

**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 26, 2017, in University Hall, MacDonald Building.

Present: S. Boe, V. Chappe, T. Currie, E. Denovan-Wright, A. Donaldson, P. Duinker, M. Durier-Copp, J. Gahagan, P. Gardiner Barber, T. Gordon, D. Groulx, L. Guibault, B. Johnston, E. Joubert, B. Karten, A. Kirk (Secretary), J. Kozey, J. M. Lee, M. Leonard, M. Macdonald, H. MacFadyen, S. Parcell, M. Pegg, L. Robinson, V. Simedoh, M. Yuksel

Regrets: J. Blustein, D. Iron, H. Niu, E. Reeve, S. Stone, S. Wells

FC17.18.01 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

Edits to agenda as follows: Remove 17.18.07 Senate Representation and replace with 17.18.08 Journalism Review. Insert 17.18.02 (shifting subsequent items down) "Approval of Past Meeting Minutes"

It was moved by J. Kozey seconded by P. Gardiner Barber to approve the Faculty Council agenda for September 26, 2017 with corrections. The motion carried.

FC 17.18.02 Approval of the Minutes of previous Faculty Council meeting

It was moved by L. Robinson seconded by P. Gardiner Barber to approve the minutes from June 27, 2017 as circulated. The motion carried.

FC 17.18.03 Welcome to new members

FC 17.18.04 Matters Arising

Results of e-vote conducted earlier in September resulted in M. Yuksel and L. Guibault being approved to Faculty Council for a one year term, and E. Joubert and J. Bannister being approved to the Appeals Committee for a three year term.

FC 17.18.05 Reports

i) Dean (Marty Leonard)

A symposium is being hosted by UBC Friday Sept 29 on the subject of "Rethinking the PhD" that was discussed by FC last spring. A. Kirk will circulate information for anyone who wishes to participate.

A reminder to ensure administrators are reading the FGS weekly newsletter.

A committee will soon be struck to carry out the work resulting from the Recruitment Report presented by S. Kirk last spring. If anyone is interested in being a part of the committee, contact M. Leonard

Danielle Pottie, FGS Scholarships Liaison Officer, has taken a year secondment to Chemistry. The position is now staffed by Courtney Collins, FGS requests patience while she gets up to speed.

ii) Associate Dean (Adam Donaldson)

There are a significant number of program/unit reviews in progress at various stages.

The Vanier application deadline was extended to September 29th, and a reminder about other upcoming scholarship deadlines.

iii) Associate Dean (Eileen Denovan-Wright)

The senior thesis clerk position is now permanently staffed by Helena Martel.

Postdoctoral Fellows Association research day is coming up, more info to come soon.

Watch the FGS weekly newsletter for information on academic integrity training opportunities.

iv) PDF Report

No report

v) DAGS

Graduate Student Mental Health Awareness Week is being organized for October 16-19. It will feature panels on a wide array of topics. M. Leonard is serving on one regarding healthy graduate student/supervisor relationships, we are seeking a professor and a graduate coordinator to also serve on that panel. If anyone is interested, contact vpfo@dags.ca

FC 17.18.06 Presentation: MyGradSkills.ca (J. Smart, W. Fletcher)

J. Smart provided an overview of access to and functionality of MyGradSkills.ca. While the use of the modules is encouraged (particularly those on academic integrity and plagiarism), none are mandatory though some departments are making some modules mandatory.

W. Fletcher spoke to the inclusion of MyGradSkills.ca modules on students Co-Curricular Record (CCR). Of the 18 modules, 6 are approved for inclusion on the CCR though uptake on this is marginal. It was noted that departments have no way of seeing what's on the CCR, and students would have to provide other means of proving they completed a module to departments. M. Leonard commented that FGS is working to improve promotion of both MyGradSkills.ca and the CCR to increase usage. T. Gordon suggested leveraging its application to professional development.

FC 17.18.07 Oceanography Review – Update (P. Hill)

M. Lee commented that FC rated the program satisfactory in January 2016 with an 18-month follow-up required on four areas: course workload in the physical oceanography sub-discipline; completion times; curriculum review; and clarification around funding/stipends.

In addition to the brief written update provided to FC, P. Hill spoke to the four areas of importance. He indicated that physical oceanography has a long standing practice here, and elsewhere, of requiring more coursework as it's a highly technical subject. There is no support in the department to change this, and contends students would be professionally disadvantaged if it were to change.

He indicated that completion time of around thirty months is no longer than average among science. They have little control over fleet scheduling, which can add to completion times. Given that, they looked at streamlining curriculum in other ways, which leads to the third area of curriculum.

There has been a reduction of six credit hours at both the masters and PhD level (now 9 and 12 credits, respectively). If a student comes from the UG level, they are eligible for advanced placement for one of the three masters core-courses. Conceivably, a masters student could be done with coursework by the end of the first term.

In regards to funding, the department opted to not lay it out in the handbook as funding is unique among students. The department now creates a custom "individual funding breakdown" to all students at the beginning of the academic year. The student and supervisor review and sign, so all parties are clear on what take-home pay will be. There is a minimum stipend in place for Canadian students of \$19,500 (not stated in handbook) with a minimum take-home pay of \$1,150 monthly. E. Denovan-Wright points out this is a useful tool that other departments may be interested in adopting.

M. Pegg inquired about 5000 level courses cross listed with 4000 level UG courses. P. Hill indicated there are no differences in content, only in assessment. M. Pegg also inquired about an UG student who transfers from the masters to PhD. P. Hill indicated they would get all the core courses prior to the transfer, and still only have to take one core-course at the PhD level.

P. Duinker commented at the paradox of decreasing the number of credit hour requirements but contending physical oceanography students need more courses. P. Hill replied that the core-course requirement was reduced across the board, but physical oceanography does indeed require more coursework. The supervisory committee decides on an ad-hoc bases what courses and how many the physical oceanography students take.

Guest departs. M. Lee suggested discussion be tabled until October meeting.

FC 17.18.08 Journalism Review (P. O'Brien)

M. Lee commented that this review went to APCC last spring, as the result of the review pointed to major modification of the program. Former associate dean Dieter Pelzer recommended last spring that FC defer rating the program until a strategic plan was formulated around the future of the program. F. Vallance Jones and P. O'Brien have been invited to provide an update on the process.

F. Vallance Jones provided an update on the work being done since the completion of the review, which provided several options for moving forward. In recognizing that MJ program is so intertwined

with the BJ program, consensus was to pursue the option of restructuring the program in light of ongoing industry shifts rather than eliminate the program. A draft plan is complete, more discussion is required before it turns into a formal proposal. The hope is the program will continue to develop journalists, eliminate duplication with undergraduate teaching, widen the applicant pool, and make the program more flexible. Timeline for implementation of the reimagined two-year program would see the first students admitted in Fall 2019.

Guests depart. M. Lee comments that the review was largely favourable, and spoke mostly to the programs need to recruit students into a modern program. He suggested deferring the rating of the program until the program has time to complete their business with APCC.

It was moved by P. Duinker seconded by V. Chappe that Faculty Council delay ranking of the Master of Journalism program until major modification is approved by APCC. The motion carried.

FC 17.18.09 Vacancies on APCC and Prize Panel (M. Lee)

M. Lee spoke briefly to the need for two more members to APCC and three for the Prize Panel. Members are encouraged to contact M. Lee and/or A. Kirk if interested in serving.

FC 17.18.10 Other Business

None

FC 17.18.11 Next meeting –Tuesday October 24, 2017 in the University Hall, MacDonald Building

The meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

J. Michael Lee, Chair

A. Kirk, Recording Secretary