

**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 25, 2014 in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

**Present:** H. Andreas, J. Armstrong (DPS), W. Barker, K. Beazley, P. Bodorik, B. Boudreau, P. Ellis, S. Faridi, A. Fenety, L. Fitting, M. Gibson, S. Kimber, J. Kozey, R. Martin-Misener, N. Morgunov, D. Patterson, D. Pelzer, S. Ponomarenko, M. Scott (FGS), I. Sharma, R. Singer (Chair), R. Stadnyk, D. Tamlyn, S. Theriault (Secretary)

**Regrets:** S. Bearne, E. Denovan-Wright, F. Palermo, S. Parcell, G. Scherkoske, B. Taylor, O. Theou, A. Vidovic, H. Whitehead, Y. Zhao

**FC13/14.55 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

The Chair called the meeting to order. Patrick Ellis was welcomed as the library representative on Faculty Council.

**It was moved by J. Kozey, seconded by S. Parcell: to approve the Faculty Council agenda for March 25, 2014 as circulated. The motion carried.**

**FC13/14.56 Approval of the Minutes of previous Faculty Council meeting**

**It was moved by A. Fenety, seconded by J. Kozey: to approve the minutes of February 11, 2014 as circulated. The motion carried.**

**Matters arising from the minutes** – There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**FC 13/14.57 Reports**

**i) Dean (B. Boudreau)**

- a) Dean Search** – B. Boudreau advised that the announcement of the Dean Search has been circulated. Interested parties are welcome to apply.
- b) FGS Review** – B. Boudreau advised members that the report for the FGS Senate review is now complete and will be posted online shortly.

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

- a) CGS Master's Competition** – D. Pelzer advised that the selection committees have all met and applications have been ranked, with substantial waitlists. Offers will be made on April

1<sup>st</sup>. Students will have three weeks to accept; then offers will be made to the waitlisted applicants if necessary.

b) **NSHRF** – D. Pelzer advised that Dalhousie will have a quota of 24 PhD awards and 10 master's awards in this year's NSHRF competition. The selection committees will be given the opportunity to convert awards (i.e., one PhD award could be converted to two master's awards).

c) **Killam Predoctoral Scholarships** – D. Pelzer advised that FGS anticipates being able to offer approximately 20 PhD awards, and approximately 10 master's awards. The selection committees will meet the end of April. A discussion followed in which members questioned why the competition was being held at such a late date, and voiced concerns that Dalhousie would not be able to compete with other universities that were providing earlier offers to students. D. Pelzer explained that the budget numbers were late being received from the VP Finance office. The discussion concluded with Council requesting that R. Singer write to the Board of Governor Faculty Representatives to remind them of the importance of increasing support for graduate students.

iii) **Associate Dean (E. Denovan-Wright)**

E. Denovan-Wright was not present.

iv) **PDF Report (Josh Armstrong)**

J. Armstrong advised the PDF Society has begun working with FGS to coordinate this year's PDF Appreciation Day. This year there will be an appreciation day held in June and a research day held in October.

v) **DAGS (Ishika Sharma)**

a) **DAGS Elections** – I. Sharma advised that elections were held March 12-14 and that all positions for DAGS have been filled. The new executive will start May 1.

b) **Job Posting** – I. Sharma advised that DAGS is still accepting applications for the position of Grad House Administrator.

### **FC 13/14.58 Program Proposal – PhD in Health**

R. Singer welcomed Dr. Pat Cleave, Dr. Will Webster, Dr. Mike Lee and Mr. Ken Moors to the meeting and invited them to provide the rationale for the proposed new PhD in Health program.

Dr. Cleave explained that the new PhD in Health would be housed in the Faculty of Health Professions, and would provide students with a broad exposure to Health issues as well as training in their specific area of focus. As part of the program proposal the Faculty of Health Professions consulted widely, meeting with the Deans of all faculties, government representatives, representative from the IWK and Capital Health, the Director of the Interdisciplinary PhD Program at Dalhousie, and the internal review committee and external reviewer.

Dr. Lee advised that the internal review committee took a hard look at the proposal. The program has been needed for a long time, and market demand is clearly demonstrated.

In response to questions from Faculty Council, Dr. Cleave clarified that a 25-35% administrative position and a 60% administrative support position would be required for the program. Members noted that there are other PhD streams in Health at the university such as SOSA's PhD stream in critical health studies. Dr. Cleave explained that they intend to work collaboratively.

A discussion followed regarding student funding. Dr. Webster explained that, while guaranteeing funding would be irresponsible given the financial climate at the university, the Faculty has given a strong commitment and wants to see the program succeed. The Faculty of Health Profession's track record shows resources are available to support the program: the Faculty has the third highest level of research grant funding at the university. This program is a priority for the Faculty, and \$96,000 over 3 years has been committed to it by the Dean of Health Professions.

Members put forward the suggestion of having supervisors cover student funding in years one and two, and the faculty providing funding in years three and four.

Dr. Singer thanked the invited guests for attending. There was no further discussion.

**It was moved by B. Boudreau, seconded by P. Bodorik: that Faculty Council recommend that the Program Proposal for the PhD in Health proceed to SAPRC for consideration. The motion carried.**

#### **FC 13/14.59 Program Proposal – PhD in Epidemiology and Applied Health Research**

R. Singer welcomed Dr. Adrian Levy, Dr. Yukiko Asada, Dr. Kathleen MacPherson and Dr. Tim Lee to the meeting and welcomed them to provide the rationale for the new PhD in Epidemiology and Applied Health Research.

Dr. Levy explained that the landscape in health research is changing to patient-centered research. This proposal will meet the demand for doctoral graduates that have both breadth and depth knowledge in epidemiology and applied health research. The proposal will cover three research disciplines (Epidemiology & Biostatistics; Patient & Population Health; and Health Services & Outcomes). Dr. Levy also noted that the program anticipates \$17.4 million dollars in funding over 5 years.

Dr. Lee advised that the revised proposal addresses all the committee's concerns.

A discussion followed in which members cautioned against the explicit requirement for teaching experience. Members thought it would be better to state in the Proposal that students are encouraged and will be provided with opportunities to contribute to department teaching. A discussion regarding student funding also took place. Members would like to see the Proposal state that the program will follow the Faculty of Medicine funding guidelines for graduate students to the best of its ability.

R. Singer thanked the invited guests for attending. Discussions continued in which it was decided that revisions are also required to address the possibility of students transferring directly from the Masters program to the PhD program. Concerns were also raised regarding the "non-thesis related" research requirements.

Members questioned whether the suggested start date of September 2014 is achievable. D. Pelzer felt that if revisions were made in a timely manner the Proposal could be sent to SAPRC in April. Members agreed that revisions are to be sent to R. Singer, copied to D. Pelzer. If revisions are satisfactory to the Chair, the Proposal can be forwarded to SAPRC.

**It was moved by A. Fenety, seconded by M. Gibson: that Faculty Council recommend that the Program Proposal for the PhD in Epidemiology and Applied Health Research proceed to SAPRC for consideration pending appropriate revisions. The motion carried.**

**FC13/14.60 Concept Paper – New Master of Science in Nursing**

R. Singer welcomed Dr. Marilyn Macdonald and Dr. Kathleen MacMillan to the meeting and invited them to provide the rationale for the new Master of Science in Nursing.

Dr. Macdonald explained that the current Master of Nursing program has three streams. The School of Nursing is proposing to take the thesis stream out of the Master of Nursing program and develop it into a new Master of Science in Nursing program.

In the current Master of Nursing program, students in the thesis stream are required to take eight courses plus the thesis. This heavy workload impedes progress through the program. The Master of Science in Nursing would require only five courses plus the thesis.

K. MacMillan advised that this change is based on recommendations that came out of the review the School of Nursing recently underwent.

Members congratulated the School of Nursing on their efforts. There was no further discussion.

**It was moved by J. Kozey, seconded by P. Bodorik: that Faculty Council recommend that the Concept Paper for the new Master of Science in Nursing proceed to SAPRC for consideration. The motion carried.**

**FC13/14.61 Concept Paper – Major Modification to Master of Nursing**

R. Singer invited Dr. Marilyn Macdonald and Dr. Kathleen MacMillan to provide the rationale for the modification to the Master of Nursing program.

Dr. Macdonald explained that there are 3 streams in the current Master of Nursing program; the thesis stream, the nurse practitioner stream and the health policy practicum. The proposed modification will see the removal of the thesis stream, and the health policy practicum will be changed to the professional stream.

Dr. Macdonald explained that the practicum component requires a large time commitment from both students and faculty. By not having this supervisory responsibility, faculty time would be freed up to supervise students in the proposed Master of Science in Nursing program. The nurse practitioner and professional streams would both be completely course based, with opportunities for students to participate in research projects. K. MacMillan commented that there has been a shift in the School of Nursing to focus on creating a scholarly environment.

R. Singer thanked Dr. Macdonald and Dr. MacMillan for attending. There was no further discussion.

**It was moved by K. Beazley, seconded by L. Fitting: that Faculty Council recommend that the Concept Paper for major modification to the Master of Nursing program proceed to SAPRC for consideration. The motion carried.**

#### **FC13/14.62 Concept Paper – MSc and PhD in Medical Physics**

R. Singer welcomed Dr. James Robar to the meeting and invited him to provide the rationale for the new MSc and PhD in Medical Physics.

Dr. Robar explained that there are currently only 44 accredited medical physics graduate programs in the world. There are 10 accredited programs in Canada but none are located in Atlantic Canada. Nonetheless, courses in medical physics have been taught at Dalhousie since 2007. There is an anticipated shortage of certified medical physicists, due to more stringent criteria such as the requirement for graduation from CAMPEP-accredited graduate and residency training programs.

A discussion followed in which members asked for clarification on the differentiation between the MSc and PhD in Physics and the proposed MSc and PhD in Medical Physics. Dr. Robar explained that the difference lies in the course requirements. For example, for the MSc in Physics students are required to take 12 credit hours of courses, whereas for the proposed MSc in Medical Physics students would be required to take 25 credit hours. Although this proposed requirement appears to be a heavy load, it would actually be at the low end in comparison with other medical physics programs.

Currently there are one to five students taking medical physics courses plus a thesis; after the proposed accredited program is approved, this number is expected to increase to 10-20 students. The majority of courses are already being offered by the Department of Physics. There are 16 faculty appointments able to assist with this program. When questioned about job opportunities for graduates, Dr. Robar explained that there is a slight oversupply right now because of the rush to complete programs before accreditation requirements are in place, but a shortage of medical physicists is expected as early as 2017. Currently 70% of medical physicists have PhD degrees and 30% have Masters degrees.

In response to questions regarding funding, J. Robar explained that the proposed Medical Physics program has secured funding for seven students per year from Capital Health. The remaining funding will come from grants and industry partnerships. Funding for students must be in place before they start the program. It was further explained that these programs would be housed in the Department of Physics but there will be labs, classrooms, desk space and access to equipment in the Dixon Building (Capital Health). Dalhousie and Capital Health are preparing an MOU for this program. It is not expected that students would be pulled out of the existing Physics Masters and PhD programs to populate the proposed Medical Physics program. It is expected that overall the Department's enrolment will grow.

R. Singer thanked Dr. Robar for attending. Members questioned whether the Department of Physics was in support of this program, to which D. Pelzer advised that Dr. Ian Hill and Dr. Harm Rotermund from the Department of Physics, and Dr. Chris Moore, Dean of Science, are all in support of the proposed programs.

**It was moved by K. Beazley, seconded by D. Tamlyn: that Faculty Council recommend that the Concept Paper for the MSc and PhD in Medial Physics proceed to SAPRC for consideration. The motion carried.**

**FC13/14.63 Concept Paper – Major Modification of MBA (FS)**

R. Singer welcomed Dr. Ray Klapstein to the meeting and invited him to provide the rationale for the modification of the MBA Financial Services program.

R. Klapstein advised that the MBA (FS) program began in 1996, and has been a great success; the program has over 1000 alumni. The program was designed to meet the needs of mid-career professionals in the financial services sector. In addition to standard FGS admission requirements, applicants to the program require five years profession experience in the financial services field. Students take ten core courses and four electives.

There is now a demand for a broader MBA program that will meet the needs of mid-career professionals outside the financial services sector. The proposed modification would see changes to the admission requirements so that the five years experience is not specifically required to be from the financial services sector. There would be no changes to the program structure, other than the introduction of more electives that students could take to specialize in other areas, such as leadership. The name “Professional Excellence” for the program is still being discussed. The School of Business is setting up focus groups and is conducting market research to try to identify the right name for the program.

A discussion followed, in which it was clarified that all degree parchments say MBA, it is not specified that the student was in the “Financial Services” or the “Corporate Residency” program, and that all professional students are self-funded. The name was also discussed, and it was noted that Faculty Council would evaluate the substance of the program and allow the School of Business to figure out the label. Faculty Council would like to be informed once the name is selected and would have a chance to weigh in on the decision when the full proposal comes back for approval.

R. Singer thanked Dr. Klapstein for attending. A discussion followed in which it was suggested that the full proposal clearly define the admission requirement of five year’s professional experience, and prior learning assessments.

**It was moved by J. Kozey, seconded by P. Bodorik: that Faculty Council recommend that the Concept Paper for the major modification of the MBA (FS) proceed to SAPRC for consideration pending appropriate revisions. The motion carried.**

**FC13/14.64 Other Business**

There was no other business.

**FC13/14.65 Next meeting - Tuesday, April 22, 2014, Lord Dalhousie Room.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

---

R. Singer, Chair

---

S. Theriault, Recording Secretary