

**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 8, 2008 at 2:30 pm in Room 201, Henry Hicks Academic Administration Building.

Present: Y. Anini, R. Apostle, S. Bearne, A. Becke, M. Bliemel, C. Brannen, N. Burford, L. Carbert, E. Clark, M. Cross, T. Cyrus, K. Dilcher, L. Fanning, W. Fletcher (FGS), M. Fournier, P. Gardiner Barber, M. Heywood, D. Hoskin, R. Klein, C. Lefebvre, A. Madani, Y. Marchand, S. Marche (Associate Dean), J. Marshall, H. Nowlan (FGS), D. Pelzer, S. Rennie, C. Saulnier, M. Scott (Secretary), K. Semba, J. Sweeney (FGS), T. Taylor, S. Tillotson, S. Tirone, L. Turculet, J. Versnel, C. Watters (Dean), D. Wranik.

F07/08.01 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

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

F07/08.02 Minutes of May 10, 2007

There was one correction to the minutes of May 10, 2007. A. Madani was added as in attendance.

It was moved by S. Tirone, seconded by S. Rennie; **that the minutes of May 10, 2007 be approved.**

The motion carried. There were no matters arising.

F07/08.03 Approval of Candidates for Degrees

The Dean invited H. Nowlan, 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 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.

It was moved by R. Klein, seconded by A. Madani; **that the list of candidates for receipt of degrees be approved as distributed. The motion carried.**

It was moved by S. Tillotson, seconded by M. Bliemel; **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.**

The motion carried.

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

F07/08.04 Awards

i) Gold Medal Awards and Doctoral Thesis Awards

The Dean announced that the FGS Prize Panel this year was comprised of S. Marche (Associate Dean), S. Cohen (Classics), and M. Gibling (Earth Sciences).

Associate Dean Marche 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 13th for students graduating in October 2007 or May 2008. FGS received eight nominations, three in the Natural Sciences and Engineering and five 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.

Dr. Marche, on behalf of the Prize Panel recommended the winner of the Governor General's Gold Medal Award in the Humanities and Social Sciences be Bronwyn Rodd (Department of English, October 2007 convocation) and the winner in the Natural Sciences and Engineering be Laura Hug (Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, October 2007 convocation).

It was moved by S. Bearne, seconded by L. Fanning; **that the recommendation of the FGS Prize Panel to award the Governor General's Gold Medals to Bronwyn Rodd and Laura Hug be approved. The motion carried.**

ii) Dalhousie University Doctoral Thesis Award

The Dean announced that this was the fifth 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. The nomination call was sent out on March 13th for students graduating in October 2007 and May 2008. The main criterion considered is the external examiners report. Once again the nominations received were for outstanding doctoral theses.

Associate Dean Marche, on behalf of the Prize Panel recommended the winner of the Doctoral Thesis Award in the Natural and Medical Sciences, and Engineering be Derek Tittensor (Biology) for his thesis: "Macroecology of Exploited marine Systems: Human Impacts and the Effects of Scale" and the winner in the Humanities and Social Sciences be Celeste Lefebvre (Psychology) for her thesis: "The Use of Event-Related Brain Potentials (ERPs) to Assess Eyewitness identification Accuracy."

It was moved by S. Tirone, seconded by D. Pelzer; **that the recommendations of the Prize Panel to award the Dalhousie Doctoral Thesis Awards to Dr. Celeste Lefebvre and Dr. Derek Tittensor be approved. The motion carried.**

iii) Faculty of Graduate Studies Distinguished Service Award

Associate Dean Marche 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 cash award, and a photo (to be displayed in the hall across from FGS).

Dr. Marche, on behalf of the Prize Panel recommended the Faculty of Graduate Studies Distinguished Service Award be presented to Dr. David Hoskin from the Departments of Microbiology & Immunology and Pathology.

F07/08.06 Dean's Report

The Dean presented her annual report, 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, FGS initiatives and ended by thanking faculty for their participation as members of Faculty Council, the Academic Planning and Curriculum Committee, and Graduate Coordinators.

F07/08.07 Associate Dean's Report – PDFs, Thesis Management and ID PhD Program

Associate Dean, Dr. Marche reported on the Postdoctoral Fellowship policy development, issues around clarification of academic and research appointments, and an update on professional development for PDFs. He also reported on PhD defence numbers and the success of the format sessions now run by the thesis clerk. He concluded his report by noting the ID PhD Program was expected to have 90 students by the September start of term.

F07/08.8 Associate Dean's Report – Scholarships and Programs

Associate Dean, Dr. Pelzer reported on the many scholarship competitions both internal and external to Dalhousie. It was noted during the presentation that although there had been a 5% increase in students there had been no matching increase in student funding. Also discussed was the relationship between the number new Killam Scholarships being directly related to the number of Killam renewals and the other external awards these students get. Dr. Pelzer also gave an update on new program proposals and presented a timeline for the submission and approval process for new programs. Dr. Pelzer also presented the list of minor and major program modifications, program suspensions, academic program reviews and statistics for curriculum approvals.

The reports of the Dean and Associate Deans and FGS standing committees were included in the annual report for faculty members' information. This material is contained on the FGS website.

F07/08.09 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 nine vacancies: M. Leonard, M. Heywood, P. Bodorik, B. Lesser, P. Gardiner Barber, and S. Guppy.

Killam Predoctoral Scholarship Committee: There were five nominations for six vacancies: M. Doelle, J. Cameron, L. Turculet, H. Ramos, and P. Murphy.

Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship Committee: There were two nominations for three vacancies: A. Becke, and A.-A. Farrag.

Dr. Marche asked that the above nominations be approved. It was moved by N. Burford, seconded by K. Dilcher; **that the list of nominees for the Faculty Council and standing committees of FGS be elected by acclamation. The motion carried.**

F07/08.10 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.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10.

C. Watters, Dean

M. Scott, Recording Secretary