

**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, October 21, 2014 in the Coburg Boardroom, Room 3107 of the Mona Campbell Building.

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

Regrets: P. Bodorik, P. Ellis, M. Gibson, S. Kimber, N. Morgunov, M. Rahman, N. Schepp, R. Stadnyk, O. Theou

FC14/15.14 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

The Chair called the meeting to order.

It was moved by L. Spiteri, seconded by S. Ponomarenko: to approve the Faculty Council agenda for October 21, 2014 as circulated. The motion carried.

FC14/15.15 Approval of the Minutes of previous Faculty Council meeting

It was moved by D. Patterson, seconded by L. Fitting: to approve the minutes of September 23, 2014 as circulated. The motion carried.

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

FC 14/15.16 Reports

i) Dean (Marty Leonard)

a) Meetings – M. Leonard advised that she has been busy visiting various Faculties. She has met with many Deans, Directors, Chairs, Heads and Graduate Coordinators to talk about any issues involving graduate studies. She would be happy to visit with any other units that are interested.

b) FGS Review – M. Leonard advised that the internal review committee has been struck for the FGS review. The Dalhousie community can expect a notice this fall to meet with the committee or to send in written comments.

c) Charter of Priorities – The feedback from the “100 Days of Listening” has been analysed and the report has been converted into the “Charter of Priorities.” The Charter contains 25 priorities for the university, the top ten of which will be moving forward quickly. Included in the top ten priorities is the recruitment of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.

ii) Associate Dean (Dieter Pelzer)

- a) Major Modifications and Program Proposals** – D. Pelzer advised that FGS has been busy dealing with major modifications and program proposals, which require external reviews.
- b) Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship** – D. Pelzer advised that the Banting competition at the University is complete, with one nomination being sent forward to the national competition.
- c) Vanier CGS** – D. Pelzer advised that the Vanier applications have been reviewed and five nominations will be sent forward to the national competitions.
- d) CAGS** – D. Pelzer advised that he and other representatives from FGS will be attending the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies conference in Newfoundland from Oct 27 to 30.
- e) Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Graduate Scholarships** – D. Pelzer advised that FGS would be sending a notice to departments shortly regarding regulations for the upcoming NSRIGS competition. The application form is available on the website now, and will not be changing. Members posed the scenario of an MSc student who holds a master's level NSRIGS and who is planning to transfer into a PhD program, and questioned if they could apply for the doctoral scholarship. D. Pelzer advised that the student could be put forward in the doctoral competition. D. Pelzer advised members that students are eligible to hold funding for four years only (M and PhD levels combined). These regulations will be included in the notice coming from FGS.

iii) Associate Dean (Eileen Denovan-Wright)

- a) PDF Research Day** – E. Denovan-Wright advised that the PDF Research Day held on October 10th went smoothly. The event consisted of a series of 3-minute oral presentations and poster presentations in the morning, followed by a keynote lecture from Dr. Paula Stephan from Georgia State University. The keynote was a sobering talk regarding the future job prospects for PDFs. The lecture was videotaped and will soon be posted to the FGS website. Later in the afternoon there was a panel discussion. Organizers are seeking feedback from PDFs for planning next year's event.
- b) Certification Vote** – E. Denovan-Wright advised that most Dalhousie PDFs will now be represented by the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC). PDFs are now clearly defined as being within six years of completing their PhD. Collective bargaining will take place shortly. PDFs who are the recipients of named awards will be excluded from the union, as they are considered trainees rather than employees. FGS is in the process of figuring out new processes and will update our website as soon as possible. Unionized PDFs will be required to contribute to EI and CPP. E. Denovan-Wright advised that she will be attending the Canadian Association of Postdoctoral Administrators meeting in Newfoundland, and will take the opportunity to talk to other administrators at universities where PDFs have already unionized. A discussion followed in which members sought clarification between the PDFs that fall into the unionized category and those in the trainee/scholarship category, and the possible impacts that unionization will have on stipends.

iv) PDF Report (Olga Theo)

O. Theo was not present.

DAGS (Naznin Daizy)

- a) **Graduate Student Stipend Payments** – N. Daizy advised that DAGS is concerned about graduate students not receiving their first pay of the term on time and is looking into the problems that cause this delay.
- b) **MITACS** – DAGS is working with FGS to coordinate MITACS workshops in November for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.
- c) **CAGS** – N. Daizy advised that representatives from DAGS will be attending the CAGS conference being held in Newfoundland.
- d) **International Students** – DAGS is planning a meeting in November to discuss issues facing international students.

FC 14/15.17 Academic Integrity Module (E. Denovan-Wright)

E. Denovan-Wright advised that the academic integrity module that was developed by the writing centre was sent to all Academic Integrity Officers, a sampling of students, and members of FGS Faculty Council for review. The module will not replace existing departmental initiatives, but would be available for all incoming graduate students. A brief discussion followed in which members discussed whether all incoming graduate students should be required to complete the module. E. Denovan-Wright expressed that FGS would rather advocate the use of the module than force its use.

It was moved by L. Spiteri, seconded by A. Fenety: that Faculty Council endorse the use of the Academic Integrity Module. The motion carried.

FC 14/15.18 Qualifying Year follow-up from the June 24 Faculty Council meeting

R. Singer welcomed Wendy Fletcher, FGS Program Officer, to the meeting and invited her to explain her concerns regarding the recently adopted change to the qualifying year regulation (section 5.7.6 of the Graduate Calendar). Ms. Fletcher explained that the removal of the sentence “because it is a prerequisite, a qualifying year program cannot be used to reduce the length of a subsequent regular graduate program” could have consequences to program-fee students. Without this sentence, it could be assumed that the QGS will reduce the length of a graduate program, which is incorrect. All program-fee students have a set length of time for which they are responsible for fees, regardless of the number of specific class registrations; furthermore, per-course fee programs generally do not reduce the number of required classes based on classes taken as a QGS.

A discussion followed in which members pointed out that the revision was brought forward to allow students to use qualifying year credits, and while Ms. Fletcher’s concerns are valid, putting the sentence back in does not change or solve her concerns. The wording needs to convey that qualifying-year credits may be used to reduce the time in the program, but not the fees. Members would like to see wording in the acceptance letters clarified, too.

It was suggested that, in light of the discussion, FGS bring proposed wording to the next Faculty Council meeting.

FC 14/15.19 Pathology Survey Report

R. Singer welcomed Dr. Godfrey Heathcote, Head of the Department of Pathology, Dr. Wenda Greer, Graduate Coordinator for the Department of Pathology, and Dr. Mike Lee, FGS Representative on the internal review committee.

Dr. Lee explained that, although he was the FGS representative on the committee, he was not tasked with just reviewing the graduate program, but was actually asked to write the section of the report dealing with research. The department has about 20 graduate students, equally apportioned between the master's and doctoral programs. The many faculty members in the Department comprise a large group of clinical pathologists with significant clinical responsibilities and the smaller group with more academic responsibilities. In general, the academic faculty members supervise graduate students, and the clinical members serve on supervisory committees. In the previous review the Department was criticized for insufficient research activity; in contrast, research output is now good. It was also made clear that the graduate programs are well run, with good course offerings, frequent seminars and a research day that includes clinical pathologists. There were no major concerns with respect to graduate studies identified in the report.

Dr. Heathcote concurred with Dr. Lee's summary. He indicated that the core PATH 5000 course had started to go into decline. It was taught by clinical faculty members, but has since been taken over by one of the academic scientists. While there is a clinical vs. academic divide within the department, it does not involve the graduate program. Dr. Greer commented that the two groups are starting to come closer together.

R. Singer thanked Dr. Heathcote, Dr. Greer and Dr. Lee for attending.

A discussion followed in which members expressed that the way the report was structured made it difficult to extract the information pertaining specifically to the graduate program. The Faculty of Medicine uses a standardized form for unit reviews, and FGS has expressed concerns over the format of this form to the Dean of Medicine. Members suggested that FGS should provide to FGS representatives on review committees an outline of what the FGS representative needs to report on and what data needs to be supplied.

It was moved by D. Groulx, seconded by D. Pelzer: that Faculty Council accept the Department of Pathology Survey Report as satisfactory with no changes required. The motion carried.

FC14/15.20 Program Review Update – Mathematics and Statistics

D. Pelzer advised that the unit review was conducted in 2009/10 and was seen by FGS Faculty Council in September 2012. At the time, it was moved that the Mathematics and Statistics departmental report be rated as "satisfactory with no changes required," pending an update within six months. The update, however, was not forwarded from the Faculty of Science to FGS. Dr. Karl Dilcher has submitted the update from 2012 along with notes on any changes since the update was originally submitted. All recommendations were addressed.

It was moved by E. Denovan-Wright, seconded by D. Groulx: that the update from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics be accepted. This concludes the review from the 2009/10 academic year. The motion carried.

FC14/15.21 Program Review Update – Political Science

D. Pelzer advised that the unit review for Political Science was conducted in 2009/10 and was seen by FGS Faculty Council in April 2011. At the time, it was moved that the Political Science Graduate Programs review be rated as satisfactory with recommendations to provide Faculty Council with an update on the cross-listing and workload issues by the fall of 2013.

Dr. Frank Harvey has advised that all 3000/5000 classes have been terminated. Only 4000-level classes are now cross-listed with grad classes. Admission into 4000/5000 level classes is restricted and requires instructor's permission. With respect to 'workload' issues in cross-listed classes, graduate students are expected to complete additional written assignments, presentations, and other responsibilities consistent with their advanced degree.

Members mentioned that comprehensives were also identified as a problem area. D. Pelzer advised that that concern has been resolved.

It was moved by L. Spiteri, seconded by L. Fitting: that the update from the Department of Political Science be accepted. The motion carried. This concludes the review from the 2009/10 academic year.

FC14/15.22 Other Business

- i) **APCC Member for 2014/15** – Peter Tyedmers has agreed to serve on APCC for a 1-year term.
- ii) **Faculty Council Vacancies for 2014/15** – There are still two vacancies on Faculty Council. It would be ideal to have representatives from Law and from Arts and Social Sciences.

FC14/15.23 Next meeting - Tuesday, November 25, 2014, Room 3107, Mona Campbell Building, 1459 LeMarchant Street.

A motion to adjourn was put forward by D. Groulx.

The meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m.

R. Singer, Chair

S. Theriault, Recording Secretary