

**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, February 28, 2017, in University Hall.

Present: H. Ali-Hassan, J. Blustein, S. Boe, E. Denovan-Wright, D. Groulx, D. Iron, B. Johnston, E. Joubert, B. Karten, A. Kirk (Secretary), J. Kozey, J. M. Lee (Chair), G. Loomer, R. Martin-Misener (Vice Chair), H. MacFadyen, H. Niu, D. Pelzer, E. Reeve, L. Robinson, S. Stone, S. Wells, J. Wilson

Regrets: T. Currie, M. Durier-Copp, S. Gadbois, P. Gardiner Barber, M. Kabbara, A. Kane, M. Leonard, R. Mullin, B. Sabo, P. Tyedmers

FC16.17.36 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

It was moved by E. Denovan-Wright seconded by L. Robinson: to approve the Faculty Council agenda for February 28, 2017 as circulated. The motion carried.

FC16.17.37 Approval of the Minutes of previous Faculty Council meeting

It was moved by L. Robinson seconded by H. Niu: to approve the minutes from December 13, 2016 as circulated. The motion carried.

FC 16.17.38 Matters Arising

a) Ad hoc policy committee

E. Denovan-Wright noted her interest in the establishment of an ad hoc policy committee. A first policy item to be considered would be the pass/fail categories at doctoral defences. Specifically, the category “fail with the opportunity to resubmit within 12 months” has proved to be problematic. E. Denovan-Wright proposed a small working committee to debate this issue and bring a recommendation to Faculty Council. The committee could have an initial meeting, a brief period to collect ideas, followed by regrouping to create a policy statement to present to Faculty Council. Discussion followed.

It was moved by E. Denovan-Wright, seconded by J. Blustein to strike an ad hoc Policy Committee, chaired by E. Denovan-Wright, whose membership will be organized by E. Denovan-Wright. The motion carried.

b) Updates from Emily Huner re: student absences policy

M. Lee reminded the group that the absence policy is not being presented for formal approval, simply feedback to the proposers. E. Huner had incorporated the suggested feedback provided following the December 2016 meeting. B. Johnston pointed out that the language around program requirements might be more extensive as to capture elements of graduate programs

other than comprehensive and final, oral examinations. M.Lee suggested adding “other program requirements” to the wording. There was consensus agreement on this point, and feedback will be communicated to E. Huner.

FC16.17.39 Reports

i) Dean (Marty Leonard)

E. Denovan-Wright reported in M. Leonard’s absence. The Three Minute Thesis competition is tomorrow, March 1, and the following Thursday evening. Details are available on the FGS website. FGS held a preparation workshop for the competition on February 21st, with nearly 40 students in attendance.

The job posting for Associate Dean FGS has been widely circulated. The deadline for applications is Friday, March 3, 2017.

The proposed recruitment policy will be discussed at the March meeting, with guests Sara Kirk and Wendy Fletcher. Faculty Council members are asked to come prepared to provide feedback as the plan will be moving forward at the University level.

ii) Associate Dean (Dieter Pelzer)

FGS offered 15 Doctoral NSGS and 26 Master’s NSGS scholarships and all were accepted. February NSGS, Killam and Tri-Council awards remain to be offered.

Scholarship committee recruitment is an ongoing problem. A brief discussion followed. J. Kozey suggested that Faculty-level graduate councils, if formed, could be a viable medium from which to pull committee members—or at the very least via which to spread the word. D. Groulx pointed out that departments should be made aware of the benefits to the department of having faculty sitting on these committees.

iii) Associate Dean (Eileen Denovan-Wright)

The 2017 CAGS/UMI Distinguished Dissertation and Dalhousie Doctoral Thesis award notice has gone out. The deadline for submissions is March 3, 2017.

There was a reminder that PREP holds professional development opportunities open to all disciplines throughout the year. In addition, Mygradskills offers online modules and Council members (and readers of these minutes) are strongly encouraged to remind grad students about them. There are modules that are valuable through all parts of a students program.

Professional development opportunities for postdoctoral fellows are also ongoing. Academic career preparation (offered by PREP) has five sessions planned on topics such as academic job searches, job interviews, and negotiating employment.

iv) PDF Report (E. Reeve)

The annual general meeting of the Dalhousie Postdoctoral Society will be this spring, postdocs are encouraged to attend and get involved in the postdoc committee. Anyone interested in an academic career will benefit from being on this council. Postdoctoral fellows can check the website for information, and contact the society if they would like on the mailing list.

- v) **DAGS**
No report

FC 16.17.40 Student Health Services (C. Elgee)

M. Lee noted that C. Elgee was unfortunately unable to join the meeting, however relevant presentation material was circulated to FC prior to the meeting. A. Kirk will solicit feedback from members via email to share with C. Elgee.

FC 16.17.41 Master of Journalism review (D. Pelzer)

D. Pelzer reported that the review by the survey committee and APCC was very constructive, but the MJ program is faced with the reality that it may be unsustainable in its current form due to the evolution of journalism over the past decade. The program receives 60-80 applications per year, making 50-60 offers; however, less than 10 students a year accept their offer. The cost of classes is also an issue. The MJ program requires more time to review its situation and to develop a strategic direction for appropriate restructuring.

It was moved by APCC that Faculty Council delay ranking of the Master of Journalism program until Sept. 2017, by which time a strategic plan on how to proceed with and/or restructure the MJ into a viable and sustainable enterprise should be submitted. The motion carried.

FC 16.17.42 Adjunct Memberships (D. Groulx)

D. Groulx addressed the category of Adjunct (FGS) in a non-appointment unit in the context of such a member serving on a supervisory committee. He pointed out the specific problem of a distinguished, retired colleague who will remain as an Adjunct (FGS) in her home department; however, in order for her to serve on a supervisory committee in Mechanical Engineering she must currently be made an Adjunct (FGS) in Mechanical Engineering. Internal departmental policy requires one external (to the department) member on the advisory committee. It is contradictory, then to require appointment of all committee members as Adjunct (FGS) *within* the department. D. Groulx proposed that regulations be changed such that a person can serve on a supervisory committee without having an Adjunct (FGS) appointment within *that* department.

E. Denovan-Wright suggested that D. Groulx form a small working group (in consultation with the Dean of FGS) for discussions, returning to FGS Council with a recommendation. She also noted that any changes will likely have to go through legal counsel as to ensure the protection of the student's, supervisors', and departments' rights and responsibilities. There was consensus agreement to proceed on this basis.

FC 16.17.43 Extension of FC term for John Kozey

M. Lee commented that J. Kozey has agreed to serve on APCC during a period when membership is needed and, under current regulations, his term on Faculty Council term must be extended.

It was moved by D. Pelzer, seconded by L. Robinson: that Faculty Council extend the term for Dr. John Kozey on Faculty Council until the end of the fall 2017/2018 term. The motion carried.

FC 16.17.44 NSGS Scholarship committee approval (D. Pelzer)

D. Pelzer reported that members were recruited and the competition took place before Faculty Council had the opportunity to meet and approve the committee membership; however, that approval is required. The approval of the following committee members would therefore be retroactive: (Masters) Adam Donaldson PEAS, Jean-Francois Bousquet ECED, Haibo Niu AGRI, Lynne Robinson HAHP, Peter Tyedmers SRES. (Doctoral) Nikhil Thomas MICI, Jan Haelssig PEAS, Shaun Boe PHYT, Mike Lee BMNG, John Kozey HAHP

It was moved by D. Pelzer, seconded by E. Joubert: that Faculty Council approve the NSGS committee membership. The motion carried.

FC 16.17.45 Other Business

None

FC 16.17.46 Next meeting –Tuesday March 28, 2016 in the University Hall, MacDonald Building

The meeting adjourned at 12:41p.m.

J. Michael Lee, Chair

A. Kirk, Recording Secretary