

**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 7, 2009 at 2:30 pm in Room 1014, Kenneth C. Rowe Management Building.

**Present:** Dr. C. Watters (Dean, Chair), Dr. S. Marche (Associate Dean), Dr. D. Pelzer (Associate Dean), M. Scott (Secretary), W. Fletcher (FGS), H. Nowlan (FGS) and 24 members of the faculty.

**F08/09.01 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

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

**F08/09.02 Minutes of May 8, 2008**

There were no corrections to the minutes of May 8, 2008. It was moved by S Adle, seconded by S.Marche; **that the minutes of May 8, 2008 be approved. The motion carried.** There were no matters arising.

**F08/09.03 Approval of Candidates for Degrees**

The Dean invited H. Nowlan, Admissions and Convocation Officer in FGS, to present the list of convocants prior to its publication. Ms. Nowlan 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 S. Tirone, seconded by P. Gardiner Barber; **that the list of candidates for receipt of degrees be approved as distributed. The motion carried.**

It was moved by R. Martin-Misener, seconded by R. Singer; **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.**

#### **F08/09.04 Awards**

##### **i) Gold Medal Awards and Doctoral Thesis Awards**

The Dean announced that the FGS Prize Panel this year was comprised of A. Speers (Process Engineering and Applied Sciences), J. Ingles (Human Communication Disorders), S. Marche (Associate Dean), and D. Pelzer (Associate Dean).

Dr. Watters 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 in March for students graduating in October 2008 or May 2009. FGS received eleven nominations, eight in the Natural Sciences and Engineering and three 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 once again a very difficult process.

Dr. Watters recommended, on behalf of the Prize Panel that the winner of the Governor General's Gold Medal Award in the Humanities and Social Sciences be Laura Hynes (Department of History, May 2009 convocation) and the winner in the Natural Sciences and Engineering be Doug Staple (Department of Physics and Atmospheric Science, October 2008 convocation).

It was moved by S. Tirone, seconded by T. Ross; **that the recommendation of the FGS Prize Panel to award the Governor General's Gold Medals to Laura Hynes and Doug Staple be approved. The motion carried.**

##### **ii) Dalhousie University Doctoral Thesis Award**

The Dean announced that this was the sixth year that the Dalhousie University Doctoral Thesis Award competition had been held. This award recognizes the best doctoral dissertation submitted by a student 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 in March for students graduating in October 2008 and May 2009. The main criterion considered is the external examiners report. Once again the nominations received were for outstanding doctoral theses.

Dr. Watters recommended, on behalf of the Prize Panel that the winner of the Doctoral Thesis Award in the Natural and Medical Sciences, and Engineering be Matthew Rankin (Chemistry) for his thesis: "Cp Ru Chemistry of Donor-Substituted Indene and Indenide Ligands." and the winner in the Humanities and Social Sciences be David Eaton (History) for his thesis: "Violence, Revenge and the History of Cattle Raiding Along the Kenya-Uganda Border, c. 1830-2008."

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. Matthew Rankin and Dr. David Eaton be approved. The motion carried.**

##### **iii) 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 goes to faculty and 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. Watters, on behalf of the Prize Panel recommended the Faculty of Graduate Studies Distinguished Service Awards for Support Staff be presented to Ms. Shelley Parker from the Department of Civil and Resource Engineering and the Distinguished Service Award for Faculty be presented to Dr. Richard Singer, Department of Microbiology and Immunology.

**F08/09.05 Dean's Report – (C. Watters)**

The Dean presented her annual report, is located on the FGS website. The Dean opened by stating that due to difficulties relating to the reporting period and the funding period, FGS will from this point on, prepare a supplemental report in the fall providing the statistics relating to scholarship funding. She went on to review enrolment details, graduate student funding, FGS initiatives, FGS objectives for 2009-2010 and ended by thanking faculty for their participation as members of Faculty Council, the Academic Planning and Curriculum Committee, and Graduate Coordinators.

The Dean invited W. Fletcher to give a brief update on the Opinion survey conducted by FGS both last year and again this year of those accepted to Dalhousie that did not come. Ms. Fletcher also reported on the FGS recruitment activities and initiatives undertaken over the past year.

**F08/09.06 Associate Dean's Report – PDFs, Thesis Management and ID PhD Program (S. Marche)**

Associate Dean, Dr. Marche reported on the Postdoctoral Fellowship activities at the local and national levels, the Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship competition results, and the professional development sessions run for PDFs. He also reported on PhD defence numbers and the success of the format sessions run by the thesis clerk. He concluded his report by noting the ID PhD Program was expected to have 100 students by the September start of term.

**F08/09.07 Associate Dean's Report – Scholarships and Programs (D. Pelzer)**

Associate Dean, Dr. Pelzer reported on the scholarship competitions both internal and external to Dalhousie. He reported that there were still Tricouncil scholarship competition results still outstanding that would have an effect on several internal scholarship results. 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, along with the reducing pot of money due to the difficult economic situation. Also of note is that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Allocation process is currently being revamped in order to balance between the professional (course work only) programs and the thesis programs. Once a new system is approved by Faculty Council an announcement will be made. 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 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.

**F08/09.08 Nominations and Elections for Faculty Council and Standing Committees**

The Dean presented, 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 eight nominations for eight vacancies: R. Maitzen, M. Lee, M. Adams, A. Fenety, N. Schepp, W. Baldrige with M. Bliemel and S. Tirone offering for a second term.

Killam Predoctoral Scholarship Committee: There were four nominations for four vacancies: T. Trappenberg, J. Kreuzer, C. Lake, and C. Chambers.

Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship Committee: There were four nominations for four vacancies: S. Bearne, G. Turnbull, S. Tillotson, and R. Jamieson.

There were no nominations received from the floor.

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

**F08/09.09 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 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.

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C. Watters, Dean

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M. Scott, Recording Secretary