of research knowledge within and/or beyond the academic community. It is given to an individual or team whose project has engaged the campus and/or wider community and has generated intellectual, cultural, social and/or economic impacts.

Partnership Award (\$50,000): The Partnership Award recognizes a SSHRC-funded formal partnership for its outstanding achievement in advancing research, research training or knowledge mobilization, or developing a new partnership approach to research and/or related activities. It is awarded to a partnership that, through mutual co-operation and shared intellectual leadership and resources, has demonstrated impact and influence within and beyond the social sciences and humanities research community.

The deadline for applications is June 10<sup>th</sup>. The university can make one nomination in each category.

- c) **Remote Participation for PhD Defences:** Dr. Pelzer indicated that more and more external examiners and examining committee members are requesting to participate in PhD defences

remotely. One of the main issues around remote participation is that in many cases the minimum number of committee members is not present, so if the remote person cannot be connected, the Chair must postpone the defence, which is unfair to the student. He made it clear to council members that FGS prefers all examining committee members attend defences in-person where possible. If there are special circumstances and someone must attend by a remote connection, they should have access to a reliable landline and not a cell phone. If they do not have a landline, they must send their comments and questions in advance. The Senior Thesis Clerk is revising the defence guidelines to ensure this point is strongly emphasized.

- d) **NSERC Results:** In this year's NSERC competition, Dalhousie received 40 Master's and Doctoral awards out of a total of 85 nominations. Dr. Pelzer also indicated that at the doctoral level, fewer awards were offered this year. Currently there are eight students on a waiting list.

#### **FC12/13.45 New Programs, Minor Modifications and Curriculum Changes**

##### **i. Degree Name Change: Renaming the JSD to PhD**

Dr. Boudreau welcomed Dr. Steve Coughlan, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies at the Schulich School of Law, and asked him to provide the rationale for the degree name change.

Dr. Coughlan explained that revising the degree name is mainly a "housekeeping" issue. A few years ago, the school changed the requirements for the JSD bringing them in line with those for a PhD. A second issue is that the school recently changed their LLB degree to a JD. This has led to confusion with the JD and JSD being so close in name, including documents ending up in the wrong place. Therefore the Schulich School of Law is requesting to change the JSD to a PhD.

No comments or concerns were raised by members.

**It was moved by J. Grant, seconded by A. Fenety: that Faculty Council recommends the degree name change from JSD to PhD to SAPRC for consideration. The motion carried.**

#### **FC12/13.46 Discussion: Performance of International students in the Corporate Residency MBA Program**

Dr. Boudreau welcomed Ms. Jenny Baechler, Associate Director of the Corporate Residency MBA Program, and asked her to explain the issues they have been experiencing with International students. This is a continuation of the discussion started at APCC on March 12, 2013.

Ms. Baechler explained the challenges the School has faced this year with an increased number of international students struggling to succeed in their courses and to secure corporate residency placements in a reasonable period of time. She discussed the challenges both the School and the students have experienced and asked Faculty Council members how their departments and program have dealt with these issues and helped students to succeed in their programs.

There was discussion on strategies relating to the student background, the program admission process, orientation sessions prior to the start of classes, ensuring English language proficiency and support, TOEFL requirements and on-going student feedback through the term. There was also discussion on the options open to students that do not pass their classes.

S. Faridi mentioned that Shannon Kilyanek from the Faculty of Agriculture has been involved in recruitment trips to China and may have helpful insights. D. Patterson said she would send J. Baechler contact information for the people at the Faculty of Agriculture who are involved in this recruitment initiative.

#### **FC12/13.47 Faculty of Graduate Studies Vision and Mission**

A revised version of the FGS Vision and Mission statements that incorporated the suggestions made by Faculty Council at the February meeting was circulated.

Members made additional suggestions for changes: These included adding graduate coordinators/administrators, faculty and postdoctoral fellows as groups that FGS helps (not only students); add “learning” to the last sentence of the Vision, and clarify what an “exceptional intellectual environment” means to students. Overall, it was suggested that the wording focus on the fact that FGS provides “a concept of framework”, i.e. access to services rather than the services themselves.

#### **FC12/13.48 Discussion: Online MHA**

Dr. Pelzer explained that 3.5 to 4 years ago APCC and Faculty Council approved a distance delivery option for the Master in Health Administration. At the time, everything appeared to be in place, including the Dean’s approval. Since FGS approval there have only been 5 applicants, and the department has continuously deferred the offering of the online delivery option, although it is continuously advertised in the Graduate Studies Calendar. The students have had their application fees returned.

The options and limits available to Faculty Council were laid out. There was lengthy discussion on the implications of the options. It was noted that it is easier to make changes to the Graduate Calendar now that it is online.

Faculty Council members agreed that putting the program on probation is the best option, and asked FGS to request that a progress report be provided at the end of a probationary period.

**It was moved by J. Kozey, seconded by S. Bearne: that Faculty Council recommends the online MHA be placed on probation for a period of one year until March 31, 2014. After such time the program will be re-evaluated for viability by Faculty Council based on a progress report. The motion carried**

#### **FC 12/13.49 Other Business**

##### **a) Terms of Reference for Faculty Council**

A revised version of the Faculty Council Terms of Reference was distributed to members upon arrival at the meeting. Dr. Boudreau noted that Section 1.2e was added since Faculty Council first reviewed it at the February 26, 2013 meeting. In the new section, he clarified that “unsatisfactory attendance” translates to three “unexcused absences”.

Dr. Boudreau informed members that this document will be presented with a motion at the April Faculty Council meeting, and then it will go forward for consideration at the FGS Full Faculty Meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

**b) Approval of FGS Prize Panels**

Dr. Boudreau announced that the prize panel for the CAGS/UMI Distinguished Dissertation Award was chosen, as follows:

Dr. Rohan Maitzen (English)

Dr. Nur Zincir-Heywood (Computer Science)

Dr. Ian Folkins (Physics and Atmospheric Science).

Dr. Boudreau announced that the prize panel for the FGS Distinguished Service Awards, Governor General's Gold Medals and the Dalhousie Doctoral Thesis Award was chosen, as follows:

Dr. Ian Folkins (Physics and Atmospheric Science)

Dr. Elizabeth Cowley, (Physiology and Biophysics)

Dr. Mysore Satish, (Civil and Resource Engineering)

**c) FGS Membership for Cross listings**

S. Bearne asked for clarification of the membership requirements for faculty from other departments that will co-supervise students. Dr. Boudreau confirmed that the requirement is for a cross listing, and indicated that FGS staff would be reminded to be consistent in the terminology they use.

**d) Invitation to the Faculty of Agriculture Research Day**

D. Patterson announced that the Faculty of Agriculture Research Day will be taking place April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> with all faculty invited to attend.

**FC12/13.50    Next meeting – Tuesday, April 23, 2013, Lord Dalhousie Room.**

The meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

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B. Boudreau, Chair

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M. Scott, Recording Secretary