

**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, March 26, 2019, in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks Building.

**Present:** M. Adams, S. Boe, V. Chappe, T. Currie, E. Denovan-Wright, A. Donaldson, , K. Fierlbeck, D. Groulx (Acting Chair), L. Guibault, N. Hamden, A. Kirk (secretary), L. Kreplak, M. Ladouceur, M. Leonard, K. Lowe, E. Madadian, B. Majekolagbe, M. McAllister, Y. Monfared, H. Niu, M. Paon, S. Parcell, L. Robinson, J. Sheng, S. Vela

**Regrets:** Y. Anini, H. El Nagggar, P. Kienesberger, H. MacFadyen, S. Rajendran, K. Sherren, S. Stone (Chair), E. Wunker

**FC 18.19.49 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

**It was moved by L. Guibault, seconded by E. Madadian: that Faculty Council approve the agenda for March 26, 2019 as submitted. The motion carried.**

**FC 18.19.50 Approval of the Minutes of previous Faculty Council meeting**

**It was moved by S. Parcell, seconded by M. McAllister: that Faculty Council approve the minutes from February 26, 2019 with corrections (S. Parcell was mistakenly listed under Regrets). The motion carried.**

**FC 18.19.51 Matters Arising**

None.

**FC 18.19.52 Reports**

**Dean (M. Leonard)**

The fee structure for PhD students that was discussed at our meeting last month was included in the BAC recommendations that came out a couple weeks ago, including standardization of PhD tuition fees and elimination of IDF and continuing fees. We believe a solution was found to mitigate the possible increase in costs for FASS students. Overall, in the first two years students will save money. The break-even point is about four years, and students that stay longer than that could pay more. It will be applicable to students entering in September 2019. There were questions about potential pushback from PhD students that started last year. There are still discussions about how to handle Masters to PhD transfers, one possibility is to offer a rebate to anyone who paid IDF as a Masters student.

The 3-Minute Thesis competition was a success again this year, we had winners across four faculties (medicine, engineering, arts & social sciences, and science).

We're currently involved in collective bargaining with PSAC, we're through one round of meetings and don't foresee dramatic changes to the agreement.

**Associate Dean (A. Donaldson)**

Curriculum updates: Concept paper for the MSc Occupational Science has gone through APCC with a recommendation to SAPRC. The program would replace the existing MSc Occupational Therapy Post-Professional program, which has recently suspended admissions.

Scholarship updates: The first round of funding announcements were about a month ago, there is a meeting scheduled for the second round this week, and announcements will likely be made next week, with more to follow in April.

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

**PDF Report (E. Madadian)**

We had our first round of meetings after electing the new committee members. At the very outset, we started with the process preparation for "Postdoc Research Day". The date is now finalized for November 15, 2019. Further information will come in the next three months.

We are currently looking for potential speakers from different fields and sectors (academia, industry, government, etc.) to present the potential future career options for PDFs. Any suggestion from members of Faculty Council would be appreciated.

There were minor changes in the constitution of DPS raised during our AGM in January. Voting was conducted through secret ballot and it is now approved. The updated version can be found on the webpage of DPS.

We were pleased at the engagement from postdoctoral fellows with the 3-Minute Thesis competition this year in serving as judges.

**DAGS (K. Lowe)**

There will be a conflict resolution workshop with HRES Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup> from 12-1pm, focusing on students but anyone from the grad community is welcome. Location is DSU room 302.

There is also a Mental Health Commission of Canada led graduate student dialogue at 4pm today, March 26<sup>th</sup>. Please encourage your students to attend. Location is CHEB room 311.

Nominations for DAGS elections are ongoing, we need some more interest in executive positions and president. If you have any leaders in your programs, encourage them to run.

The inaugural grad student conference is April 4<sup>th</sup> from 12-5pm, and will be a great day full of sessions on health, sustainability, and more. Debbie Martin is keynote, there will also be a panel discussion, and a reception at international student centre to follow. As well, our appreciation night at U Club will happen in the evening.

Following up on the BAC report, we've been working with international student association to address concerns around tuition increases.

**FC 18.19.53 COI in supervisory committees (J. Hope)**

John Hope, General Counsel and Managing Director of Legal Counsel, gave a presentation on conflict of interest in supervisory committees. Legal Counsel works closely with FGS to address issues around conflict as they come up, and also advise on academic appeals where COI is

involved. While the COI policy is a bit outdated, there are relevant sections on procedures that are helpful for all supervisors and departments to be aware of.

There was extensive conversation and questions on the subject, including how matters of conflict should be handled by FGS. J. Hope noted that we only know about it when it's disclosed, and a process that allowed for a formal declaration at the outset of the supervisory/student relationship would be ideal. FGS wouldn't prohibit such a relationship, but having a declaration made with student sign off is transparent. When the declaration is made, it's a good opportunity for FGS to discuss it and identify how the relationship can/should be managed (i.e. should they add an extra committee member, should someone recuse themselves from the examination, are there any other issues perceived that should be mitigated).

The overall idea is that conflict of interest is unavoidable and does exist, the proper way to handle it is through recognition, disclosure, and ongoing management.

There was also a conversation around industry contracts and conflicts between supervisors or members of the supervisory committee around their relationship with industry. J. Hope noted that a possible solution in these situations is for someone outside the supervisory committee to be a part of negotiations.

J. Hope concluded by inviting any questions to be sent to him, or by participating in small group meetings within departments or faculties. The presentation will be circulated to members of Faculty Council.

#### **FC 18.19.54 Political Science – review**

M. Adams, the FGS representative on the review committee, provided a brief summary of the final report outlining three main points, the first two are recognized to be largely out of the control of the department. First is the need to replace retiring professors, second is inadequate funding from graduate studies in order to compete against other programs/universities, and third is the time to completion for the PhD students.

D. Black, Chair of the department, noted they have made significant progress in renewal over the past couple of years, which has helped with manpower and funding. Regarding student funding, of the English speaking Canadian universities, we are the one political science program that can't offer four years of funding, but noted K. Fierlbeck (graduate coordinator) does an excellent job of matching students with awards for which they're eligible. Regarding completion time, the comprehensive process has been reformed so while that might not be the sole reason for the long completion time, it was borderline onerous so the time was right to revisit the process.

There were additional questions from Council regarding faculty/student ratios, the graduate handbook and outlines for the PhD program, frequency of student/committee meetings, and funding challenges.

Upon the guest departure there was a very brief discussion around their progress, it was noted their enrolment times are on track and they seem to face many of the same issues as other departments that have recently undergone review.

**It was moved by S. Boe, seconded by L. Guibault: that Faculty Council rate the Department of Political Science graduate programs review as Satisfactory.**

**FC 18.19.55 Other Business**

None.

**FC 18.19.56 Next meeting – Tuesday April 23, 2019 in the Lord Dalhousie Room, Henry Hicks.**

The meeting adjourned at 12:54pm