

**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, February 11, 2014 in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

Present: H. Andreas, W. Barker, S. Bearne, P. Bodorik, B. Boudreau, E. Denovan-Wright, A. Fenety, L. Fitting, M. Gibson, S. Kimber, J. Kozey, R. Maitzen, J. Makani, R. Martin-Misener, S. Parcell, D. Patterson, D. Pelzer, S. Ponomarenko, M. Scott (Secretary), I. Sharma, R. Singer (Chair), R. Stadnyk, O. Theou, S. Theriault (FGS), Y. Zhao

Regrets: K. Beazley, S. Faridi, N. Morgunov, F. Palermo, G. Scherkoske, D. Tamlyn, B. Taylor, A. Vidovic, H. Whitehead

FC13/14.45 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

The Chair called the meeting to order.

It was moved by R. Martin-Misener, seconded by S. Parcell: to approve the Faculty Council agenda for February 11, 2014 as circulated. The motion carried.

FC13/14.46 Approval of the Minutes of previous Faculty Council meeting

It was moved by A. Fenety, seconded by S. Parcell: to approve the minutes of January 28, 2014 as circulated. The motion carried.

Matters arising from the minutes - There were no matters arising for the minutes.

FC 13/14.47 Dean Search

B. Boudreau advised that he has tendered his resignation effective June 30, 2014. The office of the VP Academic will be coordinating the search for a new Dean. In accordance with the procedures approved by Senate for senior appointments, the search committee will include four members appointed from the Faculty of Graduate Studies, 1 student representative, and one member appointed by Senate who will serve as Chair. B. Boudreau suggested that the four representatives from FGS be comprised of two members from FGS Faculty Council and two members from the Faculty, ideally Graduate Coordinators and/or department Chairs/Heads. There was general consensus from council members.

DAGS has put forward Cory Smith, Department of Physiology and Biophysics, to serve as the student representative.

A brief discussion followed in which details of the process and the timing for the search were discussed. Faculty Council members expressed that they would like to see representation from across disciplines. It was decided that Faculty Council members interested in serving on the Search Committee should send an email to S. Theriault expressing their interest and outlining their qualifications. Members interested in applying for the Dean position should not put their name forward to serve on the Search Committee and should abstain from the e-vote to elect the FGS representatives on the Search Committee. The plan is to select 4 members from Faculty Council by e-vote. Once those members are selected, the Dean of FGS will approach four other members from Graduate Studies to serve on the committee, and then a second e-vote will be conducted to elect two members from Faculty Council and two members from FGS.

It was moved by A. Fenety, seconded by P. Bodorik: that Faculty Council elect Cory Smith as the student representative on the committee. The motion carried.

FC 13/14.48 FGS Strategic Plan Discussion

B. Boudreau advised members that the first draft of the FGS Strategic Plan document was circulated before the meeting, and that a second version with an executive summary has been created. The strategic plan includes the results of consultations with various stakeholders across the university. The report includes broad to very specific suggestions, and an action plan. Members were invited to email their detailed comments to B. Boudreau. The Strategic Plan will form part of the documents being sent to Senate for the review of FGS.

A discussion followed in which it was noted that more attention needs to be paid to retention, the action items regarding international students seem sparse, and action items relevant to postdoctoral fellows should be identified. B. Boudreau thanked members for their comments.

FC 13/14.49 Reports

i) Dean's Report (B. Boudreau)

a) **NS Government Scholarships** – the proposal from Dalhousie has been approved by the Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents (CONSUP) and is now with the province for approval. The proposal would see about 300 scholarships worth 3.7 million established province wide. Under the proposal 76% of the funding would be allocated to Dalhousie University.

ii) Associate Dean (D. Pelzer)

D. Pelzer gave members advance notice that there were many program proposals and concept papers in the works that will require APCC and Faculty Council attention before May.

iii) Associate Dean (E. Denovan-Wright)

a) **Postdoctoral Fellows** – E. Denovan-Wright advised that the average annual salary paid from grants is a mean of \$42K per year, and the median is \$43K per year. CIHR and NSERC offer postdoctoral fellowships valued at \$40K per year, and a SSHRC fellowship is

valued at \$40.5K per year. The FGS website suggests minimum funding for PDFs at Dalhousie as \$36K.

b) **On-line thesis approval form** – E. Denovan-Wright requested that any discrepancies with information listed on student submissions in DalSpace be reported to the senior thesis clerk so that the errors can be corrected. Members were reminded that committee signatures on the thesis approval form mean that the final copy of the thesis has been approved, no changes are required, and the student has obtained any required ethics approval or copyright permissions.

c) **Academic Integrity** – As the Academic Integrity Officer for the Faculty of Graduate Studies, E. Denovan-Wright advised that she has been looking into where problems arise, and what needs to be done to reach graduate students at the beginning of their program to lay out expectations. Based on modules available from the Faculty of Science and the Centre for Learning and Teaching, FGS would like to develop an online course for all graduate students. This online course would be particularly helpful to international students. E. Denovan-Wright will reach out to Academic Integrity Officers from other faculties for collaboration.

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

O. Theou advised that the new members of the Dalhousie Postdoctoral Fellows Society executive met 2 weeks ago and are in the process of reviewing their goals. They will be setting up monthly meetings with FGS.

v) **DAGS Report (I. Sharma)**

DAGS held student consultations last week and received good feedback from many students. There are still some groups which DAGS has been unable to engage. DAGS will continue to try to reach out to these groups and will conduct a consultation with international students.

FC13/14.50 Continuation of Discussion on Concept of remote PhD Defences

Due to time constraints this agenda item was deferred to a later meeting.

FC13/14.51 Academic Integrity Course (E. Denovan-Wright)

Due to time constraints this agenda item was deferred to a later meeting.

FC13/14.52 Credit for Qualifying Year (B. Boudreau)

Due to time constraints this agenda item was deferred to a later meeting.

FC13/14.53 Other Business

R. Singer advised members that the 2nd annual 3-Minute Thesis (3MT) competition will be held on March 4, with the final taking place on March 5. FGS is currently seeking faculty members to serve as judges on March 4 for the preliminary rounds of the competition. Specifically, representatives are needed from Engineering, FASS and Science.

| **FC13/14.54 Next meeting – Tuesday, March 25, 2014, Lord Dalhousie Room.**

D. Pelzer put forward a motion to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

R. Singer, Chair

S. Theriault, Recording Secretary