

**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, April 26, 2016, in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

Present: H. Ali-Hassan, J. Armstrong, S. Bearne, S. Boe, E. Denovan-Wright, D. Groulx, P. Ellis, D. Iron, M. Leonard, G. Loomer, R. Martin-Misener (Vice Chair), S. Theriault (FGS), S. Wells, E. Reeve, A. Kane

Regrets: W. Barker, Bhatia, P. Bodorik, C. Casey (FGS), N. Daizy, M. Durier-Copp, S. Gadbois, M. Gibson, L. Fitting, M. Hafezi, J. Kozey, J. Michael Lee (Chair), R. Mullin, D. Patterson, D. Pelzer, B. Sabo, R. Stadnyk, S. Stone, K. Toughill, P. Tyedmers, T. Ulicki

FC15/16.53 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

R. Martin-Misener called the meeting to order and served as Chair during M. Lee's absence.

As quorum was not reached, it was decided by general agreement to approve the agenda, and hear all items. Items requiring a vote will be decided by an e-vote at a later date.

FC15.16.54 Approval of the Minutes of previous Faculty Council meeting

The minutes from January 26, 2016 were not distributed. The minutes will be circulated for an e-vote.

FC15.16.55 Matters Arising

R. Martin-Misener advised that the FGS Full Faculty Meeting will be held on May 24th from 10am to 11am. The meeting location will be announced at a later date.

R. Martin-Misener advised that this will be the last meeting for Josh Armstrong. J. Armstrong was thanked for his contributions and was presented with an FGS mug as a token of appreciation. Emily Reeve and Alice Kane were introduced as the two new co-presidents of the Dalhousie Postdoctoral Fellow Society (DPS), and were welcomed to the meeting.

FC15.16.56 Reports

i) Dean (Marty Leonard)

a) APCC approvals: On behalf of D. Pelzer, M. Leonard announced the following approvals by APCC:

- Minor Modification - PhD in Oceanography – reduce required minimum required courses from 18 to 12 cr hrs, and min number of core courses from 6 to 9 cr hrs (approved by APCC)
- Minor Modification - MSc in Oceanography - reduce required minimum required courses from 15 to 9 cr hrs, and min number of core courses from 9 to 6 cr hrs (approved by APCC)
- Minor Modification - PhD in Political Science - reduce required classes from 18 cr hrs to 12 cr hrs, included in required class will be a 3 cr hr research seminar (approved by APCC)
- Minor Modification - PhD in Clinical Psychology - divide PSYO 6107.03 into 6107.03 and 6108.03, add PSYO 6214.03, reduce by 2 required electives, and choice between 6301 or 6302 (approved by APCC)
- Name Change - MSc and PhD in Psychology - change degree name to MSc/PhD in Psychology and Neuroscience (approved by APCC and recommended to SAPRC)
- MSc Psychiatry approved by MPHEC

- b) **FGS Relocation** – M. Leonard advised that FGS would be temporarily relocated to O'Brien Hall due to the ongoing restoration work in the Henry Hicks Building. The office will move on May 2nd and anticipates returning then end of August. FGS will maintain a drop box in room 314 of the Henry Hicks Building, which will be picked up once a day.

ii) Associate Dean (Dieter Pelzer)

Not in attendance.

iii) Associate Dean (Eileen Denovan-Wright)

- a) **Thesis Submissions** - E. Denovan-Wright noted that the next thesis submission deadline is August 26th (for students planning to convocate in October 2016). She also noted that requests for approval of External Examiners and approval of remote participation at PhD defences are tending to come in early. FGS appreciates departments' assistance in providing good lead time.
- b) **3 Minute Thesis** – E. Denovan-Wright advised that ten 3MT heats were held on March 9th. Close to 100 students registered for this event, with about 80 actually participating. Ten finalists competed on the evening of March 10th. First place went to Ubong Peters (Biomedical Engineering) who will be competing at the regional event hosted by Memorial University of Newfoundland on April 26th. The second place winner was Josh Latka (Engineering Mathematics). Third place went to Karen Filbee-Dexter (Biology) and the People's Choice winner was Kristina Boerder (Biology). M. Leonard advised that FGS plans to organize a super-sized 3MT event as part of Dalhousie's 200th anniversary. E. Denovan-Wright advised that a professional development series will be offered throughout the year that is aimed towards preparing 3MT talks, development of lay summaries and other communication tools.
- c) **PDF Research Day** – E. Denovan- Wright advised that plans are underway for a PDF Research Day in the Fall.

iv) PDF Report (Josh Armstrong)

- a) **New DPS Executive** – J. Armstrong advised that a new executive is in place for DPS. Emilie Reeve and Alice Kane will serve as co-presidents.

v) DAGS (Naznin Daizy)

Not in attendance.

FC 15.16.57 Microbiology Search/Survey

R. Martin-Misener welcomed Dr. Andrew Makrigiannis (Head, Microbiology & Immunology) and Dr. Brent Johnston (Graduate Coordinator, Microbiology & Immunology) and invited them to provide an update on their Search/Survey recommendations in relation to their graduate program.

Dr. Johnston reported that most of the recommendations relating to the graduate program have already been addressed. The department has revised its graduate seminar series to include more external speakers. The department brings in two named speakers a year and also invites PhD External Examiners to give talks while they are in town for defences.

Other concerns raised in the review included:

- Student Societies – there is a Faculty of Medicine student society, as well as a Microbiology and Immunology society that includes undergraduate and graduate students. There is a graduate student in the VP position for the Microbiology society.
- Teaching/ mentoring – there are limited TA positions in Microbiology, however some students TA in Pharmacology and Nursing departments. Most graduate students mentor undergrads during the summer term.
- Postdoctoral Fellows – Many standing committees in the department now have PDF representation. PDFs are also invited to seminars and holiday functions.
- Annual Research Day – students have many opportunities to present at other research days (i.e., Faculty of Medicine Research Day, Paediatrics Research Day, etc.), and during the seminar series and first year graduate symposium.

Dr. Makrigiannis advised that he has just recently taken over as Department Head, but concurs with Dr. Johnston's assessment.

Members questioned enrolment numbers in the program, faculty complement and funding. Dr. Johnston advised that there are 19 master's students, 9 PhD students, and several applications accepted for the Fall. There are 19 Faculty members (10 in Microbiology and the rest are cross-appointed). Funding for students come from faculty grants (CIHR, NSERC, and other external agencies) and the FGS allocation. The recommended minimum funding level in the department is \$21,500.

When asked if bridge funding has been much of a challenge, Dr. Johnston noted that it's an emerging problem for the department.

R. Martin-Misener thanked Drs. Johnston and Makrigiannis for attending. A short discussion followed in which it was noted that although the FGS representative on the internal review committee was not able to attend the meeting today, S. Wells was a part of the review committee and confirmed that the update provided by Dr. Johnston satisfied all concerns of the review committee.

This department search/survey will be rated by an e-vote.

FC 15.16.58 Introduction to FGS Membership Changes (M. Leonard)

M. Leonard advised that in response to concerns raised in the FGS Review, two minor changes to adjunct membership are being proposed.

The first change involves the addition of an Adjunct (Retired) membership category that would allow retired faculty members to supervise graduate students. The application would have to be endorsed by the home Department and Faculty before being submitted to FGS for approval. Appointments would be for limited terms (usually three years), with options for renewal.

The second change involves the expansion of opportunities for Dalhousie Post-doctoral fellows with Adjunct (Scholar) status. Adjunct (Scholars) currently can only serve on one master's student supervisory and/or examining committee or co-supervise one Master's student or teach one graduate level course. The change would allow PDFs with the appropriate academic qualifications to i) serve on graduate student supervisory committees, ii) serve on graduate student examining committees, iii) co-supervise Master's students, and iv) teach graduate level courses provided that the scope of the work is consistent with their appointment and approved by their Faculty Supervisor. PDFs cannot supervise or co-supervise PhD students, and only one PDF may serve on a given Master's or Doctoral student supervisory committee.

General consensus was that the first change made good sense, and may actually remove a barrier that is currently stopping faculty members from retiring.

J. Armstrong endorsed the second change, noting that it allows PDFs the opportunity to gain mentoring experience. He noted that the policy seems to provide enough protection for PDFs. In most instances, PDFs are the ones seeking these types of opportunities, but the current regulations are a barrier.

Members noted that there could be an issue with PDFs serving on a committee where their Faculty Supervisor is also the Supervisor of the graduate student. An option may be to make PDFs non-voting members, or to stipulate they cannot serve on a committee with their supervisor.

E. Denovan-Wright commented that although it is great to provide opportunities for PDFs, the graduate student experience has to come first.

This item will be revisited at a future Faculty Council meeting.

FC 15.16.59 Post Doc Bargaining Update

R. Martin-Misener welcomed two members of the University Bargaining Committee, Marlo Shenyei (Academic Staff Relations) and Sundari Pashupathinathan (Human Resources), and invited them to provide an update on PDF bargaining. It was noted that a general update would be given, and then the three postdoctoral fellows agreed to excuse themselves during the *in camera* discussion.

M. Shenyei noted that postdoctoral fellows at Dalhousie University unionized last October, and negotiations have been going well since. Other members of the university bargaining committee include Dr. John Gosse (Earth Sciences), Dr. Marty Leonard (FGS), and Dr. Roger MacLeod (Biochemistry & Molecular Biology). On the PDF side there is a PSAC representative and three postdoctoral fellow representatives.

This is the first contract, so negotiations are starting from scratch and include many standard inclusions. The parties have come to agreement on a lot of articles, however the bargaining committee would like feedback from Principal Investigators on some of the remaining terms.

R. Martin-Misener thanked J. Armstrong, E. Reeve and A. Kane for attending, and for their agreement to the *in camera* discussion with Faculty Council.

FC15.16.60 Other Business

Membership on the FGS prize panel will be approved by an e-vote.

There was no other business.

FC15/16.61 Next meeting – FGS Full Faculty Meeting – 10:00am Tuesday May 24, 2016 in the Kenneth C. Rowe Management Building.

The meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

R. Martin-Misener, Vice-Chair

S. Theriault, Acting Recording Secretary