

**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, December 15, 2015, in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

Present: H. Ali-Hassan, S. Bearne, P. Bodorik, N. Daizy, M. Durier-Copp, E. Denovan-Wright, P. Ellis, S. Gadbois, M. Gibson, D. Groulx, M. Hafezi, J. Kozey, J. Michael Lee (Chair), M. Leonard, G. Loomer, R. Martin-Misener, R. Mullin, D. Patterson, D. Pelzer, R. Stadnyk, S. Stone, S. Theriault (FGS), P. Tyedmers,

Regrets: J. Armstrong, W. Barker, D. Bhatia, S. Boe, C. Casey (FGS), L. Fitting, D. Iron, B. Sabo, K. Toughill, T. Ulicki, S. Wells

FC15/16.35 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

The Chair called the meeting to order.

It was moved by P. Tyedmers, seconded by M. Gibson: to approve the Faculty Council agenda for December 15, 2015 with revisions (removal of items two and eight). The motion carried.

FC15.16.36 Approval of the Minutes of previous Faculty Council meeting

This item as removed from the agenda.

FC15.16.37 Matters Arising

- i) Date for January Reviews Meeting** – M. Lee noted that C. Casey had emailed members in an attempt to set a date for a special January meeting to deal with the backlog of department reviews. Members were encouraged to respond to Crystal with their availability.
- ii) Appeals committee** – M. Lee advised that there were two members of the Academic Appeals Committee (of FGS) who had offered to extend their terms to April 30, 2016 in order to serve on appeals that were currently in progress. The two members were Richard Singer and Anne Fenety.

It was moved by P. Tyedmers, seconded by S. Gadbois: to extend the terms of Richard Singer and Anne Fenety on the Academics Appeals Committee to April 30, 2016. The motion carried.

FC15.16.38 Reports

i) Dean (Marty Leonard)

- a) **Collective Bargaining** – M. Leonard reported that Collective Bargaining with the union representing the postdoctoral fellows would begin again that week.

ii) Associate Dean (Dieter Pelzer)

- a) **Proposal for the Master of Science in Psychiatry** – D. Pelzer advised that the proposal is for a two-year, thesis-based Master's program. Planning for this program dates back to the early 2000s. The proposal was developed in response to medical residents who had expressed interest in developing their research skills. The department expects high demand for this program, as there are only two or three MSc in Psychiatry programs in Canada. Admission criteria would include a minimum GPA of 3.7 and both BSc Honours applicants and Psychiatry residents would be required to secure a supervisor prior to admission. The supervisor would be required to be able to fund part of their stipend. It was noted that the department would likely top up external scholarships to the \$20K level, and that residents are already funded during their five years of residency.

The department has a mix of appointments (clinicians and basic scientists, most of them well-published and funded). Trainees would come from varied backgrounds. The interactions between BSc Honours students and Psychiatry residents as well as the interactions between clinicians and basic scientists are expected to be of benefit to all parties.

The excellent quality of the proposal was noted by the internal and external reviewers. The external reviewers suggested developing a PhD proposal right away.

It was moved by APCC, seconded by S. Gadbois: to approve and recommend to SAPRC the proposal for the Master of Science in Psychiatry. The motion carried.

b) **NSGS** – D. Pelzer noted that the first deadline for the Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarship had passed. FGS received 97 applications, which were currently being reviewed for eligibility. Members were reminded that NSGS applications are reviewed by members of Faculty Council. The Scholarship Officer intends to have applications to members before the University closes for the holidays. Members questioned what the target allocations would be for the Fall and Winter competitions. D. Pelzer noted the split would likely remain the same as last year: 1/3 allocated in the first competition, and 2/3 allocated in the second competition. M. Leonard noted that, based on last year's projections, FGS anticipated awarding approximately 65 Master's level awards and 28 doctoral level awards in this year's competitions. D. Pelzer cautioned members that the numbers were just projections as FGS hadn't yet received budget numbers for the scholarships.

c) **CGS – M** – D. Pelzer advised that the deadline for the CGS-M competition had also passed. Dalhousie received 327 applications. All applications were now being checked for eligibility.

iii) Associate Dean (Eileen Denovan-Wright)

- a) 3 Minute Thesis** – E. Denovan-Wright advised that plans are underway for this year's 3MT competition. FGS plans to hold the preliminary heats on March 9th and the final on March 10th. The location and details for this event will follow, along with a call for participants and judges.

iv) PDF Report (Josh Armstrong)

J. Armstrong was not present.

v) DAGS (Naznin Daizy)

N. Daizy had nothing new to report.

FC 15.16.39 Review of the Faculty of Computer Science (FCS)

M. Lee welcomed Dr. Andrew Rau Chaplin (Dean of the Faculty of Computer Science), and Drs. Bruce Smith and Jason Gu (members of the internal review committee).

B. Smith provided an overview of the graduate programs within the FCS: the PhD program, Master of Computer Science (MCS), Master of Applied Computer Science (MACS), Master of Electronic Commerce (MEC), Master of Health Informatics (MHI), and Master of Science (MSc) in Computational Biology and Bioinformatics. It was noted that two professional programs involve collaborations with other Faculties: MEC (CS, Law and Management) and MHI (CS, and Medicine).

Enrolments in most graduate programs in FCS have remained fairly constant, but there was a notable drop in the MHI program in 2014-15. Enrolment returned to historical levels in 2015-16. It was noted that there are only two Faculty members doing most of the teaching for the MHI program (one from FCS and one from Medicine). The internal review committee listed a number of recommendations for the two professional programs (MEC and MHI). They noted that, with new Deans in FCS, Law, Management and Medicine, it was a good opportunity for discussions to take place regarding the future of these programs.

A. Rau-Chaplin noted that the research programs are doing well. On the professional side, a major modification has been proposed for the MACS program which will see students working with industry through a co-op stream. In regard to the MEC program, A. Rau-Chaplin has met with the new Dean of Management to discuss the program. The program has successful alumni, and efforts are being made to increase enrolment. A. Rau-Chaplin and the new Dean of Medicine (David Anderson) have plans to look at the MHI program, and may submit a modification proposal in 2016.

A discussion followed in which members noted that the MHI program appears to be under-resourced. A. Rau-Chaplin advised that this is being reviewed. Faculty support on the FCS side is strong, and he is seeking assistance from Dean Anderson to find faculty members from Medicine to champion the program. Meetings have also taken place with Dr. Adrian Levy from the Department of Community Health & Epidemiology.

The lack of statistical data on graduate students was noted by members. It was also noted that the graduate cohort in FCS is largely made up of males and that there are a large number of international students. A discussion took place regarding FCS' efforts to increase female representation at the

student and faculty levels within the department. A. Rau-Chaplin advised that FCS is investing resources into outreach, but welcomes any new ideas.

M. Lee thanked Drs. Rau-Chaplin, Smith and Gu for attending.

Discussion continued regarding the need to track more information on graduate students in FCS. M. Leonard advised that FGS has had meetings with Dal Analytics to discuss reports required at the graduate level (i.e. time to completion, funding levels, etc.), and that data for all Faculties should be available next year.

It was moved by D. Pelzer, seconded by P. Tyedmers: that Faculty Council accept the Faculty of Computer Science as satisfactory but with recommendations and request for follow-up within one year. The motion carried.

The two recommendations include a plan for the MHI program (signed off on by the Deans of FCS and Medicine), and submission of the best available data on scholarly activity, awards, and participation in student organizations.

FC15.16.40 Thesis Embargo

M. Lee welcomed Julia Wright to the meeting and invited her to present her proposal regarding thesis embargoes.

J. Wright advised that a significant amount of time that goes into turning a dissertation into a book, and it can take years from the time a book is submitted to a publisher for consideration to the time it is actually published. J. Wright noted that publishers are not interested in publishing books if the material is already available on-line for free. For this reason, J. Wright would like to see an option for students in “book” disciplines to request a seven-year embargo.

E. Denovan-Wright noted that the university’s policy is to disseminate scholarly work; however, there is currently an option for students to request a one-year embargo (usually for students working on patent or article submissions). The seven year embargo, if considered, would have to be a rare exception for a small number of students. J. Wright noted that there were other Faculties that may make similar embargo requests, such as Law and Management.

A discussion followed in which members noted that other disciplines working with industry partners have issues with theses research being released as well, but exceptions aren’t made for these scenarios beyond the one- to two-year embargo options. It was also noted that some funding agencies (such as NSERC) require all research sponsored by their grants to be published within a year. J. Wright noted that this isn’t the case for SSHRC-funded supervisors.

Members noted that a dispute policy would be required if the student and supervisor weren’t in agreement on the need for the seven-year embargo period.

M. Lee thanked J. Wright for attending. E. Denovan-Wright was asked to follow up with J. Wright, requesting that a policy proposal be formulated that could then be brought back to FGS Faculty

Council for consideration. Members noted that it would be helpful if J. Wright could indicate the number of requests she anticipates would be made for a seven-year embargo.

FC15.16.41 Appeals Discussion (M. Leonard)

M. Leonard reported that a new process for appeals is being established. Under the new process all Faculties will have their own procedures document.

Under the current process, any appeal that involves a graduate student ends up being heard by FGS. Under the new process, two questions will be considered when determining who will hear the appeal: (i) who made the decision that is being appealed; and (ii) where does the remedy lie. This will separate what should be heard by FGS and what should be heard by the home Faculty.

FGS will have a standing Appeals Committee with a Chair. The Appeals Committee will be a sub-committee of FGS Faculty Council. The Dean will no longer have the ability to overturn a decision of the Appeals Committee. Appellants will be able to appeal to Senate if they are not satisfied with the decision of the FGS Appeals Committee, or directly to Senate if appealing the decision of their home Faculty.

A brief discussion followed in which members raised concern over the Dean no longer being able to overturn a decision. M. Leonard noted that in a lot of cases the Dean would be found in a conflict of interest situation as the decisions being appealed were made by an Associate Dean in FGS.

It was moved by P. Bodorik, seconded by E. Denovan-Wright: that Faculty Council accept the new Appeal Process. The motion carried.

FC15.16.42 New Program Information Documents

This item was removed from the agenda.

FC15.16.43 Other Business

There was no other business.

FC15/16.44 Next meeting – Tuesday January 26, 2016, in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.