

**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 24, 2015, in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

**Present:** H. Ali-Hassan, W. Barker, S. Bearne, P. Bodorik, S. Boe, N. Daizy, M. Durier-Copp, E. Denovan-Wright, P. Ellis, L. Fitting, M. Gibson, D. Groulx, M. Hesam, D. Iron, J. Kozey, J. Michael Lee (Chair), M. Leonard, G. Loomer, R. Martin-Misener, R. Mullin, D. Patterson, D. Pelzer, B. Sabo, R. Stadnyk, S. Stone, S. Theriault (FGS), P. Tyedmers, T. Ulicki, S. Wells,

**Regrets:** J. Armstrong, D. Bhatia, C. Casey (FGS), S. Gadbois, K. Toughill,

**FC15/16.21 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

The Chair called the meeting to order.

**It was moved by J. Kozey, seconded by L. Fitting: to approve the Faculty Council agenda for November 24, 2015 as circulated. The motion carried.**

**FC15.16.22 Approval of the Minutes of previous Faculty Council meeting**

**It was moved by P. Bodorik, seconded by M. Gibson: to approve the minutes of October 27, 2015 as circulated. The motion carried.**

**FC15.16.23 Matters arising**

- a) **Additional Review Meetings** – M. Lee advised members that there is currently a backlog of departmental reviews that need to be dealt with by FGS Faculty Council. A special meeting has been scheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup>, and a second meeting will be scheduled in January just to deal with reviews.
- b) **Academic Terms Dates Principles** – M. Lee reported that Faculty Councils had been asked to share information with members regarding the recent changes to the academic dates effective 2016/2017.

“The Academic Term Dates Principles reflect an attempt to balance the priorities raised during consultations and were approved by Senate on April 13, 2015:

  - A stated goal of 12 instances of each week-day occurring each term (as opposed to a minimum total term days);
  - A fall term study break occurring during the week of Remembrance Day and the winter term study break occurring the week of Heritage Day in February; and
  - An earlier start in September, with classes beginning on the Tuesday after Labour Day (amended to accommodate the first and second amendments above); and

- A later start in January, with classes beginning on the second Monday after New Year's Day, with built-in exceptions for years in which the later start would push the first day of Winter term exams to an unreasonably late date.

The most significant practical implications of these amended principles are the requirement for in-lieu days at the end of each term – holding Monday classes on a Tuesday, for example - before exams begin (to make-up for lost days due to holidays) and a rescheduling of orientation days for certain programs. The amended Academic Schedule Principles are available online at

[http://www.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/university\\_secretariat/policy-repository/AcademicSchedulePrinciples.pdf](http://www.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/university_secretariat/policy-repository/AcademicSchedulePrinciples.pdf).

In particular, the following dates will impact all students:

First day of fall classes 2016 – September 6

Fall study break 2016 – November 7 - 11

First day of winter classes 2017 – January 9

Winter study break 2017 – February 20 – 24”

- c) **Ad-hoc Committee** –M. Lee advised that an ad hoc committee had been struck to look at the structure of FGS Faculty Council. The committee includes Ruth Martin-Misener, Josh Armstrong (DPS), Naznin Daizy (DAGS), and other Faculty Council members. The committee will conduct a survey to find out structures across the country and will report back to Faculty Council in the new year.

## **FC 15.16.24 Reports**

### **i) Dean (Marty Leonard)**

- a) **Postdoc Bargaining** –M. Leonard reported that collective bargaining will resume in December. The university has hired outside counsel as Jasmine Walsh is now Acting AVP, Human Resources.

### **ii) Associate Dean (Dieter Pelzer)**

- a) **Concept Paper for the Master of Science in Business** – D. Pelzer advised that the Rowe School of Business is planning to establish a research-based MSc program in Business to allow students to gain in-depth knowledge in particular business areas (Finance, Marketing, Managing People and Organizations, and Management Systems and Innovation). The proposed program will be a two-year, full time program with admissions in September. Students will be required to take six classes total in the first two terms, with the remainder of the program focussing on research.

A brief discussion followed in which members questioned how the fee structure for the program would be set, why the choice of MSc vs. MA, and whether the program would join in the FGS scholarship allocation. D. Pelzer advised students would pay full fees during the first year and continuing fees for the second year, the program would be able to join the FGS scholarship allocation, and its students could apply for the NSGS.

**It was moved by APCC: that Faculty Council approve and recommend to SAPRC the concept paper for the Master of Science in Business. The motion carried.**

- b) **Concept paper for the Master of Landscape Architecture** – D. Pelzer advised that this concept paper was developed in coordination with the Faculty of Agriculture's BTechLA program. The MLA will be designed to make best use of existing programs and resources in the Faculty of Architecture and Planning and the Faculty of Agriculture.

The MLA program proposal requires 2.5 additional tenure-track professorial appointments as well as 7 session appointments, and 9 TAs. Studio and learning space for the MLA program has been built into the new IDEA Building.

When asked why this couldn't fall under existing MArch program, D. Pelzer advised that it has different accreditation.

**It was moved by APCC: that Faculty Council approve and recommend to SAPRC the concept paper for the Master of Landscape Architecture. The motion carried. One member was opposed.**

- c) **APCC approval of concept papers** – D. Pelzer advised that in an effort to further streamline approval processes for concept papers, it is proposed that APCC, on behalf of Faculty Council, consider all concept papers and forward recommendations directly to SAPRC. Results would be reported to Faculty Council in the Associate Dean's report. The full program proposals for new programs would still go to FGS Faculty Council for review and approval.

**It was moved by L. Fitting, seconded by M. Durier-Copp: that APCC consider and recommend to SAPRC concept papers. One member abstained.**

iii) **Associate Dean (Eileen Denovan-Wright)**

- a) **Postdoc Research Day** – E. Denovan-Wright advised that FGS and the Dalhousie Postdoc Society are working on plans for a Research Day in April 2016. Plans are still in the early stages, as are fundraising efforts. A speaker has been invited, and the topic will be career counselling.

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

J. Armstrong was not present.

v) **DAGS (Naznin Daizy)**

- a) **Health & Wellness** – N. Daizy reported that other U-15 universities have made health and wellness of graduate students a priority. DAGS would like to see this made a priority at Dalhousie and will be forwarding this issue to the budget advisory committee.

**FC15/16.25 Department of German Review**

M. Lee reminded members that Faculty Council, at its meeting of October 27, had heard from Dr. Han-Gunther Schwarz, the Graduate Coordinator for the Department of German, Dr. Jure Gantar, the Acting Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and Dr. Michael Fournier, FGS Representative on the Internal Review Committee of the Department of German.

The main concern brought up in the review was that the department had only two FGS members appointed (one of whom was currently on sabbatical). The Acting Dean of FASS advised that there would be no new appointments made to the Department of German.

A discussion followed in which members discussed the options available. At present, there are two first-year and one second-year students registered in the Master of Arts program in German, with another German student being on a leave of absence. These students need to be accommodated to complete their programs in a timely fashion, and FGS will work with the Department to ensure that appropriate supervision and support is provided toward this goal.

Council expressed its support for the continuation of a viable graduate program in German: to encourage the intellectual life of the Department and FASS generally, as well as to maintain the active participation of graduate teaching assistants in the departmental offerings. It also acknowledged the extraordinary efforts of the faculty members in German to maintain the current graduate program despite a precipitous decline in regular faculty. Nonetheless, Council was deeply concerned about the current risk faced by the Department's graduate students with only two FGS members appointed (and only one being in-place at present while the other is on sabbatical), unfilled thesis committees, and other irregularities as presented in the program review.

**It was moved by W. Barker and seconded by P. Bodorik: that Faculty Council rate the Master of Arts program in German as unsatisfactory with a recommendation to Senate for suspension of admission. The motion carried.**

Council noted that it would recommend to Senate that admissions to graduate programs in German be reinstated only if an acceptable plan for the Master of Arts program to proceed in a sustainable fashion was approved by FGS Council within a two-year period.

#### **FC15/16.26 Committee – FGS Allocations**

M. Lee welcomed Ray Klein and L. Fitting to the meeting and invited them to outline their report reviewing the 2014 decision to reduce the first round allocation percentage applied to thesis programs from 80% to 50%. The percentage had been set at 80% for over two decades, and a 2006 report (appended to the committee's current report) provided an excellent explanation of the scholarship system.

The intention behind the reduction from 80% to 50% was to help small programs. The committee found, however, that under the 50% formula there was greater volatility in annual funding. The committee concluded that 80% was better than 50% as it minimizes volatility and enables departments to plan more effectively. Some stability was judged to be critical when programs are making admissions decisions.

The committee recommended that the formula be returned to 80%, that the allocation be adjusted as if the year of 50% never happened, and that a small portion of the budget be reserved for a Dean's discretionary fund.

The committee also recommended that more consultation should occur before any further changes are made to the system, and that any changes should be communicated to all graduate coordinators as soon as they are made. The committee also recommended a further in-depth review, similar to the one conducted in 2005-06.

A discussion followed in which the current allocation system and the points system was explained in greater detail. The committee stressed that they encourage further study, but the issue right now was to return the calculation to 80% before the next round of allocations (graduate coordinators would like to know the numbers for next year before the end of December). Members noted that a potential flaw in the modeled figures in the report was the use of a random number generator. They noted that success this year in recruitment will necessarily affect the recruitment numbers for the next year. E. Fitting agreed, but noted that, if a department's enrolment were declining, the allocation amount would decline under both the 50% and 80% calculations, but would decline faster under the 50% formula.

Council members thanked the committee for their work, and agreed that further examination of the allocation system was required.

**It was moved by D. Pelzer and seconded by J. Kozey: that Faculty Council endorse the report and its recommendations to the Dean of FGS for action. The motion carried.**

**FC15/16.27 Other Business**

There was no other business.

**FC15/16.28 Next meeting – Tuesday December 1, 2015 in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.**

The meeting adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

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J. Michael Lee, Chair

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S. Theriault, Recording Secretary