

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

**Present:** S. Boe, T. Currie, E. Denovan-Wright, M. Durier-Copp, S. Gadbois, D. Iron, B. Johnston, E. Joubert, , B. Karten, A. Kirk (Secretary), J. Kozey, J. M. Lee (Chair), M. Leonard, G. Loomer, R. Martin-Misener (Vice Chair), H. MacFadyen, H. Niu, D. Pelzer, E. Reeve, L. Robinson, S. Stone, S. Wells, J. Wilson

**Regrets:** H. Ali-Hassan, J. Blustein, P. Gardiner Barber, M. Ghasemi, D. Groulx, G. Jung, M. Kabbara, A. Kane, R. Mullin, B. Sabo, P. Tyedmers

**FC16.17.47 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

**It was moved by M. Durier-Copp seconded by J. Kozey to approve the Faculty Council agenda for March 28, 2017 as circulated. The motion carried.**

**FC16.17.48 Approval of the Minutes of previous Faculty Council meeting**

**It was moved by E. Denovan-Wright seconded by J. Wilson to approve the minutes from February 28, 2017 as circulated. The motion carried.**

**FC 16.17.49 Matters Arising**

None

**FC16.17.50 Reports**

**i) Dean (Marty Leonard)**

No report

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

No report

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

No report

**iv) PDF Report**

No report

**v) DAGS**

No report

**FC 16.17.51 Senate and Faculty Council (K. Hewitt, J. Hoyle, K. Harman)**

Deferred

**FC 16.17.52 Engineering review (J. Leon)**

Dean Josh Leon was invited to the meeting to provide the required one-year update stemming from the last review of graduate programs in Engineering. He reported that the activities of the Graduate Studies Committee have significantly improved since the completion of the original report, with much credit due to Janie Wilson, the committee's Chair. Space remains a major problem they hope will be much-resolved with completion of construction in April 2018. The Graduate Studies Committee has been collaborating with the Engineering Graduate Society to outline space expectations for current projects, keeping a special eye on the evolving needs of graduate students and the way they use space. The Graduate Studies Committee has also ensured that the strategic plan has been appropriately recognized, and has struck sub-committees to investigate the areas of curriculum (including dormant courses in the calendar), and funding.

Following the reorganization of the Faculty nearly a decade ago, much of the work with respect to graduate admissions and tracking has been shifted to individual departments, better-aligning with practice in other Faculties. The front-end application process remains at the Faculty level, and a half-time staff person has been added to support Heather Hillyard. As well, more efforts are being made to maximize communication between the Graduate Studies Committee and Heather's office.

The report was deemed to be satisfactory by Faculty Council and that concluded the current assessment cycle for graduate programs in Engineering.

**FC 16.17.53 Adjunct FGS members serving on committees (M. Leonard)**

M. Leonard reported that she met with Dominic Groulx and Laura Neals regarding the question of whether adjunct members of FGS serving on supervisory committees outside their appointment units require a second adjunct appointment in the outside unit. They concluded that a second appointment is unnecessary. J. Kozey inquired if this refers to non-appointment units within the Faculty where the adjunct appointment is held, or in any Faculty. M. Leonard clarified that it's across the University in any Faculty.

**It was moved by M. Leonard seconded by J. Kozey: that Adjunct Retired and Adjunct (FGS) members in a given academic unit be permitted to serve on graduate student committees in a non-appointment unit without adjunct membership in that unit. The motion carried.**

**FC 16.17.54 Recruitment report (S. Kirk)**

The Destination Dal report on student recruitment had been circulated to Faculty Council members. S. Kirk, an invitee to the meeting, introduced the rationale and process for creating the report. Input was being sought from faculty, staff and graduate students. She noted that, as the report was being finalized, an older recruitment report was discovered on the Graduate Studies website. It dated from 2007 and included 11 recommendations. No information was available on who drafted the report, nor there information on any follow-up. D. Pelzer recalled that the committee was chaired by Dr. Carolyn Watters, and that he could find more information if required. S. Kirk requested that Faculty Council endorse the Destination Dal report so that it could move to the next stage of identifying a committee to apply and track the recommendations.

Discussion followed. B. Karten pointed out the increased burden on grant-holders to fund graduate students while, at the same time, tuition continues to climb. D. Pelzer reinforced the matter of tuition increases and added that the problem of declining domestic applicants could be balanced by increasing international applicants. He points out that other universities waive the international student fees for doctoral students and this makes competition difficult.

L. Robinson noted that more of her time as Graduate Coordinator (of the IDPhD program) could be spent on maximizing recruitment efforts if monitoring and maintaining students' programs wasn't already so time-consuming. She also pointed out that Dalhousie websites are difficult to navigate, and that internal processes consume much time; automating systems would help. E. Denovan-Wright echoed these concerns, adding that most faculty members work with very little administrative support, and that student administration cuts in to time that could be spent writing successful grants—and those grants would attract quality graduate students. J. Kozey spoke to the issue of faculty/student ratios. It is not all about funding, he noted. If the money is there but there are not enough supervisors to support the students, then that's another barrier the university must consider.

Members also noted issues such as PhD student-to-faculty ratios, bridge funding, international recruitment priorities, and mid-career vs. early-career grant availability. It was noted by B. Karten that the needs for student training toward non-academic careers is continuing to evolve. Unfortunately, paying students from grants to take courses and pursue professional development rather than carrying out direct lab work impacts faculty members' research success. J. Wilson commented on the burden of scholarship review on faculty, and that at least some of this burden would be alleviated if more funds were directly allocated to units.

The topic of grant success and recruitment running hand in hand came up several times. E. Joubert pointed out that large grant holders, who may be a significant draw, are typically still required to teach a full course load and manage programs. Course release could be an incentive for faculty to apply for significant grants and thus attract research trainees. She also noted the amount of work being downloaded to faculty with poor access to information and resources. This all affects their ability to dedicate time to recruitment efforts.

D. Pelzer suggests the committee seek insight from AVP-Research Dr. Ian Hill about Dalhousie's position within the U15 in regards to funding.

M. Lee offered that the identified, strategically-distinct areas of research focus may be used to differentiate Dalhousie in recruitment efforts. The obvious example is Ocean Studies, but there are several more. Others echoed that creative options exist for leverage such with Mitacs, co-op programs, community engagement, and our strategic priority on innovation and entrepreneurship. It will require a careful eye to wisely promote and integrate these incentives.

S. Kirk was thanked for her time, and her entire committee commended for their hard work and commitment to this important area. Discussion closed.

**It was moved by E. Denovan-Wright and seconded by B. Karten: that Faculty Council endorse the "Destination Dal" report presented by Sara Kirk, thank this committee for their efforts, and carry out a status update in one year. The motion carried.**

**FC 16.17.45 Other Business**

None

**FC 16.17.46 Next meeting –Tuesday April 25, 2017 in the University Hall, MacDonald Building**

The meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

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J. Michael Lee, Chair

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A. Kirk, Recording Secretary