

**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES**

These minutes have been approved.

A regular meeting of the Faculty of Graduate Studies was held on Thursday, May 11, 2006 at 3:00 pm in Room 217, Henry Hicks Academic Administration Building.

Present: R. Abidi, Y. Animi, R. Apostle, J. Armson, M. Asbridge, B. Baker (FGS), L. Carbert, N. Culshaw, A. Curwin, L. Diepeveen, K. Dilcher, M. Earl, W. Fletcher (FGS), I. Folkins, A. French, M. Furrow, G. Hebb, M. Hymers, D. Irvine, A. Joseph, P. Keast, D. Kelley, R. Klein, J. Kwak (Dean), M. Lee, L. Livingston, B. MacDonald, H. Moukdad, P. O'Brien, D. Pelzer, D. Richardson, N. Ridgway, T. Ross, R. Rostom, J. Rutherford (Acting Associate Dean), J. Sawynok, M. Scott (Secretary), G. Stroink, E. Susko, J. Sweeney (FGS), J. Thompson, S. Tirone, E. Townsend, A. Unruh, A. Warkentin, D. Westwood.

Apologies: Department of Pathology, P. Tyedmers

F05/06.01 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

The Dean called the meeting to order and the agenda was approved.

F05/06.02 Minutes of May 12, 2005

There were no corrections. A. Joseph moved, seconded by D. Pelzer, **that the minutes of May 12, 2005 be approved. Carried.** There were no matters arising.

F05/06.03 Approval of Candidates for Degrees

The Dean invited B. Baker, Admissions and Convocation Officer in FGS to comment on the web-based system now used to confirm the details of the convocants prior to publication of the list. Ms. Baker thanked departments for their prompt response and their cooperation again this year. She asked faculty in attendance to check the list for the names of graduates in their respective departments. Changes to the list can still be made prior to submission to Senate on May 16.

K. Dilcher moved, seconded by M. Hymers, **that the list of candidates for receipt of degrees be approved as distributed. Carried.**

K. Dilcher moved, seconded by M. Hymers, **that the Dean of FGS, in consultation with the Registrar's Office and Senate, be given authority to make additions or corrections as appropriate to the list of candidates prior to submittal to Senate.**

Carried.

F05/06.04 Gold Medal Awards and Doctoral Thesis Awards

The Dean announced that the FGS Prize Panel this year was comprised of J. Rutherford (Acting Associate Dean), J. Kreuzer (Physics), and G. Turnbull (Physiotherapy).

The Dean announced that two Governor General's Gold Medal Awards "for the most outstanding Master's candidate in thesis or non-thesis programs" had been selected by the Prize Panel. This year the request for nominations was sent out to departments on March 4th for students graduating in October 2005 or May 2006. FGS received 15 nominations, eight in the Natural Sciences and Engineering and seven in the Humanities and Social Sciences. The quality of the files submitted was outstanding, making the job of selecting of the winners by the Prize Panel an extremely difficult but rewarding process.

The Dean, on behalf of the Prize Panel recommended the winner of the Governor General's Gold Medal Award in the Humanities and Social Sciences be Jeffrey Shawn Wilson (Department of International Development Studies, October 2005 convocation) and the winner in the Natural Sciences and Engineering be Sophie Ellen Baker (Department of Earth Sciences, October 2005 convocation).

J. Rutherford moved, seconded by N. Culshaw

that the recommendation of the FGS Prize Panel to award the Governor General's Gold Medals to Jeffrey Wilson and Sophie Baker be approved. Carried.

The Dean announced that this was the third year that the Dalhousie University Doctoral Thesis Award competition had been held. This award recognizes the best doctoral dissertation submitted by students convocating in the October and May ceremonies. There are two awards given one in the Natural and Medical Sciences and Engineering, and the second in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Frequently the nominations for this award go forward for external competitions. The nomination call was sent out on March 10th for students graduating in October 2004 and May 2005. The main criterion considered in the external examiners report. Once again the nominations received were for outstanding doctoral theses.

Dean Kwak, on behalf of the Prize Panel recommended the winner of the Doctoral Thesis Award in the Natural and Medical Sciences, and Engineering be Michael Rygel (Earth Sciences) for his thesis: "Alluvial Sedimentology and Basin Analysis of Carboniferous Strata near Joggins, Nova Scotia, Atlantic Canada" and the winner in the Humanities and Social Sciences be Meinhard Doelle (Law) for his thesis: "From Hot Air to Action: Climate Change, Compliance, and the Future of International and Environmental Law."

N. Culshaw moved, seconded by J. Rutherford,

that the recommendations of the Prize Panel to award the Dalhousie Doctoral Thesis Awards to Dr. Michael Rygel and Dr. Meinhard Doelle be approved.

Carried.

F05/06.05 Faculty of Graduate Studies Distinguished Service Award

The Dean introduced this award by noting that it had been established in recognition of individuals who, in one capacity or another, have provided distinguished and long-standing service to the Faculty of Graduate Studies. This award may go to faculty or staff as it is not related to academic contributions, but record of service to students, graduate programmes, and the Faculty. The award consists of a framed certificate, a photo (to be mounted in FGS) and a cash award of \$500.00.

The Dean, on behalf of the Prize Panel recommended the Faculty of Graduate Studies Distinguished Service Award be presented to Dr. Steven Burns of the Department of Philosophy, for his “truly outstanding service to graduate students in the Department of Philosophy and to the Faculty of Graduate Studies.”

D. Pelzer moved, seconded by J. Rutherford,

That the recommendation of the Prize Panel to award the Faculty of Graduate Studies Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Steven Burns, Department of Philosophy be approved. Carried.

Dr. Burns was not in attendance but will receive a framed certificate, \$500, and his picture will be added to the photo gallery of previous award winners outside the FGS office.

F05/06.06 Dean’s Report

The Dean presented his annual report, as contained in the Appendix to these minutes and on the FGS website. The Dean reviewed enrolment details, graduate student funding, FGS scholarship allocations and a summary of degrees awarded. He noted that the report from the committee that had been struck to review the scholarship allocation policy is included in the meeting papers and is agenda item 9.

F05/06.07 Associate Dean’s Scholarship Committee Reports and Reports of Standing Committees of the Faculty

The reports of FGS standing committees were included in the annual report for faculty members’ information. This material is contained on the FGS website. The Acting Associate Dean, Dr. Rutherford reported on the results of the various scholarship competitions. Dr. Rutherford closed by reporting that the Interdisciplinary PhD programme had now grown to 53 students.

F05/06.08 Nominations and Elections for Faculty Council and Standing Committees

The Dean asked Dr. Rutherford to present, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, the list of nominees for the Faculty Council and standing committees of FGS, as contained in the Appendix to these minutes. Vacancies still exist on the Killam Lecture Committee. Nominations for this committee positions should be forwarded to J. Kwak, J. Rutherford or M. Scott. J. Rutherford presented the list of nominations for the following committees:

Faculty Council: There were six nominations for six vacancies: H. Whitehead, M. Bliemel, S. Tirone, J. Thompson, P. Girard and L. MacLaren.

Dalhousie and Killam Predoctoral Scholarship Committee: There were four nominations for four vacancies: T. Ross, Q. Gao, G. Hebb and P. McMullen.

Academic Appeals Committee: There was one nomination for one vacancy: J. Grant.

J. Rutherford asked that the above nominations be approved. Moved R. Klein, seconded by D. Pelzer, **that the list of nominees for the Faculty Council and standing committees of FGS be elected by acclamation. Carried.**

J. Rutherford then announced that an election needed to be held for the following committee:
Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship Committee: There were five nominations for four vacancies. An election was held and the following **were elected to this committee**: 3-year terms for D. Irvine, P. Girard, and H. Thomas, and a 2-year term for S. Barnes.

F05/06.09 Report of the “Ad-Hoc Committee to Review the Scholarship Allocation System”

The Dean invited R. Klein to review the report produced by the Ad-Hoc Committee. Dr. Klein covered the report and discussion covered professional vs regular programs, thesis vs non-thesis and the impact these have on the division of available funding. Further discussion covered the impact of restricted funding and sources of additional funding. It was suggested that an in-depth study of a few selected departments would help in developing a convincing argument to present to upper administration. This would be in an effort to gain additional funding from the university as well as solicit support for a joint university approach to the provincial government.

F05/06.10 Other Business

The Dean thanked all outgoing members of Faculty Council and the standing committees of FGS for their service, and expressed his gratitude to members of review committees, graduate coordinators and departmental staff. He also thanked the FGS office staff for their hard work in an increasingly complex and demanding graduate studies environment. He thanked M. Scott for her service as Secretary to Faculty Council and W. Fletcher for her service as Secretary to APCC.

In closing the Dean thanked all present for attending this meeting and for their interest in, and contribution to the faculty, our graduate programs, and our students.

R. Klein expressed thanks to Dr. Kwak for his leadership over the past five years as Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

T. Ross moved, M. Furrow seconded, **that the meeting be adjourned. Carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:20.

J. Kwak, Dean

M. Scott, Recording Secretary