

**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, December 16, 2014 in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

Present: H. Ali-Hassan, W. Barker, S. Bearne, N. Daizy, E. Denovan-Wright, A. Fenety, L. Fitting, S. Gadbois, M. Gibson, D. Groulx, S. Kimber, J. Kozey, M. Leonard, R. Martin-Misener, R. Mullin, P. O'Brien, D. Patterson, D. Pelzer, S. Ponomarenko, R. Singer (Chair), L. Spiteri, R. Stadnyk, S. Stone, O. Theou, S. Theriault (Secretary), P. Tyedmers

Regrets: P. Bodorik, A. Bucci, P. Ellis, N. Morgunov, M. Rahman, N. Schepp

FC14/15.32 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

The Chair called the meeting to order.

It was moved by W. Barker, seconded by L. Fitting: to approve the Faculty Council agenda for December 16, 2014 as circulated. The motion carried.

FC14/15.33 Approval of the Minutes of the previous Faculty Council meeting

It was moved by D. Patterson, seconded by N. Daizy: to approve the minutes of November 25, 2014 as circulated. The motion carried.

Matters arising from the minutes – there were no matters arising from the minutes.

FC 14/15.34 Reports

i) Dean (Marty Leonard)

- a) FGS Senate Review** – M. Leonard advised that the Internal Review Committee for FGS met with various stakeholders on November 24 and 25. The Internal Review Committee is chaired by Dr. Jacqueline Gahagan from the School of Health and Human Performance. There will be one more call for comments from graduate students, and the committee expects to have their report completed early in the new-year. The External Review is scheduled for early January.
- b) Faculty Meetings** – M. Leonard advised that she has now completed her visits to all other Faculty Deans. Members were invited to contact her should they like to schedule visits with their departments.

ii) Associate Dean (Dieter Pelzer)

- a) CGS M competitions** – D. Pelzer advised that Dalhousie received 344 applications for the CGS-M competitions. The applications are currently being reviewed and the Scholarship

- b) Liaison Officer plans to have the applications ready to send to departments before the University closes for the holidays. Applications will go to members of the review committee early in the new year. Members questioned if there were any vacancies on the committees. D. Pelzer confirmed that the committees are set for this competition.
 - c) **Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Graduate Scholarships (NSRIGS)** – D. Pelzer advised that 82 applications were received before the first competition deadline. As in previous competitions, the review committee will be comprised of members of Faculty Council. Members will be divided into two groups: one group will review the master's applications, and the other will review the doctoral applications. Applications will be available to committee members before December 24, and rankings are due mid-January. A brief discussion followed in which members questioned if enough application were received. D. Pelzer advised that it's too early to tell, as it is expected that the majority of applications will be submitted for the February competition.
 - d) **ACEnet** – D. Pelzer reported that ACEnet has provided funds to support scholarships at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Dalhousie will be able to offer 11 scholarships valued at \$5,000 to undergraduate students, and five scholarships valued at \$20,000 to graduate students. The awards are available to students whose research focuses on computational chemistry. The deadline for this competition will likely be in early spring 2015.
- iii) **Associate Dean (Eileen Denovan-Wright)**
- a) **PDF Update** – E. Denovan-Wright advised that, in light of the recent unionization, FGS will be meeting with HR to determine the process for administering new PDF hires.
- iv) **PDF Report (Olga Theou)**
- a) **Elections** – O. Theou reported that elections were taking place today for a new DPS Executive. The new Executive will take office in the new-year.
- v) **DAGS (Naznin Daizy)**
- a) **Tri-Council Funding** – N. Daizy reported that DAGS will be advocating with other U-15 university groups on the issue of Tri-Council funding.
 - b) **Supervision** – DAGS is in the process of preparing a document on graduate student supervision.

FC 14/15.35 Provost Model Presentation

R. Singer welcomed Dr. Carolyn Watters, Provost and VP Academic, to the meeting and invited her to present the University's new Provost model.

Dr. Watters explained that the change came about to ensure the integration of university planning and resource allocation. The new structure now matches those of most other U15 institutes. The Provost model ensures that university plans and budgets align with academic priorities. With the change came the introduction of the "Provost Committee" that includes membership of vice-presidents and the Vice-Provost Student Affairs. The Provost Committee is chaired by the Provost, with the VP Finance and Administration as vice-chair.

A brief discussion followed in which Dr. Watters clarified that the President's Executive is charged with setting the strategic direction of the university. The university charters are on the website and

there will be a call for participants to sit on the planning committees for the 25 priorities. Faculty Council members were urged to put their names forward for these committees. Members also discussed the university's international differential fees and workload expectation policies.

R. Singer thanked Dr. Watters for attending.

FC 14/15.36 Major Modification – Master of Business Administration (Financial Services)

R. Singer explained that the major modification to the Master of Business Administration (Financial Services) program was considered by APCC on December 9. Under the new streamlined responsibilities, proposers are no longer asked to attend Faculty Council. D. Pelzer was therefore asked to give a brief summary of the proposal and APCC's comments.

D. Pelzer advised that the MBA (FS) program was approved in 1995, and has been very successful, both academically and financially. While interest from the financial-services sector is starting to decline, interest has been expressed from mid-career managers in other professions. The proposed modification includes 1) changing the name of the program from MBA (Financial Services) to Advanced Management MBA; 2) broadening the professional-experience admission requirements (from five years in the financial-services sector to five years in any professional senior-managerial context); and 3) expanding the number of elective courses offered.

The program as modified consists of 42 credit hours, with students required to complete ten mandatory courses plus four electives. The choice of electives will provide students with a defined specialization, initially proposed to be financial services and leadership. The modified program is designed so that other specializations may be added in the future.

D. Pelzer advised that the name of the program was mentioned as a concern, but the proposers have assured that the name has been extensively considered and is more of a marketing issue.

It was moved by APCC, seconded by L. Spiteri: that Faculty Council approve the proposal for the major modification to the Master of Business Administration (Financial Services) program. The motion carried. The proposal will be forwarded to SAPRC for consideration.

FC 14/15.37 Qualifying Year Wording

R. Singer welcomed Ms. Wendy Fletcher, FGS Program Officer, to the meeting and invited her to provide the rationale for her proposed revision to regulation 5.7.6. [Qualifying Student (Master's only)].

Ms. Fletcher explained that her concern over the revision approved at the June 24, 2014, Faculty Council meeting was that it could be misinterpreted that program fees would be reduced as a result of taking courses in the qualifying year that could later be counted towards a graduate program. R. Singer reminded members that the intent at the June 24 meeting was to revise the wording to allow a course taken during a qualifying year to count towards a graduate program if the student does well in the course. The intent was not to waive any fees.

A brief discussion followed in which members suggested changing the line following the revision to read “Qualifying students are not eligible for scholarship or bursary support and must **re-apply**....” Ms. Fletcher explained that students are not required to first apply to a graduate program, and there are instances where students apply directly to a qualifying year. Ms. Fletcher also clarified the difference between a program fee and a per-course fee. There was no further discussion.

It was moved by D. Groulx, seconded by D. Pelzer: that the wording in the Graduate Calendar for regulation 5.7.6. be modified to ratify the June 24, 2014, decision to remove the line “Because it is a prerequisite, a qualifying program cannot be used to reduce the length of a subsequent regular graduate program.”, and in its place insert “Taking Qualifying-year graduate courses does not affect tuition for students in program-fee graduate programs.” The motion carried.

FC14/15.38 Other Business

- i) **Faculty Council Vacancies for 2014/15** - There are still two vacancies on Faculty Council. Representation from Law, and Arts and Social Sciences is encouraged.
- ii) **Internet Access during PhD Defences** - E. Denovan-Wright advised that over the last two to three years there has been a trend during PhD defences for examiners to access the internet to identify questions to challenge the candidate. Defence Chairs have expressed their concern, but the current guidelines do not give Chairs the authority to stop this behaviour.

A brief discussion followed in which members asked about best practices at other universities. E. Denovan-Wright explained that this topic was brought up at the CAGS conference, but as an emerging problem other universities have not yet decided how to handle it.

The conversation ended with E. Denovan-Wright being tasked to monitor the situation to see if the problem gets bigger. If needed, the issue will be brought back to Faculty Council for further discussion.

FC14/15.39 Next meeting - Tuesday, January 27, 2015, Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

The meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

R. Singer, Chair

S. Theriault, Recording Secretary