

**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 10, 2007 at 3:00 pm in Room 201, Henry Hicks Academic Administration Building.

**Present:** S. Adl, N. Burford, L. Carbert, S. Cohen, M. Cross, K. Dilcher, R. Duncan, R. Dunlap, S. Faridi, W. Fletcher (FGS), W. Greer, S. Hutchinson, D. Kelley, K. Kesselring, R. Klein, L. Livingston, A. Madani, S. Mannell, S. Marche (Associate Dean), T. McRae, H. Nowlan (FGS), P. O'Brien, D. Pelzer, H. Ramos, T. Ross, J. Sawynok, D. Scott, M. Scott (Secretary), K. Semba, M. Shepherd, J. Sweeney (FGS), S. Tirone, L. Truelstrup Hansen, P. Tyedmers, J. Versnel, A. Warkentin, C. Watters (Dean).

**F06/07.01 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

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

**F06/07.02 Minutes of May 11, 2006**

There were no corrections. R. Klein moved, seconded by T. McRae,

**That the minutes of May 11, 2006 be approved. Carried.** There were no matters arising.

**F06/07.03 Approval of Candidates for Degrees**

The Dean invited H. Nowlan, Acting 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. Nowlan thanked departments for their prompt response and their cooperation. 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 16th.

D Pelzer moved, seconded by S. Cohen: **That the list of candidates for receipt of degrees be approved as distributed. Carried.**

D. Kelly moved, seconded by K. Semba: **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.**

The Dean thanked Ms. Nowlan for her work in compiling the list.

#### **F06/07.04 Gold Medal Awards and Doctoral Thesis Awards**

The Dean announced that the FGS Prize Panel this year was comprised of S. Marche (Associate Dean), J. Kreuzer (Physics), and A. Speers (Process Engineering and Applied Sciences).

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 2<sup>nd</sup> for students graduating in October 2006 or May 2007. FGS received nine nominations, five in the Natural Sciences and Engineering and four 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 Gillman Payette (Department of Philosophy, May 2007 convocation) and the winner in the Natural Sciences and Engineering be Vincent Chevrier (Department of Physics, October 2006 convocation).

S. Cohen moved, seconded by P. O'Brien: **That the recommendation of the FGS Prize Panel to award the Governor General's Gold Medals to Gillman Payette and Vincent Chevrier be approved. Carried.**

The Dean announced that this was the fourth 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 2<sup>nd</sup> for students graduating in October 2006 and May 2007. The main criterion considered in the external examiners report. Once again the nominations received were for outstanding doctoral theses.

Dean Watters, on behalf of the Prize Panel recommended the winner of the Doctoral Thesis Award in the Natural and Medical Sciences, and Engineering be Felix Hanke (Physics) for his thesis: "The Mechanical response of Macromolecules In and Out of Equilibrium" and the winner in the Humanities and Social Sciences be Ana Minerva Arce Ibarra (Interdisciplinary PhD Program) for her thesis: "Livelihoods, Aquatic Resources and Non-Monetary Values of Local Natural Resources in Mexico's Lowland Maya Area."

T. McRae moved, seconded by C. Dilcher: **That the recommendations of the Prize Panel to award the Dalhousie Doctoral Thesis Awards to Dr. Felix Hanke and Dr. Ana Minerva Arce Ibarra be approved. Carried.**

#### **F06/07.05 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 Tracy Powell from the School of Health and Human Performance, for her “outstanding service to graduate students in the School of Health and Human Performance and to the Faculty of Graduate Studies.”

#### **F06/07.06 Dean’s Report**

The Dean presented her annual report, as contained in the Appendix to these minutes and on the FGS website. The Dean reviewed enrolment details, graduation statistics, graduate student funding, new graduate programs, the Senate review of FGS, FGS initiatives and ended by thanking faculty for their participation as members of Faculty Council, the Academic Planning and Curriculum Committee, and Graduate Coordinators.

#### **F06/07.07 Associate Dean’s Report**

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 Associate Dean, Dr. Marche reported on the FGS Strategic Plan, professional development, and the results of the various scholarship competitions. Dr. Marche reported on the work of the APCC, PhD thesis defence statistics and closed by reporting that the Interdisciplinary PhD programme was now the largest PhD program on campus.

#### **F06/07.08 Nominations and Elections for Faculty Council and Standing Committees**

The Dean asked Dr. Marche 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.

Faculty Council: There were six nominations for eight vacancies: J. Ingles, B. Grindley, M. Cada, D. Wranik, D. Pelzer and M. Satish.

Killam Predoctoral Scholarship Committee: There were four nominations for four vacancies: P. O’Brien, Z. Farhat, S. Adl and G. Kynoch.

Academic Appeals Committee: There was one nomination for three vacancies: J. Gu.

Dr. Marche asked that the above nominations be approved. Moved R. Klein, seconded by P. Tyedmers, **that the list of nominees for the Faculty Council and standing committees of FGS be elected by acclamation. Carried.**

#### **F06/07.09 Other Business**

The Dean thanked all outgoing members of Faculty Council and the standing committees of FGS for their service, and expressed her gratitude to members of review committees, graduate coordinators and departmental staff. She also thanked the FGS office staff for their hard work in an increasingly complex and expanding role including web sites, recruiting and branding, and special projects such as the electronic thesis. She thanked M. Scott for her service as Secretary to Faculty Council and APCC and for organizing this meeting.

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.

D. Pelzer moved, S. Cohen seconded: **That the meeting be adjourned.**

**Carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:20.

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C. Watters, Dean

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M. Scott, Recording Secretary