

**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, June 26, 2018, in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

**Present:** J. Blustein, S. Boe, T. Currie, E. Denovan-Wright, A. Donaldson, P. Duinker, P. Gardiner-Barber, F. Grosse, D. Groulx, D. Iron, B. Johnston, A. Kirk (Secretary), M. Lee, M. Leonard, M. Macdonald, H. MacFadyen, A. Moussa, S. Parcell, S. Stone, S. Wells, M. Yuksel

**Regrets:** V. Chappe, M. Durier-Copp, J. Gahagan, L. Guibault, E. Joubert, B. Karten, L. McGarrigle, H. Niu, M. Pegg, L. Robinson, V. Simedoh,

**FC 17.18.80 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

**It was moved by P. Duinker, seconded by M. Macdonald, to approve the Faculty Council agenda for June 26, 2018 as circulated. The motion carried.**

**FC 17.18.81 Approval of the Minutes of previous Faculty Council meeting**

**It was moved by A. Donaldson, seconded by F. Grosse, to approve the minutes from April 24, 2018 as circulated. The motion carried.**

**FC 17.18.82 Matters Arising**

The new Terms of Reference for FGS Faculty Council have now been approved by the Senate Policy and Governance Committee (SPGC), the final stage of approval. These documents had previously been approved by Faculty Council, followed by assessment by Dalhousie Legal, and then after some minor changes, re-approved by Faculty Council prior to consideration by Senate. FGS will work to get the five Members at Large with appropriate consideration of inclusion and diversity on Council, and populate the rest of the committees. While M. Lee is stepping down as Chair to take sabbatical leave, it is good for continuity that Vice-Chair D. Groulx will be continuing for a second year in that position. There were no nominations for a new Chair for Council after a call from FGS. The Deans' office will handle this issue as well prior to September. Several Faculty-specific representatives to the new FGS Faculty Council have been identified and M. Lee is working on identifying the remainder.

**FC 17.18.83 Reports**

**i) Dean (M. Leonard)**

Dieter Pelzer passed away in May. Faculty Council is profoundly grateful for Dr. Pelzer's many contributions to Graduate Studies, Medicine, and Dalhousie University generally over the past decade. The idea of nominating Dr. Pelzer for a special post-humous FGS Distinguished Service Award.

**It was moved by M. Lee, seconded by P. Duinker, that FGS Faculty Council formally record its deep thanks to Dr. Dieter Pelzer for his contributions to body group and to the University, and that this recognition be shared with his family. The motion carried unanimously.**

Fire at Faculty of Agriculture has affected teaching space and research labs there as well as administrative units. Grad students are certain to be affected, but FGS doesn't yet know the scope of the problem. If anyone intersects with those students, please send them with any issues to Dean Leonard who will work with them to sort out their needs.

Another call for Chair of Faculty Council will be made over the summer. Please let Alicia know if you are aware of anyone who may be interested.

**ii) Associate Dean (A. Donaldson)**

The Bader scholarship deadline is coming up in August. All other competitions are pretty much wrapped up for this academic year.

If any programs are initiating a regular review in the next year, the new Senate policy governing such reviews will be coming into play, and this policy can be expected to impact reviews going forward. The draft policy will be going back to Senate for further consideration in the fall.

**iii) Associate Dean (E. Denovan-Wright)**

The CAPA (Canadian Association of Postdoctoral Administrators) conference is coming up in the fall, and a large national session on post-doc engagement is scheduled. The Deans' office looks forward to reporting back on that.

Please continue to watch the FGS newsletter, and encourage your postdocs to subscribe. There's a section just for them.

**iv) PDF Report (F. Grosse)**

Postdoc Research Day, Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>, will focus on careers inside and outside academia. Save the date. The announcement will be coming soon, it will be included in the FGS newsletter

**v) DAGS (A. Moussa)**

No report.

**FC 17.18.84 Senate Visit (K. Hewitt, T. Packer, J. Hoyle)**

K. Hewitt provided an overview of recent changes to Senate structure (increase in membership and inclusion/diversity of the group). This increase may also affect the number of members associated with Senate's sub-committees in the future.

Regarding communication between Faculty Council and Senate, it was agreed that the secretary of Faculty Council will send meeting agendas and minutes to the Chair of Senate. It was also noted that members of Faculty Council who sit on Senate should report monthly to Faculty Council on Senate activities. M. Lee agreed that this should be a regular feature of FGS Faculty Council reports.

Senate is also looking at streamlining processes by delegating more authority to sub-committees such as SAPRC and SLTC. This echoes similar changes to Council's workings under the new Terms of Reference.

The College of Continuing Education is endeavoring to create their own Faculty Council, and are looking to other Councils for guidance on the process. It would be most helpful for FGS Faculty Council could engage with them on this initiative.

**FC 17.18.85 Biology Review (B. Boudreau, R. Klein, P. Bentzen, S. Stone)**

B. Boudreau provided a brief overview of the unit review process that took place and summarized the graduate program-related recommendations. He noted that there were no serious problems with the program, and that many of the minor problems that were identified are out of the control of the unit itself (e.g. faculty replacements). P. Bentzen noted that, in response to recommendation D12, new graduate courses have been added, and that D13 missed the fact that a handbook is already available online.

P. Bentzen further noted that the biggest issue the department is faced with is faculty renewal, there are currently far more retirements and impending retirements than new recruits. Student-to-faculty ratio is still acceptable and all students are funded, but this issue has no obvious resolution. It was noted that there were some contradictory recommendations between the internal and external report regarding hiring. It was also noted in response to a question from A. Donaldson that none of the reviewers met with the Associate Dean of FGS during the process, which is irregular.

There was discussion around the lack of a strategic plan, and how that may stand in the way of the unit being successful in securing funding for additional faculty.

E. Denovan-Wright offered that FGS-led information sessions on process and procedures would be provided in any area of need.

There was some discussion around course offerings and how the department deals with the problem of having limited faculty but a broad diversity of research specializations amongst its students. S. Stone noted that short modules (less than 3 credit hours) are being developed based on student interest. Experience elsewhere has shown that this approach can be helpful in addressing this problem.

Council considered that, while most of the concerns stemming from the review of the graduate program are not uniquely FGS-related, they do impact graduate students in many ways. Council also felt strongly that short of a strategic plan, even mapping out priorities and a path forward over the coming years would be valuable. Therefore, it was felt that a follow-up to the review was appropriate in about a one year timespan.

**It was moved by M. Macdonald seconded by J. Blustein that Faculty Council rate the graduate program in Biology as “Satisfactory with a requirement to report back in 12 months”. The motion carried.**

**FC 17.18.86 Chair election**

No nominations received. Item deferred.

**FC 17.18.87 Vote: PhD student representative on Academic Appeals Committee**

**It was moved by E. Denovan-Wright, seconded by F. Grosse, to approve Jonathan Totten as the PhD student representative of the FGS Appeals Committee. The motion carried.**

**FC 17.18.88 Scholarship Processes for 18/19 (A. Donaldson)**

After observing a full year's cycle of scholarship processes out of FGS, A. Donaldson proposes a harmonized internal application approach for NSGS, Killam and other special criteria awards. A long form would be used for Tri-council awards, and a short form for the internal awards. He is seeking broad consultation over the summer in hopes of implementing this approach in the fall. Any member with input should contact him.

The hope is this will approach will reduce the burden of department rankings and university review committees, and allow for more comprehensive use of scholarship funds.

**FC 17.18.89 Other Business**

Adam Donaldson thanked outgoing Chair J. Michael Lee for his dedication to Faculty Council over the past several years, and passed along with a small token of appreciation.

**FC 17.18.90 Next meeting – Tuesday September 25, 2018 in the Lord Dalhousie Room**

The meeting adjourned at 1:09pm