

**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 22, 2015 in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

**Present:** H. Ali-Hassan, J. Armstrong, S. Bearne, P. Bodorik, A. Bucci, N. Daizy, E. Denovan-Wright, P. Ellis, E. Fitting, M. Gibson, D. Groulx, M. Leonard, S. Kimber, R. Martin-Misener, N. Morgunov, P. O'Brien, D. Patterson, D. Pelzer, S. Ponomarenko, M. Rahman, N. Schepp, M. Scott (FGS), R. Singer (Chair), R. Stadnyk, S. Stone, S. Theriault (Secretary), P. Tyedmers

**Regrets:** W. Barker, S. Gadbois, J. Kozey, R. Mullin, B. Sabo, K. Toughill

**FC15/16.01 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

The Chair called the meeting to order.

**It was moved by E. Fitting, seconded by M. Durier-Copp: to approve the Faculty Council agenda for September 22, 2015 as circulated. The motion carried.**

**FC15.16.02 Approval of the Minutes of previous Faculty Council meeting**

**It was moved by P. Ellis, seconded by S. Stone: to approve the minutes of June 23, 2015 as circulated. The motion carried.**

**FC15.16.03 Matters arising from the minutes**

- a) E-vote results – Academic Appeals committee extensions

Update on members approval extending R. Singer and D. Tamlyn's terms on the Academic Appeals committee from June 30, 2015 to December 31, 2015

Update on members approval for A. Fenenty's term on the reserve Appeals Committee being extended to December 31, 2015.

- b) E-vote results - MPHEC Conditional Approvals (MBA, MPS, Med Science)

M. Lee started the discussion with an overview of MPHEC, the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, with an explanation of their general function as the body that provides end stage sign-off for the approval of new programs at universities within the Maritimes.

During the summer MPHEC had approved three new programs (conditionally) as noted above; Masters Business Administration - Financial Services Leadership Stream, Master of Planning Studies and a Masters in Medical Science. There was some emphasis that this was not normal practice for MPHEC to provide conditional approvals.

- c) E-vote results: Sarah Wells newly appointed Faculty Council representative (Biomedical Engineering) and welcome.

#### **FC15.16.04 Introduction of New Faculty Members**

M. Lee to welcome the following new members who started their term on Faculty Council in July 2015:

Shaun Boe (Physiotherapy)

David Iron (Math & Stats)

Geoff Loomer (Law)

Brenda Sabo (Nursing)

Martine Durier-Copp (Public Administration)

Theresa Ulicki (International Development Studies)

Kelly Toughill (Journalism)

Sarah Wells (Biomedical Engineering)

#### **FC 15.16.05 Approval of Chris Elson as FGS Representative on Classics Department Review**

M. Lee advised that Chris Elson, French Department, was the FGS representative chosen to complete and internal review of the Department of Classics. There was no further discussion.

**It was moved by E. Fitting and seconded by M. Gibson: that the Faculty Council approve Chris Elson as FGS representative for the review of the Classics Department.**

#### **FC 15.16.06 APCC Name Change and Amendments to Terms of Reference**

M. Lee led discussion by giving some background information on APCC, formerly known as the Academic Planning and Curriculum Committee, and their function, working in parallel to Faculty Council.

In order to streamline processes and eliminate duplication of workflow, there was a suggestion to regulate APCC by both name change to the Academic Programs and Curriculum Committee along with changes made to the Terms of Reference.

D. Pelzer discussed in detail APCC's previous function and responsibilities and how the duplication of work and information sharing led to significant delays in getting information across to Faculty Council as well to other committees for approval of such items as the major and minor modifications of programs etc. D. Pelzer explained that what is being recommended is that APCC, as per guidelines outlined by MPHEC, would now handle all major and minor modifications of programs and would therefore make recommendations directly to SAPRC, taking out Faculty Council's requirement in the

signing off of said recommendations etc. APCC will therefore act as a subcommittee of Faculty Council.

M. Lee also noted that D. Pelzer, as chair of the APCC, will update on relevant matters relating to programs during his report to Faculty Council.

M. Lee referenced the chart representing the flow of operation and responsibilities of the different committees and also discussed who should now sit on the APCC, which will be a representative of each of the different faculties.

M. Lee welcomed any comments.

M. Durier-Copp welcomed the streamlining of the committee and changes.

Question by P. Bodorik: How do departments know where to start with regard to proposals? What are the guidelines?

D. Pelzer noted that minor modifications are cumulative, and more than one would trigger an investigation by MPHEC.

**It was moved by P. Bodorik and seconded by M. Gibson: that the Faculty Council approve the name change of the APCC and the amendments to the Terms of Reference.**

## **FC 15.16.07 Reports**

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

M. Leonard noted that she was taking charge of forming a committee that specifically looked at student recruitment to look at what barriers departments were facing with regard to this topic. She will also be going to Deans to look for faculty representatives to participate on said committee.

M. Leonard mentioned post doc registration began Sept 9th, 2015 and will occur again in November. She noted that it could take approximately 6 months to negotiate contract.

M. Leonard also mentioned that FGS purchased a license for a free online group of courses, 18 in total, called *mygradskills*, available for all grad students. M. Leonard asked C. Casey to provide link which is as follows: If you wish to access the modules go to [www.mygradskills.ca](http://www.mygradskills.ca) and sign up using your dal.ca email address.

Some discussion about forming a working group from Faculty Council, and was looking for volunteers from FC. If you'd like to participate in this working group you are to contact M. Lee before next Faculty Council in October so that he can provide an update.

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

D. Pelzer discussed the current proposal for the new Master of Science in Nursing program, as well as the major modification to the Master of Nursing, both addressed during the September meeting of the APCC. Both items are discussed with detail and questions under items FC 15/16.09 and FC15/16.10 respectively.

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

E. Denovan-Wright is continuing to meet with Post Docs monthly. She mentioned that they were looking to schedule a 'Research Day', date to be confirmed.

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

J. Armstrong noted that Research Day mentioned by E. Denovan-Wright was usually held in the fall (September), but that this year would take place in April. Date tbc as noted above.

**v) DAGS (Naznin Daizy)**

GU conference: president, VP academic and VP external attended the GU15 conference. This time the focus was on issues of grad students for federal election, minimum guaranteed funding and international differential fees, supervision policies, graduate student space

Orientation week: BBQ, pizza social, musical night and boat cruise party to make the new grad students comfortable on campus. As well as to make them familiar with their societies

Along with DSU, DAGS worked for responding to press on Nova Scotia government to cancel its decision to cut eight internships for PhD students in Psychology. The Nova Scotia Health Authority and the IWK will continue with the psychology intern program for next year.

Grad House is opened again after 4 months of enclosure on September 9, 2015. We are still on the negotiation phase with the VPFO of University Administration on Grad house rent and lease.

**FC 15.16.08 Department of Philosophy Review (invite Duncan MacIntosh (Chair), Letitia Meynell (Grad Coordinator), and Peter Tyedmers (Internal Review Committee) Michael Jure Gantar invited for 11:45am**

P. Tyedmers summarised the review by saying that the Department of Philosophy was very successful, with a high calibre of student graduating from the program, but P. Tyedmers did note that the review happened quite some time ago. A potential issue noted in the external review was that there was a limited number of graduate programs and a reduction in the number of full time faculty (7.5). Another issue was the ability to populate graduate committees, with the continued challenge of having future committees with a robust representation of people from the department.

D. MacIntosh added that P. Tyedmer's comments were fair, and reiterated the fact that the department had a shrinking complement, and that the question was whether they were in crisis yet? But that they were managing due to the connection with Kings and the cross listings with the Classics Department.

E. Fitting asked about funding to the programs, and if Philosophy had the same funding model as the Faculty of Arts and Social Science?

P. Tyedmers discussed funding figures from both 2006-2008 (77k) and 2011-2013 (65k), which evidenced the decline in funding.

P. Bodorik asked about funding for graduate students, and if it was required that they have funding before acceptance in to their programs.

D. MacIntosh replied by stating that they normally only accept students with funding, other than the rare exception, to which is stated one student in the previous academic year was accepted without funding, but went onto secure funding before the study period.

D. Groulx asked about the funding formula as noted above, and D. MacIntosh answered stating that this was based on the same formula of a points system made up of student numbers and GPAs, but also whether that student was a doctoral student or studying post doc. M. Leonard also noted that there was a working group looking at the allocation formula. It used to be 80% carry forward, now 50% carry forward.

**It was moved by P. Tyedmers and seconded by D. Pelzer: that the Faculty Council accept the review of the Department of Philosophy as: Satisfactory with no changes required.**

#### **FC15/16.09                      Program Proposal - Master of Science in Nursing (D. Pelzer)**

D. Pelzer discussed in summary the current proposal for the Master of Science in Nursing. The current program, as mentioned in M. MacDonald's address to APCC in September, has previously had three streams: (i) thesis, (ii) health policy practicum, and (iii) nurse practitioner. The present proposal seeks to remove the thesis stream from this degree program's offerings and to replace it with a stand-alone thesis-based Master of Science in Nursing program. As well, the health policy practicum stream would become a course-based professional stream, perhaps eventually being available as a web-based offering.

Following recommendations for improved governance structure and research culture, the School developed and implemented a series of changes to these ends in 2011–2013. In parallel, the Faculty of Graduate Studies appointed an external advisory committee to assist the School in responding to the recommendations of the graduate program.

D. Pelzer noted that the MScN program is intended to attract a select group of undergraduate nursing students who are motivated to pursue careers in research, and especially those who may proceed to doctoral studies.

He also noted that the review of the current proposal at APCC concluded that no new resources, including faculty member participation, will be required to initiate the MScN under a proposed initial intake of 5 students per year, increasing to perhaps 15 students per year after 5 years of operation.

S. Stone asked about the 'fast track' option to the PHD, and exactly what criteria students would need to meet to be accepted in to the program.

D. Pelzer noted that there will be certain criteria for students to meet in order to be considered candidates for the program, including publications, external funding etc., but that this criteria was not written in stone and that the departments should use some discretion, and that Nursing has endowments, so internal funding is also available.

**It was moved by APCC and seconded by P. Bodorik: that Faculty Council recommend that the Program Proposal for the Master of Science in Nursing proceed to SAPRC for consideration. The motion carried.**

#### **FC15/16.10                    Major Modification - Master of Nursing (D. Pelzer)**

D. Pelzer discussed in summary the background for the major modification to the Master of Nursing program including the MN program seeks to meet the need for renewal in clinical nursing leadership. The present population of nursing personnel, in Nova Scotia and beyond, is tilted toward middle age. The generation who will replace the present nurse leaders will benefit from the proposed training and health policy, and the extension of this program to delocalized, web-based instruction will make this training available to a larger cadre of qualified candidates.

D. Pelzer also noted that the MN nurse practitioner stream is an externally accredited program and therefore it is important that it remain unchanged at present.

M. Durier-Copp asked about the move to online study of a Master of Nursing, and D. Pelzer said it was moving that way.

**It was moved by APCC and seconded by P. Bodorik: that Faculty Council approve the proposal for the major modification to the Master of Nursing. The proposal will be forwarded to SAPRC for consideration. The motion carried.**

#### **FC15/16.11    Other Business**

There was no other business to report.

**FC15/16.12   Next meeting – Tuesday October 27, 2015 The Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.**

The meeting adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

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J. Michael Lee, Chair

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C. Casey, Recording Secretary