

**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, September 23, 2014, in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

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

Regrets: P. Ellis, D. Groulx, M. Leonard, R. Martin Misener, N. Morgunov, S. Ponomarenko, M. Scott (FGS), R. Stadnyk,

FC14/15.01 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:31.

It was moved by A. Fenety, seconded by P. Bodorik: to approve the Faculty Council agenda for September 23, 2014, as circulated. The motion carried.

FC14/15.02 Approval of the Minutes of previous Faculty Council meeting

It was moved by E. Denovan-Wright, seconded by M. Gibson: to approve the minutes of June 24, 2014, as circulated. The motion carried.

Matters arising from the minutes – R. Singer updated members on results from recent electronic votes. On August 18 Carrie Dawson's nomination to Faculty Council was approved, and members agreed to move the October Faculty Council meeting to October 21. Dr. Dawson has since resigned from Faculty Council due to a scheduling conflict. On September 12 Roger Mullin's and Simon Gadbois' nominations to Faculty Council were approved.

FC 14/15.03 Reports

- i) **Dean (M. Leonard)** – M. Leonard was unable to attend.
- ii) **Associate Dean (Dieter Pelzer)**
 - a) **Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarships** – D. Pelzer advised that the second competition is now complete and there were very high success rates: 100% of doctoral applicants were awarded scholarship, and 80% of master's applicants were awarded scholarships. There will be two competitions held during the 2014-15 academic year, and the deadlines for these

competitions have been listed on the FGS website. The deadline on December 1 will be for students starting their program in either May 2015 or September 2015. The deadline on February 15 will be for students starting their program in either September 2015 or January 2016. A discussion has been started with the Nova Scotia government regarding carrying forward funding from one fiscal year to the next in cases where awards are deferred.

b) Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship – D. Pelzer advised that FGS received six applications for this competition. The value of the Banting fellowship is \$70,000/year as a stipend plus an \$8,000 research grant. One application was forwarded to the national competition.

iii) Associate Dean (Eileen Denovan-Wright)

a) Academic Integrity Modules – E. Denovan-Wright advised that the academic integrity module has been reviewed by academic integrity officers across campus. There has also been consultation with a sampling of graduate students. The next step will be to give Faculty Council members access to the module *via* Blackboard Learn. After reviewing the module, members will be asked to send comments to FGS prior to the October 21 meeting, at which a vote will be taken to endorse the modules. A brief discussion followed on whether the modules would be mandatory or optional.

b) PDF Unionization – E. Denovan-Wright advised that FGS has not received any news from HR or the union. When an update is received it will be communicated to Faculty Council members.

iv) PDF Report (Olga Theou)

a) PDF Research Day – O. Theou advised that the PDF Research Day is being held on October 10, 2014. Invitations have been sent by email to postdoctoral fellows and their supervisors. At this event there will be oral presentations and poster presentations from postdoctoral fellows. There will also be a keynote presentation given by Dr. Paula Stephan from Georgia State University on “the economics of the postdoctoral position.” If permission is received, FGS will endeavour to videotape this presentation. A panel discussion on “navigating career opportunities for postdoctoral fellows: changes in the research landscape” will conclude the event.

v) DAGS (Naznin Daizy)

a) Orientation – DAGS organized a week-long orientation for graduate students. Over 400 students participated in the event.

b) Other Initiatives – DAGS will be considering issues such as skills for non-academic professions, mental health, bullying, and issues of concern to international students. DAGS is partnering with FGS and MITACS to put on a series of professional development sessions. DAGS is also seeking representation on the Board of Governors.

FC 14/15.04 Approval of October Convocation List

R. Singer welcomed Leanne Flynn, FGS Admissions and Convocation Officer, to present the list of convocants prior to its publication. Ms. Flynn asked faculty in attendance to check the list for the names of graduates in their respective departments. Changes to the list can still be made prior to its submission to Senate.

It was moved by W. Barker, seconded by L. Fitting; that the list of candidates for receipt of degrees be approved as distributed. The motion carried.

It was moved by S. Kimber seconded by L. Spiteri; that the Dean of FGS, in consultation with the Registrar's Office and Senate, be given authority to make additions or corrections as appropriate to the list of candidates prior to submittal to Senate. The motion carried.

FC 14/15.05 Proposal – MSc and PhD in Medical Physics

R. Singer welcomed Dr. Ian Hill, Dr. James Robar and Dr. Geoff Maksym, and invited Dr. Robar to provide the rationale for the new program.

Dr. Robar explained that, although Capital Health District Authority (CDHA) runs an accredited residency program, there is a need for an accredited graduate program. Courses in medical physics have been taught at the graduate level at Dalhousie University since the 1990s. There are currently eight of these graduate courses at the 6000 level. There are 16 faculty members engaged and able to contribute to the program, of whom 13 are certified medical physicists at Capital Health. Curriculum is set by standards from the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Physics Education Programs (CAMPEP).

In 2016 the Canadian College of Physicists in Medicine in Canada will require that candidates for certification have graduated from CAMPEP-accredited graduate programs or residency training programs. There are ten accredited graduate programs in Canada, but none exist east of Laval. There is strong demand for an accredited graduate program at Dalhousie.

Dr. Maksym reported that the internal review committee agrees that there is a need for the program and considers that the proposal was well prepared. The committee recommended that letters of support be obtained from the Dean of Science, the Dean of Medicine and the Head of Radiation Oncology at Capital Health.

Dr. Hill advised that the Department of Physics and Atmospheric Science is fully supportive of the new program and noted that the majority of the required courses are already being taught in the department.

D. Pelzer noted that an MOU between Dalhousie University and CDHA is currently being negotiated.

A brief discussion followed in which student funding was discussed. Dr. Robar also clarified the incentives for students taking the PhD versus students taking the master's program. As a point of clarification the full proposal will be posted to SharePoint for member's reference.

R. Singer thanked Dr. Robar, Dr. Hill and Dr. Clarke for attending. There was no further discussion.

It was moved by E. Denovan-Wright, seconded by M. Gibson: that Faculty Council recommend that the proposal for the MSc and PhD in Medical Physics proceed to SAPRC for consideration. The motion carried. Two members abstained.

FC 14/15.06 Proposal – Certificate in Medical Physics

R. Singer invited Dr. James Robar to provide the rationale for the proposed certificate in Medical Physics.

Dr. Robar explained that the idea for the certificate program came out of the External Review of the program proposal for the MSc and PhD in Medical Physics program. In the proposed program, students holding a PhD in physics in related areas other than medical physics would be able to take one year of courses to obtain the certificate. The courses required for the certificate program would be those offered as part of the accredited graduate program.

A brief discussion followed in which it was clarified that holders of the proposed certificate would have the same employment opportunities as those completing the medical physics graduate program. It was noted that the term “certificate” seems out of place, but that this is a CAMPEP term. It was also noted that there are no anticipated issues with workload, in that it is expected that the certificate program will attract about ten students per year, which should result only in more marking of assignments and exams. It is expected that students in the certificate program who are coming from different academic backgrounds will make for a more dynamic atmosphere in the classroom.

R. Singer thanked Dr. Robar for attending. There was no further discussion.

It was moved by L. Spiteri, seconded by P. Bodorik: that Faculty Council approve the proposal for the Certificate in Medical Physics. The motion carried.

FC14/15.07 Survey Report – Community Health & Epidemiology

R. Singer welcomed Dr. Adrian Levy, Dr. Kathleen MacPherson and Dr. Elaine Gibson and invited Dr. Gibson, the FGS representative on the internal review community for Community Health and Epidemiology, to provide a summary of the committee’s findings.

Dr. Gibson explained that the Faculty of Medicine scheduled this review to coincide with the end of the first term of the Head of the Department, Dr. Adrian Levy. The report was completed in the spring of 2014 and presented to Medicine’s Faculty Council in June 2014. Very positive feedback was given for the MSc program. Concerns identified included the timing of the appointment of supervisors, flexibility in courses, and teaching of bio-statistics. Dr. MacPherson noted that the bio-statistics concerns appear to have been virtually eliminated by the use of a new software program.

Dr. Gibson advised that there was an effort to develop a Master of Public Health program a number of years ago, but the program never materialized. A proposal for a PhD Program was recently approved, with enrolment to begin in September 2015.

A discussion followed regarding teaching demands, which was identified as an area of concern in the department. Recommendations were made for the Department to increase its use of cross-appointments and adjuncts, and to press the Faculty of Medicine for the two tenure-stream positions that were promised by the Dean. Dr. Levy advised that they are moving forward on the positions, but that it is taking time. Members questioned what the short-term cost would be if the department is not able to expand its capacity. Dr. Levy advised that they are trying not to compromise on the graduate program or the undergraduate teaching or research, and that so far they are delivering what they need to, but that

resources are needed. Dr. Levy felt that the gaps in expertise in the department could be filled with the two or three new positions.

R. Singer thanked Dr. Levy, Dr. MacPherson and Dr. Gibson for attending. A discussion continued in which members voiced concern over the space limitations for faculty and students in the department once the new PhD program begins. Members were also concerned that the current faculty compliment in the department would prove inadequate for the PhD program.

It was moved by D. Patterson, seconded by A. Fenety: that Faculty Council accept the Department of Community Health & Epidemiology First-Term Survey Report as satisfactory, but with a request for follow-up within 24 months to address the issues relating to teaching capacity and the development of the PhD program. The motion carried. Two members abstained.

FC14/15.08 Major Modification – MPLAN (update from W. Barker)

R. Singer advised that W. Barker was asked by FGS to serve as an internal reviewer for the proposed major modification to the Master of Planning program.

W. Barker advised that he reviewed the proposal for the major modification and wrote a letter to the proposers containing five suggestions. Four of those five points have been addressed. The issue not addressed is how many students the program expects to attract. D. Pelzer advised that the program is likely to have a small enrolment.

A spin-off discussion followed in which D. Pelzer advised that the Registrar's Office and the Institutional Data Analysis office are preparing reports to provide statistics on the number of applications received, offers made, and enrolments per graduate program. Members suggested that statistics also be provided for time to completion.

It was moved by W. Barker, seconded by P. Bodorik: that the major modification to the MPLAN program be forwarded to SAPRC for consideration. The motion carried.

FC14/15.09 Program Review Update – Math & Stats

Due to time constraints this agenda item was postponed until the next Faculty Council meeting.

FC14/15.10 Program Review Update – Political Science

Due to time constraints this agenda item was postponed until the next Faculty Council meeting.

FC14/15.11 Other Business

Due to time constraints no other business was heard.

FC14/15.12 Next meeting: Tuesday October 21, 2014, Room 3107, Mona Campbell Building, 1459 LeMarchant Street. R. Singer noted that this location may change if a more suitable room can be found.

A motion to adjourn was put forward by E. Denovan-Wright.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

R. Singer, Chair

S. Theriault, Recording Secretary