

**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 28, 2017, in University Hall, MacDonald Building.

Present: J. Blustein, S. Boe, T. Currie, E. Denovan - Wright, P. Duinker, J. Gahagan, P. Gardiner Barber, D. Groulx, L. Guibault, B. Johnston, A. Kirk (Secretary), J. Kozey, J. M. Lee, M. Macdonald, H. MacFadyen, H. Niu, S. Parcell, E. Reeve, V. Simedoh, S. Stone, M. Yuksul

Regrets: V. Chappe, A. Donaldson, M. Durier - Copp, D. Iron, E. Joubert, B. Karten, M. Leonard, M. Pegg, L. Robinson, S. Wells

**FC 17.18.22 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

**It was moved by J. Blustein, seconded by M. Macdonald, to approve the Faculty Council agenda for November 28, 2017 with modifications (FC 17.18.28 to be handled first to accommodate guest schedule). The motion carried.**

**FC 17.18.23 Approval of the Minutes of previous Faculty Council meeting**

**It was moved by M. Macdonald, seconded by H. MacFadyen to approve the minutes from October 24, 2017 as circulated. The motion carried.**

**FC 17.18.24 Matters Arising**

M. Lee reported that, after a meeting between P. Hill, A. Donaldson and him, Oceanography has agreed to submit a formal program modification to describe the Physical Oceanography stream. This review is now completed.

**FC 17.18.25 Reports**

**i) Dean (Marty Leonard)**

No report

**ii) Associate Dean (Adam Donaldson)**

No report

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

E. Denovan-Wright reported on the annual CAGS (Canadian Association for Graduate Studies) conference which was attended by all three FGS Deans and some FGS staff. Themes for the conference were diversity, mental health, and professional development. FGS will provide more information on the content of this meeting via the weekly newsletter, and possible future presentations to Council from Dalhousie stakeholders in various areas of relevance.

Many of the same themes were discussed at the CAPA (Canadian Association of Postdoctoral Administrators) conference, with additional focus on immigration issues. There were positive reports on postdoctoral employment across the country, and job satisfaction seems to be high. E. Denovan-Wright will ask Dean Leonard to follow up with any updates regarding the Future of the PhD Dissertation survey/reporting which continues to be underway. This CAGS initiative was previously discussed at Council in Spring 2017 with a presentation from Dalhousie representative Ray Klein. It was noted by one member of Council that, at least in the social sciences, non-thesis stream PhD students are having more difficulty finding jobs. This may be a topic of consideration for future discussions.

**iv) PDF Report**

E. Reeve reported on Postdoctoral Fellows Research Day held on November 10th of this year. The format resembled last year's, although condensed to a half day. It was well-attended by postdoctoral fellows. She thanked the faculties of Science, Dentistry and Medicine for their financial support, and Graduate Studies for administrative support.

**v) DAGS**

No report

**FC 17.18.26 Vote: New members of appeals committee**

**It was moved by E. Denovan-Wright, seconded by P. Duinker, to approve Ruth Martin Misener and Leslie Phillmore as members of the FGS Appeals Committee for a three-year term. The motion carried.**

**FC 17.18.27 Three Minute Thesis (A. Kirk )**

A. Kirk provided a brief presentation on the 2018 edition of the Three-Minute Thesis ((3MT) competition. Emphasis was on increased scope to support the 200th Anniversary guiding principles, broader community outreach, and a request to Council members to encourage their students to participate. Council members suggested (i) finding a way to formalize the feedback process for participants, (ii) identifying ways to engage the local (and broader) government by leveraging the range of disciplines represented, and (iii) ensuring that stakeholders know that the competition is not just for PhD students.

**FC 17.18.28 Computer Science Review update (A. Rau-Chaplin)**

In answer to Council's previous request, an update was provided by Dean Andrew Rau-Chaplin which centred primarily on the Master's of Health Informatics program. That program had been identified during review as having declining enrolment and questions around its long-term sustainability. Dean Rau-Chaplin reported that enrolment is up substantially. Nonetheless, Computer Science is reviewing all their interdisciplinary programs, including the MHI. Administrative support has been added for the MHI and recruitment efforts have been streamlined. In the review, it was noted that the Faculty of Medicine end of the program needed to be re-housed. This has been done now in the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology with new, championing faculty members.

There is a current initiative to design a single framework via which all Faculty-level interdisciplinary programs can be run. Commonalities are being identified, with the framework allowing for different streams. J. Gahagan noted there could be redundancies identified with the MLIS program and these should be monitored, possibly toward a Master of Digital Innovation stream. A. Rau-Chaplin also noted that Computer Science intends to integrate the Faculty of Health into the MHI initiative, as students in the program come from undergraduate health programs.

Council noted that the faculty is progressing well with the review recommendations. This review is therefore now-concluded.

**FC 17.18.29 Dentistry Review (N. Hamdan, C. Gregoire, R. Singer, P. Tyedmers)**

M. Lee welcomed guests and noted the review of the Faculty of Dentistry was overall very positive with no recommendations made on graduate studies matters. There were no questions nor additional discussion on the review from members.

**It was moved by P. Duinker, seconded by S. Boe that Faculty Council rate the graduate programs in Dentistry as satisfactory with no follow-up required . The motion carried.**

**FC 17.18.30 Classics Review (C. Elson, M. Fournier, F. Martin)**

C. Elson, the FGS representative on the FASS-level review of the Department of Classics, noted that the report was overall very positive with some recommendations on recruitment as well as toward promotion of non-academic prospects for graduates.

M. Fournier, the department Chair, discussed some of the recruitment strategies being implemented, including a visiting speaker series. He noted that many of invited talks have fostered outside connections for students. The department has also found that, contrary to many past years, most of their students are from outside the Dal/King's circle. This suggests that word of mouth recruitment and other connections appear to be paying off. Regarding graduate outcomes, it was noted that many Classics graduates have gone on to successful academic careers, and so this tends to be the focus. Nonetheless, the department also has had many graduates with interesting non-academic careers, and they hope to use their stories as examples in their newsletter and other promotional materials.

The department is also considering the role of the Graduate Coordinator and finding ways to reduce the burden. There was some discussion of the practice of admitting graduate students to the department rather than via a supervisor. This may again increase the burden on the Graduate Coordinator. An upcoming transition in the position (possibly next year) will allow for tangible re-evaluation of the role.

D. Groulx inquired regarding the number of faculty and graduate students in the department. M. Fournier reported that there are currently six faculty members, and each admission cycle sees 2–7 students enter a two-year program), so there are normally 10–12 Master's students in the department. Currently there is also one PhD student. It's a small program, but there are no issues with completion rates.

M. Fournier noted that the department is striving to strike thesis committees earlier in the program than what is currently the practice. Thereby, each student's supervisor may be identified earlier. This will lighten the burden on the Graduate Coordinator, and establish clearer accountability for student success. This must be balanced with giving each student time to identify their niche while taking classes in the first year (which are general Latin and Greek language courses).

S. Stone questioned equitable distribution of workload. M. Fournier informed Council that all faculty members teach a course, and that significant efforts have been made to increase student interest in areas of the program that haven't traditionally been as popular—thereby more evenly distributing workload around thesis direction. S. Stone wondered if this causes students to be pushed in certain directions. M. Fournier clarified that the department uses this more as an opportunity for faculty members to attract students to their work. The department remains flexible to students' changing interests.

**It was moved by S. Boe seconded by P. Gardiner Barber that Faculty Council rate the graduate program in Classics as Satisfactory with no follow-up required. The motion carried (with one opposed and one abstention).**

**FC 17.18.31 Other Business**

None

**FC 17.18.32 Next meeting – Tuesday Dec 12, 2017 in University Hall, Macdonald Bldg**

The meeting adjourned at 1:09 p.m.