

**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, January 23, 2018, in University Hall, MacDonald Building.

Present: S. Boe, V. Chappe, T. Currie, E. Denovan-Wright, A. Donaldson, M. Durier-Copp, J. Gahagan, F. Grosse, D. Iron, B. Johnston, E. Joubert, B. Karten, A. Kirk (Secretary), M. Lee, M. Leonard, M. Macdonald, H. MacFadyen, M. Pegg, L. Robinson, V.Simedoh, S. Wells

Regrets: J. Blustein, P. Duinker, P. Gardiner-Barber, D. Groulx, L. Guibault, H. Niu, S. Parcell, S. Stone, M. Yuksul

FC 17.18.42 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

It was moved by M. Macdonald, seconded by V. Chappe, to approve the Faculty Council agenda for January 23, 2018 with modifications (item 5 removed). The motion carried.

FC 17.18.43 Approval of the Minutes of previous Faculty Council meeting

It was moved by A. Donaldson, seconded by H. MacFadyen, to approve the minutes from December 12, 2017 as circulated. The motion carried.

FC 17.18.44 Matters Arising

M. Lee will be connecting with the 13 Faculties regarding upcoming changes to FGS Faculty Council. If any members of Council would like to join those meetings within your faculty, contact M. Lee.

FC 17.18.45 Reports

i) Dean (Marty Leonard)

Registration for the 3MT competition is now open. FGS's goal is to double participation to 200 students in honor of the bicentennial. Please champion the event and encourage participation from your departments. As well, if anyone is interested in judging preliminary heats, contact A. Kirk in FGS.

As discussed at the December meeting, we will engage with the Ombuds office for a special session on conflict resolution. We will work toward scheduling a special FC meeting for this in the spring.

ii) Associate Dean (Adam Donaldson)

APCC was not held in the month of January. There are a number of program reviews coming down the line. Scholarship competitions are very active at the moment but all are on track to report results at the usual intervals.

iii) Associate Dean (Eileen Denovan-Wright)

Welcome again to our new post-doctoral fellow representatives at Council. FGS is actively communicating with the PDFs regarding this year's events and Research Day.

iv) PDF Report (Fabian Grosse)

The Postdoc Society recently had their AGM and are optimistic for an active year. F. Grosse and L. McGarrigle are serving as co-presidents, F. Grosse will normally be attending FC meetings.

v) DAGS

No report.

FC 17.18.46 Student Health & Wellness Strategy (C. Elgee)

Deferred.

FC 17.18.47 Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Survey (N. Thomas, S. Bearne)

N. Thomas (Chair, survey committee) and S. Bearne (Department head) noted that despite some funding issues and administrative challenges (primarily in managing the DMNB site and access to suitable technologies for teaching/communication), the programs are working well and students are generally happy. There are very few supervision issues, and students across all sites are well-engaged. Looking ahead, recruitment of quality students is a concern, but this challenge is not unique to the department.

The department was congratulated on a well-run program, and the guests excused.

It was moved by A. Donaldson, seconded by M. Pegg, that Faculty Council rate the graduate program in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology as Satisfactory with no follow-up required. The motion carried.

FC 17.18.48 Consideration of Outcome Categories following PhD Defence (E. Denovan-Wright)

E. Denovan-Wright reintroduced this topic which had been initiated last year. It has been examined by an ad-hoc group and a survey was carried out with defence chairs and graduate coordinators. The proposed Calendar revision was outlined in the supplied handout. This is intended to be simplified in the Graduate Calendar and communicated with Chairs.

There was discussion around the notion of only the supervisor being in all cases responsible for post-examination revisions to the thesis, and whether a downgrade to a Master's degree was a possible outcome.

It was moved by E. Denovan-Wright, seconded by M. Macdonald, to amend FGS regulations regarding defence outcomes as follows: That the two categories, FAIL

with a chance to resubmit and REJECT outright with no possibility of re-submission, be replaced by the single category FAIL. The Chair's Defence Report will indicate if the examining comment recommends that the student should be encouraged to resubmit a revised thesis and redefend the thesis. FGS will meet with any student receiving a grade of FAIL, along with their supervisor(s) and departmental Graduate Coordinator to discuss the student's academic options. The category of PASS with revisions must have a written list of required changes and defined deadlines for changes. One individual will be designated to oversee and approve the final thesis. The motion carried.

FC 17.18.49 Vote: Masters Student representation on Appeals committee

It was moved by M. Leonard, seconded by E. Denovan-Wright, to approve Ivan Okello as the Master's student representative on the FGS Appeals Committee. The motion carried.

FC 17.18.50 FGS Prize Panel

It was moved by M. Leonard, seconded by M. Macdonald, to approve Drs. Vincent Simedoh, Jan Rainey, and Megan Aston to the FGS Prize Panel for a three-year term. The motion carried.

FC 17.18.51 Other Business

None.

FC 17.18.52 Next meeting – Tuesday February 27, 2018 in Lord Dalhousie Room

The meeting adjourned at 1:04p.m.