

**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 27, 2015 in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

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

Regrets: H. Ali-Hassan, D. Bhatia, S. Gadbois, M. Gibson, M. Hesam, R. Mullin, K. Toughill, P. Tyedmers,

FC15/16.13 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

The Chair called the meeting to order.

It was moved by M. Leonard, seconded by L. Fitting: to approve the Faculty Council agenda for October 27, 2015 as circulated. The motion carried.

FC15.16.14 Approval of the Minutes of previous Faculty Council meeting

It was moved by D. Groulx, seconded by S. Boe: to approve the minutes of September 22, 2015 as circulated. The motion carried.

FC15.16.15 Matters arising

a) Subcommittee to look at Faculty Council structure

M. Lee advised that there are currently two volunteers who have agreed to sit on the sub-committee to review of the structure of FGS Faculty Council. It was suggested that R. Martin-Misener and Richard Singer (outgoing Chair of Faculty Council) would have valuable input. The committee will look at other models across the country, get comments from the community, and look at what strategies should be employed. The committee will report back in early 2016. D. Patterson and W. Barker also offered to sit on the committee.

FC 15.16.16 Reports

i) Dean (Marty Leonard)

Recruitment – M. Leonard advised that a committee has been struck to review graduate recruitment. Each Faculty will be asked to have a representative. The committee will send each Faculty representative a survey, and will follow up with interviews. The committee will report its recommendations to Faculty Council.

ii) Associate Dean (Dieter Pelzer)

a. **Killam Predoctoral Regulations** – D. Pelzer advised that the regulations for the Killam Predoctoral Scholarship have been revised so that students no longer need to be accepted into a program at the time of scholarship nomination, but rather must have applied to the program.

b. **Certificate in Mental Health and Addictions** – D. Pelzer reported that at the Oct 13th meeting of APCC, a graduate certificate in Mental Health and Addictions was approved. This is a type C certificate (taken as a stand-alone exit credential).

c. **Major modification to the Master of Applied Computer Science** – D. Pelzer reported that at the Oct 13th meeting of APCC, the major modification to the Master of Applied Computer Science was approved and will be forwarded to SAPRC. The modification involves changing the current project based program into three streams; the project based stream, a co-op stream and an entrepreneurship placement. It was noted that internal assessments (IT, RO, Financial Services, Facilities Management) are not being received in a timely manner. In this instance the department requested the assessments in March 2015 and only IT replied to date.

d. **FGS Representative on Biology Review** – D. Pelzer advised that Ray Klein (Psychology and Neuroscience) and John Gosse (Earth Sciences) have agreed to act as the FGS Representatives on the Internal Review Committee for the Department of Biology.

It was moved by D. Patterson, seconded by P. Bodorik: to approve Ray Klein and John Gosse as the FGS Representatives on the Internal Review Committee for the Department of Biology. The motion carried.

e. **Curriculum Changes** – D. Pelzer advised that APCC is currently developing best practices/ guidelines for proposers of curriculum changes. Once completed the new form and best practices document will be sent to Faculty Council members.

iii) Associate Dean (Eileen Denovan-Wright)

a. **PhD Defences** – E. Denovan-Wright reported that 100 PhD defences took place between September 1, 2014 and August 31, 2015. Of these, 31 included remote participants. The majority of these defences were conducted with Adobe Connect, while some used just a phone connection. Of the remote participation, 18 cases were to accommodate external examiners, while the remainder were co-supervisors or readers.

b. **External Examiner Reports** – E. Denovan-Wright advised that FGS is no longer sending the External Examiner's report to the department in advance of the defence. The Defence Chair gives a copy of the report to the student and supervisor after the *in camera* session at the defence.

- c. **Dissertation Awards** – E. Denovan-Wright advised members that FGS would be sending out announcements early in 2016 regarding the two dissertation award competitions (CAGS/UMI and the Dalhousie Doctoral Thesis Award). The PhD defence Chair report no longer has a check box for indicating award-worthy dissertations. Departments will be asked to nominate the student from their department they feel is the most deserving.

iv) PDF Report (Josh Armstrong)

J. Armstrong advised that he had no new news to report.

v) DAGS (Naznin Daizy)

There were no DAGS representatives present.

FC15/16.17 Department of German Review

M. Lee welcomed Dr. Jure Gantar (Acting Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences), Dr. Michael Fournier (FGS Representative on the Internal Review Committee) and Dr. Hans-Gunther Schwarz (Graduate Coordinator, Department of German).

M. Fournier advised that the Department of German has made big changes since their last review. While the Internal Review Committee supports the importance of preserving the department's graduate program, they noted some challenges the department is facing. The major concern is the Faculty compliment in the department. There are currently only 2 faculty members, who are FGS members, (one of whom is on sabbatical). The department relies on adjunct appointments (appointments made possible because of good personal connections). In their report, the Internal Review Committee made recommendations for additional faculty appointments, the use of cross-listed course offerings and a revised structuring of the graduate program.

H-G. Schwarz agreed that the program is in jeopardy, and indicated that the problem has been caused by the University's failure to replace departed faculty members. It was noted that pressure is put on the department to offer "popular" courses, however at the graduate level the department must be internationally competitive.

J. Gantar advised that in the last few years FASS has lost 28 faculty and have only replaced five. German is the smallest FASS department to have a graduate program. FASS is unable to make a faculty appointment to German unless directed to do so by the VP Academic. FASS faculty have heavy teaching workloads (three courses per term), and in German faculty are teaching four courses per term.

Members questioned what "Plan B" is for the department as the current operation is not sustainable. H-G. Schwarz indicated that graduate students only take three courses so the program could be sustained with one faculty member, with the support of adjuncts. If the department were to lose one of its faculty members the program would be in trouble. It was noted that half of the students in the program come from Germany.

J. Gantar commented that the program needs five faculty to run the way it is set up. Faculty are currently teaching on voluntary overload, and the program is operating on a shoestring budget.

When asked what the plan would be to see current students through to completion if H-G Schwarz were unable to continue in the department, it was noted that adjuncts would see the current students through to completion. Members noted that adjuncts aren't able to supervise graduate students. H-G Schwarz noted that the German department has the same number of graduate students now as they had 20 years ago. It was noted that two students were accepted this year, and there are currently a total of six students enrolled.

Members questioned if it would be an option for the department to merge their graduate program with other language departments in FASS. H-G. Schwarz noted that other departments teach in English not German. It was also noted that there was a proposal by the former Dean of FASS to merge language departments. Merging could be a possibility, however other departments would have to be in agreement. A joint degree with another University may also be an option to explore.

M. Lee thanked Dr. Gantar, Fournier and Schwarz for attending.

In camera discussion followed, with the matter being tabled for conclusion at the November Faculty Council meeting.

FC15/16.18 Other Business

There was no other business.

FC15/16.19 Next meeting – Tuesday November 24, 2015 in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

P. Ellis put forward a motion to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

J. Michael Lee, Chair

S. Theriault, Recording Secretary