

**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 20, 2010 at 2:30 pm in Room 1014, Kenneth C. Rowe Management Building.

**Present:** Dr. C. Watters (Dean, Chair), Dr. D. Pelzer (Associate Dean), Dr. M. Lee (Acting Associate Dean), M. Scott (Secretary), W. Fletcher (FGS), H. Nowlan (FGS), D. Pottie (FGS), M. Clarke (FGS) and 28 faculty members and graduate administrators.

**F09/10.01 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

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

**F09/10.02 Minutes of May 7, 2009**

There were no corrections to the minutes of May 7, 2009. It was moved by L. Spiteri, seconded by R. Singer; **that the minutes of May 7, 2009 be approved. The motion carried.** There were no matters arising.

**F09/10.03 Awards**

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

The Dean announced that the FGS Prize Panel this year was comprised of Russ Boyd (Chemistry), Howard Ramos (SOSA), Dieter Pelzer (Associate Dean, FGS), Susan Guppy (Planning), Susan Tirone (Health & Human Performance), Anne Fenety (Physiotherapy)

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 2009 or May 2010. FGS received seven nominations, three 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 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 Timothy Riggs (Department of Classics, October 2009 convocation) and the winner in the Natural Sciences and Engineering be Amy Trotter (Department of Chemistry, October 2009 convocation).

It was moved by M. Fournier, seconded by L. Spiteri; **that the recommendation of the FGS Prize Panel to award the Governor General's Gold Medals to Timothy Riggs and Amy Trottier be approved. The motion carried.**

**ii) Dalhousie University Doctoral Thesis Award**

The Dean announced that this was the seventh 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 2009 and May 2010. 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 Andrew Vanderzaag (Biological Engineering) for his thesis: "Measurement and Mitigation of Gaseous Emissions from Dairy Wastewater Treatment and Storage Systems." and the winner in the Humanities and Social Sciences be Susanne Marshall (English) for her thesis: "'We Are Most Ourselves When We Are Changing': Michael Winter, Lynn Coady, Lisa Moore, and the Literary Reconfiguration of Atlantic Canadian Regionalism."

**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, and a photo (to be displayed in the hall across from FGS).

Dr. Watters, on behalf of the Prize Panel presented the Faculty of Graduate Studies Distinguished Service Awards for Support Staff to Ms. Luisa Vaughan from the Department of Pathology.

**F09/10.05 Dean's Report – (C. Watters)**

The Dean presented her annual report, which is located on the FGS website. The Dean opened by stating that the reporting period for the student numbers and the activities of the Faculty of Graduate Studies is from May 2009 to April 2010 while the funding period in this report runs from September 2008 to August 2009. She went on to review enrolment details, graduate student funding, FGS initiatives, and FGS objectives for 2010-2011. She drew particular attention to the increasing international student market, reporting on her recent recruitment trip to Chile and the tremendous interest there. Of particular note was that these students would come with full funding which would make this a particularly attractive market. She ended by thanking faculty for their participation as members of Faculty Council, the Academic Planning and Curriculum Committee, and Graduate Coordinators.

**09/10.06 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 on 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. He reported on the reducing number of graduate student applications and awards to the Tri-council competitions. There was lengthy discussion on the implications to university quotas, and overall funding for graduate students. Dr. Pelzer indicated that in partnership with Dr. Russ Boyd, Associate Vice-President of Research Services, meetings with Deans and departments to try to address the trend of lower application quality and success. He also noted that the Faculty of Graduate Studies website had documents on 'Best Practices' for mentoring and writing reference letters.

**F09/10.07 Associate Dean's Report – PDFs, Thesis Management and ID PhD Program (M. Lee)**

Acting Associate Dean, Dr. Lee reported taxation changes announced in the Federal Budget in February that directly and negatively impacted the Postdoctoral Fellowships at all Canadian Universities. He noted that as a result, Postdocs at Dalhousie have formed an association with an official elected executive that has a negotiating face. This group is seeking benefits, and is looking to redefine its position. One hope is that they will be allowed to hold research funding in their own right. The changes in the tax regulations have directly impacted the professional development class, RSCH 5600, established for Postdoctoral Fellows. This class no longer provides tax exemption, thus this course will not continue in its present form. The sessions included in this course are still of value so options are being considered in joint running of professional development sessions with IHRTP, as they also currently run similar sessions.

The Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship committee considered 44 applications, but due to difficulties with the Killam funding, only two new Killam Postdoctoral Fellowships were offered and accepted.

Dr Lee indicated that during this reporting period there were 110 PhD defences. He also noted the success he had in recruiting additional defence chairs. He also reported that a set of guidelines for defence chairs has been developed and circulated.

Dr. Lee concluded his report by indicating the Interdisciplinary PhD program currently has about 94 students, will graduate 10, and will have accepted 12 new admissions this 2009-2010 year. He reported that the program has a new Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Marina Pluzhenskaya and that the ID PhD Program has seen the creation of an advisory committee that is looking at several areas of the program need attention. One of the changes to the program is an increase in the admission GPA rising to 3.7 as the standard.

**F09/10.08 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 five nominations for five vacancies – **Stephen Bearne** (Biochemistry & Molecular Biology), **Sara Faridi** (Maths & Stats), **Georges Kipouros** (Process Engineering & Applied Science), **David Scott** (Earth Sciences), and **Mohamed El-Hawary** (Electrical & Computer Engineering).

**Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship Committee:** There were two nominations for two vacancies – **Angelo Iulianella** (Anatomy & Neurobiology), and **Jeanette Janssen** (Maths & Stats).

**Killam Lecture Committee:** There were three nominations for three vacancies – **David Precious** (Oral & Maxillofacial Sciences), **Theodore Kolokolnikov** (Maths & Stats), and **Michael Fournier** (Classics).

**Academic Appeals Committee:** There was one nomination for five vacancies – **Richard Singer** (Biochemistry & Molecular Biology).

Dr. Watters reminded faculty members that there were no nominations allowed from the floor.

Dr. Watters asked that the above nominations be approved. It was **moved by K. Louden, seconded by M. Bliemel; that the list of nominees for the Faculty Council, Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship Committee, Killam Lecture Committee, and the Academic Appeals Committee of FGS be elected by acclamation. The motion carried.**

**Killam Predoctoral Scholarship Committee:** There were five nominations for three vacancies. There was an election using the preferential voting system and **Tamara Romanuk** (Biology), **John Baxter** (English) and **Peter O'Brien** (Classics) **were elected.**

#### **F09/10.09 E-Thesis Submissions**

Dr. Watters gave an update on the progress of electronic thesis submissions. Dr. Watters gave a list of submission deadlines and an explanation of what FGS will accept by way of paper copies. She indicated FGS would be giving presentations to departments in the very near future.

#### **F09/10.10 Other Business**

- i) **MSI Coverage for International Students:** The question of MSI coverage for international graduate students was raised as it appears students that have a TA can get MSI coverage. Dr. Watters indicated she would investigate this further.
- ii) **Thanks** - 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