

**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 22, 2016, in Room 224, Student Union Building.

**Present:** H. Ali-Hassan, J. Blustein, S. Boe, T. Currie, E. Denovan-Wright, M. Durier-Copp, S. Gadbois, P. Gardiner Barber, D. Groulx, D. Iron, B. Johnston, J. Kozey, B. Karten, J. M. Lee (Chair), M. Leonard, G. Loomer, R. Martin-Misener (Vice Chair), H. MacFadyen, D. Pelzer, L. Robinson, B. Sabo, S. Theriault (Acting Secretary), P. Tyedmers, S. Wells, J. Wilson

**Regrets:** E. Joubert, M. Kabbara, A. Kane, A. Kirk (Secretary), R. Mullin, H. Niu, E. Reeve, S. Stone

**FC16.17.20 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

M. Lee advised that there would be a slight change to the agenda as reports would not be given at this meeting.

**It was moved by M. Durier-Copp seconded by D. Iron: to approve the Faculty Council agenda for November 22, 2016 as modified. The motion carried.**

**FC16.17.21 Approval of the Minutes of previous Faculty Council meeting**

J. Blustein requested the spelling of his name be corrected in the October 25, 2016 minutes.

**It was moved by S. Boe seconded by J. Kozey: to approve the minutes from October 25, 2016 with corrections. The motion carried.**

**FC 16.17.22 Matters Arising**

a) **German review update (recommendation from SAPRC)** – M. Lee advised that, at the beginning of 2016, SAPRC had set aside FGS Faculty Council's recommendation to suspend admission to the MA program in German. At that time, SAPRC required the Department of German to report back to FGS Faculty Council on progress relating to the four core issues, with FGS Faculty Council then making a recommendation to SAPRC. The submitted report indicated that the department was not successful in addressing all the concerns. Following the decision taken at the October 2016 Faculty Council meeting, a recommendation was made to SAPRC to suspend admissions, with termination to follow after two years. During those two years, if the Dean of FASS were able to present an acceptable plan to FGS Faculty Council for a sustainable MA program in German under an altered administrative structure, then Faculty Council would revisit the recommendation. SAPRC has approved this recommendation.

### **FC16.17.23 Reports**

Reports were not given at this meeting.

### **FC 16.17.24 Discussion: Faculty Council structure/governance (R. Martin Misener)**

By way of introduction, M. Lee reminded Faculty Council that the most recent Senate review of the Faculty of Graduate Studies had made suggestions about how Faculty Council should be changed. The Dean of FGS had taken those specific recommendations under advisement; however, she handed over to Faculty Council the job of considering and recommending its future structure and activities. To that end, a sub-committee of Council was struck last year, headed by Vice-Chair Ruth Martin Misener and tasked with the job of looking at how equivalent bodies are constituted and run at other Universities across the country. They were to then return to report to Council on recommended changes in light of that information. M. Lee invited R. Martin-Misener to present the sub-committee's report on options for Faculty Council governance structures.

R. Martin-Misener thanked S. Wells, D. Groulx and D. Patterson for their help on the sub-committee, and presented the report summary. She noted that the review of Faculty Council structure was prompted by comments from both the Internal Review Committee and the External Reviewers during the 2014-15 Senate Review of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. The sub-committee compared FGS Faculty Council structure to that of eight comparator Canadian universities.

Discussion followed. Some members questioned what issues any the structural revision might be intended to fix. R. Martin-Misener advised that the feedback from across the university during FGS's 2014-15 review included concerns over communication from FGS Faculty Council to the unit level, and so this was at least one primary goal.

There was consensus from members that the Reviewer suggestion to have the current structure of Faculty Council replaced by a council of all program graduate coordinators was not supported.

It was noted that many Faculties have a graduate council (FASS, CS, Engineering). Members thought it would be beneficial for either (i) the chair of a Faculty's graduate council or (ii) an Associate Dean of Research who was empowered to deal with graduate studies matters to have membership on FGS Faculty Council (in addition to other elected members). It was also suggested that, while all Faculties and inter-Faculty programs needed representation, some form of proportional representation might be useful. As well, the onus was to be put on Faculties themselves to ensure that enough—and appropriate—nominations from their Faculty were put forward.

There was also consensus that more standing sub-committees of FGS Faculty Council should be formed. These subcommittees would consider issues relevant to their mandates and bring appropriate motions to Council, thereby allowing more time for higher level issues to be discussed at Faculty Council meetings. As well, greater sub-committee activity would increase the sense of involvement and purpose of members in the business of Faculty Council. Suggested sub-committees included the existing Academic Planning and Program Committee and Appeals Committee, along with new sub-committees such as Policy, Scholarships and Nominating Committees. D. Pelzer cautioned that finding membership for the current APCC sub-committee has proven to be a challenge. Members suggested that an option would be to have a basic expectation that every member of Faculty Council would serve on at least one sub-committee.

D. Pelzer suggested the option of inviting those directly impacted by critical policy issues to attend Council meetings as non-voting observers when relevant agenda items were being discussed. It was also suggested that Faculty Council agendas include greater detail, including the motions which were being brought forward by sub-committees via their chairs.

M. Lee extended the sincere thanks of Faculty Council to R. Martin-Misener and her sub-committee for their work.

**FC 16.17.25 Other Business**

There was no other business.

**FC 16.17.26 Next meeting –Tuesday December 13, 2016 in the Lord Dalhousie Room.**

The meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

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J. Michael Lee, Chair

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S. Theriault, Acting Recording Secretary