

**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 14, 2013 in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

Present: W. Barker, K. Beazley, B. Boudreau (Chair), S. Faridi, Y. Fedortchouk, A. Fenety, J. Grant, J. Kozey, J. Makani, S. Parcell, D. Patterson, D. Pelzer, N. Schepp, G. Scherkoske, M. Scott (Secretary), D. Tamlyn, O. Theou, S. Theriault (FGS), E. Whelan, H. Whitehead, Y. Zhao

Regrets: S. Bearne, M. Cada, G. Kipouros, R. Maitzen, N. Morgunov, S. Scannell, B. Taylor, K. Toughill, A. Vidovic

FC12/13.59 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

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

FC12/13.60 Approval of the Minutes of previous Faculty Council meeting

It was moved by K. Beazley, seconded by S. Parcell: to approve the minutes of April 23, 2013 with no corrections. The motion carried.

Matters arising from the minutes –

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

FC 12/13.61 Reports

i) Dean's Report (B. Boudreau)

- a) Annual Faculty Meeting:** On May 9th FGS held its annual Faculty meeting. At the meeting the new Vision and Mission Statement and Terms of Reference for Faculty Council were accepted. Dr. Boudreau reminded members of Faculty Council to start thinking about a new Chair for Faculty Council effective September 2013.
- b) New and Departing Members:** Dr. Boudreau welcomed Joyline Makani, who is the new library representative on FGS Faculty Council. It was also announced that Dr. George Kipouros will be leaving Dalhousie and has accepted the position of Dean of Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan. Dr. Boudreau expressed his thanks for the service Dr. Kipouros has provided to FGS over the years.
- c) New FGS Associate Dean:** Dr. Boudreau announced that Dr. Eileen Denovan-Wright from the Department of Pharmacology will be starting in the new Associate Dean position on June 1st. Dr. Denovan-Wright's portfolio at FGS will include academic appeals, PhD defences, the thesis submission process, and postdoctoral fellows.

- d) **MITACS:** The University has agreed to fund the MITACS program for another year. The university has experienced a terrific return on investment with this program and will begin organizing the STEP professional development program again this Fall. This announcement coincides with the announcement that the Office of Professional Development, within Student Services, will be closing. The planned professional development Boot Camp will be terminated.
 - e) **PhD Defence Room:** Dr. Boudreau announced that FGS has received funding to purchase AV equipment for room 3107 in the Mona Campbell Building. This room is used for PhD defences and the new AV equipment will allow for dedicated video-conferencing with remote participants.
 - f) **Adjunct Document:** On May 13th Senate reviewed a document containing revisions to Adjunct membership classifications. As no opposition was received, the document will be adopted. FGS will notify Adjunct members of their new titles in June. The External Scholar category will no longer be used, instead there will be a membership category called Adjunct Scholar.
- ii) **PDF Report (O. Theou)**
- a) **Postdoc Appreciation Day:** The date for the Postdoctoral Fellows Appreciation Day has been set for September 27th. The Dalhousie Postdoctoral Society is working with staff at FGS to finalize details for this year's event.
 - a) **Website:** The Dalhousie Postdoctoral Society is working on a website and plan to launch the site soon.
- iii) **DAGS Report (A. Vidovic)**
A. Vidovic was not present.
- iv) **Associate Dean (D. Pelzer)**
- a) **Killam Trusts Meeting:** Dr. Pelzer reported that the Killam Trusts Spring meeting was held at the beginning of May. It has been suggested that the spending rate from Killam accounts will be decreased soon. FGS has not been informed of the size of the decrease, so can't report on the full impact at this point, but wanted to point out that the 2nd round allocations also receive money from Killam accounts and the decrease in spending will also effect 2nd round allocations. The Faculty of Science will also be impacted with regard to funding they receive for Killam Prizes and Professorships.
A brief discussion followed regarding 2nd round allocations. Dr. Pelzer advised that FGS will have to explore all the options for decreasing scholarship funding, and will try to make the funding cut as "gentle" as possible.

FC12/13.62 School of Nursing Review

Dr. Pelzer welcomed Drs. Marilyn MacDonald and Kathleen MacMillan from the School of Nursing, Dr. William Webster, Dean of Health Professions, Dr. Richard Singer, School of Nursing Advisory Committee, and Dr. Adrian Levy, Internal Review Committee. Dr. Pelzer provided a brief review, explaining that two years ago the Nursing program was reviewed, issues were identified and Faculty Council recommended to SAPRC that admission to the PhD program be suspended.

Dr. Pelzer congratulated the School of Nursing (SoN) on behalf of FGS for the enormous improvements made over the last 2 years and on the final report that contains detailed plans for each PhD student in the program.

R. Singer reported on behalf of the Advisory Committee (consisting of himself, A. Fenety and P. Tyedmers) that the list of 10 to 12 recommendations made by the Advisory Committee were almost entirely adopted or moved forward by the SoN.

Dr. Levy reported that the Internal Review Committee (consisting of himself, M. Leonard, T. Lee, and J. Gantar) met in February to conduct interviews with Faculty and students from the SoN. The committee provided feedback to the SoN, but also gave them the message that their fate was in their own hands. The Internal Review Committee commended the SoN for the excellent job turning things around, and recommends the SoN be given time to implement their plans.

K. MacMillan advised that the SoN originally thought they could start admitting students in the Fall of 2013, however they realized that the backlog of PhD students had to be dealt with. The SoN has now met with all PhD students who have been in the program for six years or more, and will review the students' progress in August. The school has also communicated to Faculty that it is their responsibility to see students progress through the program. Dr. MacMillan also spoke of the improvement to the research culture in the SoN and advised that 3 new tenure-track faculty were hired within the last year.

M. Macdonald advised that all the support given to the SoN during this review has been very helpful. There is an energy/vibrancy in the SoN now, and a change in expectations of students and faculty.

W. Webster commended K. MacMillan and her colleagues for all their work in addressing the issues. He looks forward to the SoN being in the position to admit new students into the PhD program in Fall 2014.

A discussion followed, with questions being raised about the ratio of students to faculty in the SoN, the improvements to collegial relations within the SoN, the need for a formal communication plan to address the questions being received about the suspension to admission in the PhD program, and the need for more scholarship funding for students.

K. MacMillan advised they are rebranding the SoN as a success story. The SoN is profiling researchers, and showing the impact nursing has on the health of all Nova Scotians. They would like to have a named school, and are seeking a donation in the range of \$10 million. They would like to set aside half of the donation for endowed scholarships.

Dr. Boudreau thanked K. MacMillan, M. Macdonald, W. Webster, R. Singer and A. Levy for attending.

It was moved by Emma Whelan and seconded by John Kozey that: 1. Faculty Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies endorses the transition and action plan of the School of Nursing, dated April 30, 2013, as submitted; 2. Faculty of Graduate Studies agrees to submit the above noted transition and action plan to SAPRC for consideration; 3. Faculty Council supports the request from the School of Nursing *not* to pursue admission of new PhD students for the Fall of

2013; 4. the School of Nursing submit a report to Faculty Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies by December 3, 2013 with an update on the progress of clearing the doctoral student backlog; and 5. pending demonstrated increased capacity for graduate student supervision, Faculty Council of the Faculty of Graduate Studies will then recommend to SAPRC resumption of admission of new PhD students for the Fall of 2014. The motion carried.

FC12/13.63 Other Business

There was no other business.

FC12/13.64 Next meeting – Tuesday, June 25, 2013, Lord Dalhousie Room.

The meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

B. Boudreau, Chair

M. Scott, Recording Secretary