

**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, October 23, 2018, in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

**Present:** S. Boe, V. Chappe, T. Currie, L. Cutmore, A. Donaldson, H. El Naggar, K. Fierlbeck, F. Grosse, D. Groulx (chair), A. Iftene, P. Kienesberger (remote), A. Kirk (secretary), M. Ladouceur, M. Leonard, K. Lowe, H. MacFadyen, M. McAllister, S. Parcell, L. Robinson, J. Sheng, P. Tyedmers, E. Wunker

**Regrets:** Y. Anini, E. Denovan-Wright, N. Hamdan, H. Niu, J. Patel

**FC 18.19.10 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

H. El Naggar requested the addition of an agenda item to discuss international differential fees.

**It was moved by H. El Naggar, seconded by V. Chappe: that Faculty Council approve the agenda for October 23, 2018 with additions. The motion carried (one member against).**

**FC 18.19.11 Approval of the Minutes of previous Faculty Council meeting**

The secretary noted that one member of council was listed both present and absent, and will correct.

**It was moved by M. McAllister, seconded by A. Donaldson: that Faculty Council approve the minutes from September 25, 2018 as with corrections. The motion carried (one abstention).**

**FC 18.19.12 Matters Arising**

None.

**FC 18.19.13 Reports**

**Dean (M. Leonard)**

Following up on the recruitment report, focus groups will be held in November.

In collaboration with the CLT we're developing a certificate in PD for grad students, which is standard at other U15 universities. We're in the process of hiring a curriculum developer for a one year term.

Mental health issues continue to be on the forefront of graduate student wellness, the university does have resources but they're not grad centric. We're working on a mental health strategy, and I have engaged with the new director of counseling services. As well, Lynne Robinson has been working on a mental health survey and I'm hoping Lynne can make a presentation on status of mental health at Dal for grad students so we can strategize in the near future.

**Associate Dean (A. Donaldson)**

At the October 4<sup>th</sup> APCC meeting the committee approved a minor modification to the MSc and PhD program in Medical Physics, minor modification to the MACSc moved forward to SLTC, and a concept paper for the Master of Digital Innovation (which involves medicine, management, and law) was moved forward to SAPRC.

At the October 16<sup>th</sup> APCC meeting the committee approved a minor modification in the MSc in Physiotherapy, a major modification to the Master of Social Work moved forward to SAPRC, the MSc in Occupational Therapy (Post-Professional) was approved to suspend admissions and this moves to SAPRC, and a concept paper for PhD in SRES was moved forward to SAPRC.

Regarding the scholarship harmonization process, we've been doing community outreach across campuses. We had attendance of 40 at the Studley session and 8 at the Sexton session.

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

No report

**PDF Report (F. Grosse)**

Another reminder that PDF Research Day is next Friday November 2<sup>nd</sup>, there's still time to encourage postdocs to attend.

**v) DAGS (K. Lowe)**

The Canadian Federation of Students are active with the Reconciliary Action campaign this week, and DAGS is an advocate for the recommendations made by the Truth & Reconciliation Committee.

By-election is coming up and voting will be conducted through Brightspace for VP Academic on November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please encourage your students to participate. Remaining council appointments will be made on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

Student societies including DAGS are taking part in the "Trick or Eat" events, with collections going to the food bank. Graduate student societies are encouraged to participate.

Mental health issues continue to be a focus for DAGS and we're happy to see a renewed conversation around the unique issues affecting graduate students.

DAGS has a new space in the Student Union Building which they will move into in November.

There is a town hall being hosted by the DSU on Sexton Campus October 29<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm, which will be an opportunity for students to come talk about facilities, events, etc. Students, faculty and staff involved in Sexton based programs are encouraged to attend.

There was a short discussion about DAGS ability to communicate with graduate students, K. Lowe acknowledged that the newsletter is helpful but strongly encouraged that FGS and DAGS collaborate on a Brightspace site as a mechanism to communicate and share information.

**FC 18.19.14 Pharmacology Review (F. Cozens, C. Sinal)**

F. Cozens reported on behalf of the committee that when the survey took place in February, we found students to be very engaged and generally happy with program. One concern from them

was the ability for them to do work outside lab (i.e. discrepancies in who was able to teach, some supervisors allowed, some didn't). They also pointed out there is no graduate handbook, this came out of our report as a recommendation. Faculty flagged recruitment, funding, and lower student numbers as issues. The committee agreed on funding, particularly the ability to carry funding forward when grant ends, so a mechanism for bridge funding. They have a unique funding scheme (a system where they pool it), we recommend they have a look at this to deal with faculty members that opt out. The department is also addressing collaborative research and more co-supervision (such as having students work with one senior and one junior faculty member). Overall the committee found no major issues with the program.

A. Donaldson noted that the FGS regulations do permit up to 16 hours per week for work outside, and asked if the department is working toward a model where all students will have the opportunity for that type of work (teaching).

C. Sinal noted that the department acted on the handbook quickly, and includes a summary sheet that makes their ability to seek employment consistent with FGS guidelines. Pharmacology doesn't have an undergraduate program, so not a lot of teaching opportunities or TAs, the primary opportunities are as tutors in pharmacy program. The department is working toward consistently recognizing the right of the student to do this.

M. McAllister inquired to the status of the strategic plan. C. Sinal responded that a strategic plan was fleshed out about a year ago, but then the department head was stepping down. The plan is a current priority and will be a focus in the new year following graduate student planning meetings this fall.

The guests were thanked and excused.

There was continued conversation around this regulation, some departments interpreting it as a student right and others not, and clarification on the nature of work it refers to (contributing to the degree vs. work outside the university).

**It was moved by A. Donaldson, seconded by P. Tyedmers: that Faculty Council rate the Department of Pharmacology review as satisfactory. The motion carried.**

#### **FC 18.19.15 Master of Fine Arts – Creative Nonfiction Review (K. Pittaway, R. Maitzen)**

R. Maitzen spoke on behalf of the reviewers that this was an easy process and the program is running well, most recommendations are about sustaining current success.

K. Kierans echoed that it was largely positive and many of the suggestions for tweaks to the program were/are already in motion.

There was some discussion around the Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) aspect of admissions. While this system is common in programs with a majority of mature learners, students of the MFA largely have prior graduate degrees, some find the process unnecessarily questions their capabilities. S. Kimber noted this is especially strange for students whose prior degrees came from Dalhousie. M. Leonard suggested more conversation around this issue.

The guests were thanked and excused, and there was no further conversation.

**It was moved by T. Currie, seconded by J. Sheng: that Faculty Council rate the Master of Fine Arts Creative Nonfiction review as satisfactory. The motion carried.**

**FC 18.19.16 Scholarship Harmonization Process Overview (A. Donaldson)**

A. Donaldson gave a brief presentation on the new scholarship processes, following extensive stakeholder meetings and updates to the website clarifying the process. The goal is to reduce the number of times students have to apply for the various competitions. This change does not affect tri-council competitions, it is for internally managed competitions including the Killam. He noted that the website has been updated and the information is lengthy but more clear than it has been.

K. Fierlback inquired to how the success of this new process will be assessed. A. Donaldson noted that he will be gathering statistics over the first year and will hold stakeholder meetings next fall. A yearly feedback process is anticipated.

F. Grosse inquired if postdocs are eligible to serve as reviewers. There is a postdoc from the Faculty of Agriculture that's sitting on a master's level competition, and if others have an interest they can be integrated into master's level competitions.

**FC 18.19.17 Discussion: Faculty Council Terms of Reference**

The discussion from the September meeting continued around the issue of Chair, and the proposed edits to the ToR that would reflect the Dean of FGS serving as Chair. There were questions around when the change was made, as the Dean of FGS had formerly served as Chair. A. Donaldson noted it was in 2012, and at that time there was no Vice-Chair that could step in when the Dean would have to recuse themselves from the Chair position to answer on behalf of FGS.

K. Lowe sought an adjustment to the wording of the DAGS representation, A. Donaldson noted the language was copied from what's used at Senate Committees.

D. Groulx suggested both items merit further discussion but in the interest of time, will be deferred.

**FC 18.19.18 Other Business**

H. El Naggat raised the issue of International Differential Fees (IDF), M. Leonard noted that this matter is currently under discussion at Deans Council, and the acting Provost has put together a task force. There will be more information to come.

**FC 18.19.09 Next meeting – Tuesday November 27, 2018 in Killam Library, B400**

The meeting adjourned at 1:03pm.