

**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, November 25, 2014 in the Coburg Boardroom, Room 3107 of the Mona Campbell Building.

Present: J. Armstrong, H. Ali-Hassan, W. Barker, S. Bearne, E. Denovan-Wright, P. Ellis, A. Fenety, L. Fitting, S. Gadbois, M. Gibson, D. Groulx, J. Kozey, D. Patterson, D. Pelzer, M. Rahman, M. Scott (FGS), R. Singer (Chair), L. Spiteri, Stadnyk, S. Stone, S. Theriault (Secretary), K. Toughill, P. Tyedmers

Regrets: P. Bodorik, A. Bucci, N. Daizy, S. Kimber, M. Leonard, R. Martin-Misener, N. Morgunov, R. Mullin, P. O'Brien, S. Ponomarenko, N. Schepp, O. Theou

FC14/15.24 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

The Chair called the meeting to order.

It was moved by L. Spiteri, seconded by W. Barker: to approve the Faculty Council agenda for November 25, 2014 as circulated. The motion carried.

FC14/15.25 Approval of the Minutes of previous Faculty Council meeting

It was moved by W. Barker, seconded by L. Spiteri: that the minutes of October 21, 2014 be approved as circulated. One member abstained. The motion carried.

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

FC 14/15.26 Reports

i) Dean (Marty Leonard)

Dean Leonard was not present.

ii) Associate Dean (Dieter Pelzer)

- a) **Intellectual Property** – D. Pelzer advised that the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies (CAGS) created a task force to develop Canada-wide guidelines on Intellectual Property. The task force is headed by Matthew Herder, a faculty member at Dalhousie University in the faculties of Law and Medicine. FGS and Dr. Mark Filiaggi (Associate Vice President Research) have met with Dr. Herder and will be working with him to develop Dalhousie guidelines.
- b) **CAGS** – D. Pelzer advised that hot topic items at the CAGS conference included recruitment and retention of international students. D. Pelzer spoke briefly on thesis embargo issues, informing members that Canadian Intellectual Property law allows for patents to be filed within

12 months of a student defending. Given this law, students don't necessarily have to request thesis embargos.

- c) **Responsibilities of Faculty Council and APCC** – D. Pelzer advised that, in an effort to streamline processes, proposers of major modification and new program proposals will now be invited only to APCC. Proposals will then be put forward by APCC to Faculty Council for final approval, with the motion for approval coming from APCC. Program Reviews will continue to be seen only by Faculty Council.
- d) **Scholarship Competitions** – D. Pelzer advised that the Tri-Council CGS-M deadline is December 1. Also on December 1 is the first deadline for the Nova Scotia Research Innovation Graduate Scholarships. The deadline for the NSERC CGS-D competition has passed, and Dalhousie was unable to fill its quota this year. A discussion followed in which members questioned why the submissions were low. D. Pelzer advised that departments that were under-represented would be contacted.

iii) Associate Dean (Eileen Denovan-Wright)

- a) **PDF Communication** – E. Denovan-Wright reported that a joint communication from Human Resources and FGS would be sent out shortly outlining the two PDF categories (PDF Scholar and PDF employee). All existing contracts will be honoured, but all new contracts for PDF employees will have mandatory EI and CPP deductions. FGS and Human Resources will work on a case-by-case basis to assist PDF Scholars with obtaining medical coverage.
- b) **Canadian Association of Postdoctoral Administrators (CAPA)** – E. Denovan-Wright advised that she participated in the one-day CAPA meetings in Newfoundland. The hot topic item at the meeting was unionization.

iv) PDF Report (Josh Armstrong)

J. Armstrong had nothing new to report.

v) DAGS (Mahbubar Rahman)

- a) **Council Meeting** – M. Rahman advised that the next DAGS council meeting is taking place on November 26th. At the meeting plans for the winter orientation, the Society's Charter, and the indirect cost of doing research will be discussed.
- b) **CAGS** – M. Rahman reported that DAGS President, Naznin Daizy, also attended the CAGS conference in Newfoundland.

FC 14/15.27 Program Review Update – Earth Sciences

R. Singer welcomed Dr. Rebecca Jamieson (Chair) and Dr. John Gosse (Graduate Coordinator) to the meeting and invited them to provide a summary of their review update report.

Dr. Jamieson explained that the Department of Earth Sciences prepared a response to the Internal and External Review Committee reports in February 2013, and has prepared an update for today's meeting. Dr. Jamieson advised that the department has a small but successful graduate program with about 35 to 40 students equally distributed between the MSc and PhD programs. The department currently has 11 professors and five instructors, but expects to see three professorial retirements over the next few years.

Dr. Jamieson provided a summary of the November 2014 update, which covered items such as curriculum, administration, funding and space. A major issue for the department concerns co-supervision by Adjuncts at other universities and government agencies, and the department's ability to maintain supervisory capacity.

Dr. Jamieson advised that Dr. Gosse recently took over the Graduate Coordinator role in the department. Dr. Gosse noted that the one issue that was identified but that hasn't seen much progress is the preparation of a new graduate student handbook. The department anticipates having a new handbook available in Spring 2015.

A discussion followed regarding funding levels for students in the department, the lack of NSERC applications from the department, and the support offered by the new Nova Scotia Research Innovation Graduate Scholarships. Dr. Jamieson commented that the department would like to put in a CREATE proposal, but needs to find a faculty member to champion that initiative.

In response to questioning from members, Dr. Jamieson advised that almost half the graduate students in the department have adjuncts on their supervisory committees. As a result of University rules regarding supervision by adjuncts, other Atlantic Universities without PhD Programs are considering sending their students to UNB instead of Dalhousie.

R. Singer thanked Dr. Jamieson and Dr. Gosse for attending. A brief discussion on adjunct co-supervision followed.

It was moved by J. Kozey, seconded by L. Fitting: that the update report from the Department of Earth Sciences be accepted. A copy of the completed handbook is to be submitted to FGS Faculty Council within 12 months. The motion carried. This concludes the review from the 2011/12 academic year.

FC 14/15.28 Program Review Update – Economics

R. Singer welcomed Dr. Kuan Xu (Chair) and Dr. Peter Burton (Graduate Coordinator) and invited them provide a summary of their unit review update.

Dr. Burton reported that in response to concerns raised in the 2012-13 review about supervision workload, the department has made revisions to the MA and MDE programs, restricting the number of students who are permitted into the thesis stream. This change came into effect in September 2014, so the impact is not yet known. Dr. Xu commented that, although the thesis option is more restricted, the department has offered more course options for the students in the project-based programs.

Dr. Burton commented briefly on the hiring of two tenure-track assistant professors whose focus is on development economics, and the review of the curriculum and timing of the Math Camp that is now mandatory for MA students and encouraged for MDE students. The department has removed the advanced placement for students with professional degrees, and has increased the econometrics component in the two-year MDE. A more active program has been instituted to identify students with the potential to successfully complete a PhD who have interests in the department. This initiative is particularly important as the PhD program is a source of instructors and TAs needed to meet departmental commitments to the China 2 + 2 programs and the regular undergraduate offerings.

A discussion followed in which members questioned why graduate students publish on their own, not with their supervisor. Dr. Burton explained that in their department it is unusual for students to publish at all, but when they do it is expected that the publication should be based on independent work. He also clarified that the students in the MA thesis and non-thesis streams receive the same degree.

R. Singer thanked Dr. Burton and Dr. Xu for attending. There was no further discussion.

It was moved by L. Spiteri seconded by D. Groulx: that the update from the Department of Economics be accepted. The motion carried. This concludes the review from the 2012/13 academic year.

FC 14/15.29 Program Review – Sociology and Social Anthropology

R. Singer welcomed Dr. Pauline Gardiner Barber (Chair) and Dr. Elizabeth Fitting (Graduate Coordinator) and invited them to provide a summary of the review findings.

Dr. Gardiner Barber commented that the department of Sociology and Social Anthropology (SOSA) is small, but strong. There are 14.5 regular faculty members: seven in Sociology and seven and a half in Social Anthropology. The department has MA and PhD students in both disciplines. The department accepts between eight and ten new MA students each year, and between two and four PhD students each year. Each student works under a program committee.

L. Fitting advised that there were no major recommendations put forward in the unit review. Following review recommendations, SOSA now requires a minimum of two faculty members (instead of three) to sit on Comprehensive Exam Committees. SOSA has taken advantage of the new NS Graduate Scholarship funding opportunities available to their graduate students, and graduate supervision is included in formal departmental workload considerations.

A very brief discussion followed in which it was noted that the programs in the department are working well, and the department is taking advantage of all funding opportunities available to them.

R. Singer thanked Dr. Gardiner Barber and Dr. Fitting for attending. There was no further discussion.

It was moved by D. Pelzer, seconded by D. Patterson: that Faculty Council accept the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology Program Review as satisfactory with no changes required. One member abstained. The motion carried.

FC14/15.30 Other Business

- i) **Faculty Council Vacancies for 2014/15** - There are still 2 vacancies on Faculty Council. We would like representatives from Law, and Arts and Social Sciences.

FC14/15.31 Next meeting - Tuesday, December 16, 2014, Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

A motion to adjourn was put forward by L. Spiteri.

The meeting adjourned at 12:59p.m.

R. Singer, Chair

S. Theriault, Recording Secretary