

**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 27, 2016, in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

Present: H. Ali-Hassan, J. Bluestein, S. Boe, K. Corscadden, A. Kirk (Secretary), T. Currie, E. Denovan-Wright, M. Durier-Copp, S. Gadbois, P. Gardiner Barber, D. Groulx, D. Iron, B. Johnston, E. Joubert, J. Kozey, A. Kane, B. Karten, J. M. Lee (Chair), M. Leonard, R. Martin-Misener (Vice Chair), H. MacFadyen, R. Mullin, D. Pelzer, E. Reeve, L. Robinson, B. Sabo, S. Stone, S. Theriault (FGS), P. Tyedmers, S. Wells, J. Wilson,

Regrets: T. Currie, J. Kozey, G. Loomer, B. Sabo

FC16/17.01 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

The Chair called the meeting to order.

It was moved by J. Blustein seconded by D. Pelzer to approve the Faculty Council agenda for September 27, 2016 as circulated. The motion carried.

FC16.17.02 Welcome to New Members

M. Lee welcomed the following new members and encouraged them, and all members of faculty council, to disseminate the information from faculty council meetings to home departments. New members included:

Tim Currie (Journalism)
Jamie Bluestein (Computer Science)
Kenneth Corscadden (Agriculture)
Estelle Joubert (Music)
Brent Johnston (Microbiology & Immunology)
Barbara Karten (Biochemistry & Molecular Biology)
Pauline Gardiner Barber (Sociology and Social Anthropology)
Heather MacFadyen (Library Representative)
Lynne Robinson (ID PhD)
Moe Kabbara (DAGS)
Emily Reeve (DPS)
Alice Kane (DPS – non-voting)

FC 16.17.03 Matters Arising

- a) E-vote results – M. Lee reported that the following items were approved by e-vote since the April meeting:
 - January 26, 2016 minutes approved
 - FGS Prize Panel approved
 - Microbiology Search /Survey rated satisfactory (no changes required)
 - Nominations to FC and standing committees:
 - NSGS: Nikhil Thomas
 - Academic Appeals Committee: M. Gibson, D. Wranik, L. Spiteri and L. Hunt (DAGS)
 - FGS Faculty Council: J. Wilson
 - Killam Postdoc: Morgan Langille
 - April 26, 2016 minutes approved
- b) Earth Sciences Review Update - M. Lee reported that the Earth Sciences Program Review Update was heard by FGS Faculty Council in November 2014. The update was accepted on condition that a completed handbook be submitted to FGS Faculty Council within 12 months. A 45-page handbook has been received. This review is concluded.
- c) Physics and Atmospheric Science Review Update - M. Lee reported that the review of the department of Physics and Atmospheric Science was heard by FGS Faculty Council in January 2016. The department was rated satisfactory, but with a recommendation that a job description be developed for the Graduate Coordinator position, outlining the appropriate term for the appointment. The department now has a graduate coordinator committed for a three-year term. This review is concluded.

FC16.17.04 Reports

i) Dean (Marty Leonard)

- a) Postdoc unionization Update - M. Leonard reported that the first collective agreement for Dalhousie Postdocs was signed over the summer, and the experience was amicable. E. Reeve also commented that it was a pleasant experience.
K. Corscadden inquired about the process and to which union postdocs belong. M. Leonard clarified that contracts/hiring go through Human Resources now (but those that come on fellowships are not part of the union), FGS' role is to focus on outreach and support. She added that the unionized PDFs are members of PSAC.
- b) 3MT – M. Leonard advised that, for the University's 200th anniversary, the FGS project will be to supersize the 3-Minute Thesis competition. Funding has been received (25k) and planning has already begun.
- c) Professional Development – M. Leonard asked members to remind graduate students and postdocs in their departments about the professional development opportunities available through MyGradSkills, and various workshops. All students are encouraged to take the Research Ethics module and Avoiding Plagerism module on MyGradSkills.
(<https://www.dal.ca/dept/clt/services/TAEP/mygradskills.html>)

ii) Associate Dean (Dieter Pelzer)

- a) NSGS – D. Pelzer advised that an additional competition was added. The competition was designed to fund graduate students during later years of study when they can't readily get other funding. This additional competition will be held regularly, however the amount for future years is uncertain because the funding comes from carry forward, and therefore there will be some fluctuation. These awards are ideal for PhD students in their 4th and 5th years who are not eligible for other funding.
- b) Banting Fellowship – D. Pelzer advised that Dalhousie submitted eight nominations; 3 to CIHR and 5 to SSHRC—but none to NSERC.
- c) Vanier CGS – This competition is approaching, and is very competitive. D. Pelzer reminded members that extensive preparation is key. While Banting doesn't focus as much on transcripts, Vanier does, along with consideration of publications and leadership/extra-curriculars. Since Vanier's inception in 2009, nominations from Dalhousie have been low. However, last year there were 9 nominations and 5 awards received.
- d) MA in German Update - M. Lee provided background of review for new members. Faculty Council heard the Review of the Department of German at the October 2015 meeting. At the November 2015 meeting Faculty Council rated the program as unsatisfactory with a recommendation to Senate to suspend admissions to the MA program. After consideration of the FGS recommendation and hearing further arguments, Senate SAPRC reopened admissions for that year only with the understanding that four conditions needed to be met in order for admissions to continue. The Department of German must: 1) strive to make cross-appointments which would ensure personnel for graduate student supervisory committees, 2) admit one student at a time, with FGS consultation on supervisory committee composition, 3) establish formal agreement(s) with German universities to reinforce program stability and clarify admissions process, and 4) merge the department with other small departments within Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences to increase supervisory capacity and sustainability. Out of four conditions, the first has been met, the second partially met, and the last two have not been met. The update from German was due this month, but they have been given a one-month extension. This item will be brought back to FGS Faculty Council at the October meeting and a tough decision regarding the future of the program will have to be made. D. Pelzer added that he met with Frank Harvey (Dean, FASS) who advised that work on these items had stalled.

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

- a) Thesis Submissions – E. Denovan-Wright noted that it was a very busy summer for thesis submissions and PhD Defences. The Defence Chair Panel was thanked for their hard work. A call will be made to try to recruit more faculty members to the Defence Chair Panel. FGS has been monitoring remote participation in PhD examinations. Faculty Council had anticipated that most remote participants would be External Examiners, but this has not been the case. With 34 defences so far this year (out of 80 total) having a remote participant, 12 were External Examiners and the rest were internal committee members. There is a cost associated with remote participation that is not budgeted for internal committee members. A brief will be prepared with more information for discussion.
B. Karten pointed out the remote participation requirements for DMNB students and the need for consideration as policy is refined.
- b) PDF Research Day – E. Denovan-Wright reported that postdocs are excited for this event that promises to highlight postdocs across the campus.

- c) Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Professional Development - The 3MT competition is a great professional development opportunity, and now FGS is co-sponsoring more offerings to help students prepare. ESL has arranged one of their free Fall drop-in workshops to be 3MT-focused (September 28th) as well as a three-part course that will include a certification for ESL students to improve oral communication skills (October).

In the winter term, the Professional Research & Education Program (PREP, housed in the Faculty of Medicine) will co-organize a lay-summary writing workshop as well as an interactive 3MT preparation workshop.

FGS will also be launching “mini-3MT” packages that can be used by departments/faculties to run their own version of the competition. These materials will be sent out within the next two weeks. P. Tyedmers commented that his unit (SRES) would be interested in piloting this, possibly in January.

iv) **PDF Report**

E. Reeve reported that Postdoctoral Fellows Research Day is October 21st in the University Club (Great Hall). They have excellent financial support and enthusiasm from faculty. There has been a great response from Faculties re: financial support. The entire event is free for postdocs and includes lunch. There will be poster and 3MT-style presentations, a resource fair, and early-career faculty making presentations. The event is also open to senior PhD students and faculty.

v) **DAGS**

There was no DAGS representative present to give a report.

FC 16.17.05 Faculty of Law Review (G. Loomer)

M. Lee advised that the review of the Faculty of Law graduate programs was heard by Faculty Council in December 2015. At that meeting it was concluded that Law should be given six months to sort out certain issues, particularly around tuition costs, and then report back to FGS.

M. Lee welcomed G. Loomer to the meeting and invited him to provide an update. G. Loomer noted that he is a member of FGS Faculty Council, and due to his conflict of interest, opted to only attend the meeting today to report on the review; that is, he would not remain for the vote to rate the review.

There was a lengthy discussion on tuition costs as a barrier to enrolment, with comparator universities being Queen's, University of Victoria and University of Calgary. It was noted that admission numbers from 2006 to 2012 have been declining, but are now up slightly (under existing tuition costs). The Faculty of Law now has a half-time administrative staff position, and the graduate student space in the Law library has been improved. The Faculty of Law's Associate Dean position is now mandated to focus efforts on active recruitment.

M. Lee thanked G. Loomer for attending.

A discussion followed in which M. Lee reminded council of the four options for rating the review. D. Pelzer pointed out that recent enrolment is indeed up, despite commentary around tuition cost.

E. Denovan-Wright commented that Faculty Council's role is to determine if the program is viable, not if it's affordable.

It was moved by D. Pelzer and seconded by D. Groulx that Faculty Council accept the Faculty of Law Review as satisfactory but with a request for follow-up in one year on enrolment, recruitment and tuition costs. The motion carried.

FC 16.17.06 ID PhD Review Update (L. Robinson)

M. Lee began discussion by reminding faculty council that the IDPhD Program Review was heard by FGS Faculty Council in February 2015. The program was rating as being Satisfactory, but with a request for an update on progress. The main issues arising from the review involved funding and organization. M. Lee invited L. Robinson to provide an update.

L. Robinson pointed out the issues arising from the 2014 review were mostly around sense of identity and financial issues. Regarding financial issues, the IDPhD budget comes from FGS, and the Provost recently made a modest contribution to the budget in the amount of 25k. Students have to come in with two years of funding before being accepted into the program. Regarding student sense of identity, this is linked to governance. L. Robinson has been offered a five-year position as program Director, and she now has a dedicated space in the Killam Grad Pad. There was also an orientation session in September that was well-received. It is felt that more needs to be done to help new faculty working with IDPhD students, and more recognition needs to be given to supervisors in the program. Also in terms of identity, IDPhD students used to have access to more course offerings. She is consulting with the graduate society for ideas on how to improve this. L. Robinson is keen on the 3MT and thinks that it will be great for IDPhD students.

D. Groulx sought confirmation that the largest financial aspect of running the IDPhD program is salary for director and graduate secretary. M. Leonard confirmed this, and pointed out that the duties of the assigned secretary are divided as 65% IDPhD support and 35% FGS support.

D. Pelzer commented on the history of the size of the program. At one time it was as large as 95 students, but admission requirements were not stringent. Many students were self-funded. The program has been downsized under more stringent academic standards for admission. Extramural scholarship support has been substantially improved; however, about half of the students are still self-funded. It does follow that reduction in program enrolment translates into reduced ERBA support.

No motion was required after the previous Satisfactory rating, so this review is now concluded.

FC 16.17.07 Membership Changes (M. Leonard)

Due to time constraints this agenda item was deferred to a later meeting.

FC 16.17.08 Other Business

a) Schedule for 2016-17 meetings – M. Lee advised that a hard copy of the meeting schedule was available at the front of the room.

b) APCC Membership - D. Pelzer advised that there are three vacancies, plus one DAGS representative vacancy on this committee. Current members include H. Ali-Hassan, S. Stone, P. Tyedmers, M. Lee, H. MacFadyen, and T. Currie. Anyone interested in joining APCC is asked to contact D. Pelzer.

c) M. Lee was approved as the FGS representative on the Internal Review Committee for the School of Performing Arts, and the internal review committee for the Journalism program was approved.

- M. Lee advised that the current FGS Governance Manual regulations call for FGS Faculty Council to approve FGS representatives on Internal Review Committees. It is proposed that the manual be revised to allow this approval to be done on behalf of FGS Faculty Council by the FGS Dean's office.

It was moved by M. Lee and seconded by E. Denovan-Wright that Faculty Council permit the Dean of Graduate Studies or delegate to approve, on its behalf, members of Graduate Studies program review committees and Graduate Studies representatives to unit review committees as required.

M. Lee noted this change to is to be made in the governance manual as well on next revision.

e) Meeting location – M. Lee noted that, after the October meeting, the Lord Dalhousie Room will not be available. Therefore, most meetings will be held in University Hall, MacDonald Building. There are, however, a few dates where University Hall is not available.

f) Thanks to Outgoing Members – M. Lee thanked Kelly Toughill, Theresa Ulicki, Elizabeth Fitting, Stephen Bearne, Peter Bodorik, Mark Gibson, Dian Patterson, Robin Stadnyk, Bill Barker and Patrick Ellis for their service on FGS Faculty Council.

FC 16.17.09 Next meeting –Tuesday October 25, 2016 in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

J. Michael Lee, Chair

A. Kirk, Recording Secretary