

**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 12, 2011, at 2:30pm, in Room 1011, Kenneth C Rowe Building

Present: Dr. S. Marche (Acting Dean, Chair), Dr. D. Pelzer (Associate Dean), Dr. M. Lee (Acting Associate Dean), M. Scott (Secretary), W. Fletcher (FGS), H. Nowlan (FGS), S. Theriault (FGS), 32 faculty members, graduate administrators and students.

**F10/11.01. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

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

**F10/11.02. Minutes of May 20, 2010**

There were no corrections to the minutes of May 20, 2010. It was moved by R. Klein, seconded by M. Bliemel: **that the minutes of May 20, 2010 be approved. The motion carried.** There were no matters arising.

**F10/11.03. Approval of the Candidates for Degrees**

The Acting 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. Caughlan, seconded by S. Parcell: that the list of candidates for receipt of degrees be approved as distributed. The motion carried.**

**It was moved by A. Fenety, seconded by F. Black; that the Acting 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 submission to Senate. The motion carried.**

**F10/11.04. Awards**

**4.1 Governor General's Gold Medal Awards**

The Acting Dean announced that the FGS Prize Panel this year was comprised of John Rutherford (Anatomy & Neurobiology), Peter Tyedmers (Resource & Environmental Studies) and Sunny Marche (Acting Dean).

Dr. Marche announced that two Governor General's Gold Medal Awards, "for the most outstanding master's candidate in thesis or non-thesis master's 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 2010 or May 2011. FGS received eight nominations, three in the Natural Sciences and Engineering, five in the Humanities and Social Sciences. The quality of the files submitted was outstanding, making the job of selecting the winners by the Prize Panel once again a very difficult process.

Dr. Marche recommended that the winner of the Governor General's Gold Medal Award in the Humanities and Social Sciences be Maria Cecilia Engler-Palma (Schulich School of Law, October 2010 convocation) and the winner in the Natural Sciences and Engineering be Sean Anderson (Department of Biology, October 2010 convocation).

**It was moved by H. Whitehead, seconded by K. Semba; that the recommendation of the FGS Prize Panel to award the Governor General's Gold Medals to Maria Cecilia Engler-Palma and Sean Anderson be approved. The motion carried.**

#### **4.2 Dalhousie University Doctoral Thesis Awards.**

The Prize Panel consisted of Howard Ramos (Sociology & Social Anthropology), Fiona Black (Information Management), L. Bennett (English), Michael Lee (FGS), and Jacek Ilow (Electrical & Computer Engineering).

Dr. Marche announced that this was the eighth 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 2010 and May 2011 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 2010 and May 2011. The main criterion considered is the external examiners report. Once again the nominations received were for outstanding doctoral theses.

Dr. Marche announced on behalf of the Prize Panel that the winner of the Doctoral Thesis Award in the Natural and Medical Sciences, and Engineering is Liang-Tzung Lin (Microbiology and Immunology) for his thesis: "Host Factor Regulation of Hepatitis C Virus Replication in Rodent Cells", and the winner in the Humanities and Social Sciences is Elaine Craig (Law) for her thesis "Sex and the Supremes: Towards a Legal Theory of Sexuality."

#### **4.3. FGS Distinguished Service Awards - 2011**

Dr. 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 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 certificate and a photo (to be displayed in the hall across from FGS).

Dr. Marche, on behalf of the Prize Panel presented the Faculty of Graduate Studies Distinguished Service Awards for Support Staff to Ms. Sandy Mansfield (Biomedical Engineering) and for Faculty to Dr. Barry Lesser (Economics).

#### **F10/11.05. Acting Dean's Report (S. Marche)**

Dr. Marche presented his annual report, which is located on the FGS website. The Acting Dean opened by stating that graduate enrolments are the highest they have ever been and are 40% higher than 10

years ago. He reviewed the international enrolments, convocation statistics, internal and external funding breakdowns and sources, graduate recruitment, and initiatives. He ended by thanking faculty for their participation as members of Faculty Council, the Academic Planning and Curriculum Committee, and Graduate Coordinators.

**F10/11.06. 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 of new Killam Scholarships being directly related to the number of Killam renewals and other external awards these students get. He reported on the reducing number of graduate student applications to and awards in the Tri-council competitions. There was lengthy discussion on the implications on university quotas, overall funding for graduate students, and Dalhousie results compared to other institutions. Dr. Pelzer reminded faculty of the need to identify strong students early enough that any deficiencies can be addressed. FGS is looking at setting up a task force that will target all graduate funding. Faculty members will have the opportunity to provide input and feedback to this group.

Dr. Pelzer also reported on curriculum submissions to FGS for new programs, program modifications and suspensions, program reviews and class submissions.

**F10/11.07 Acting Associate Dean's Report – Postdoctoral Fellows, thesis management, and Interdisciplinary PhD program (J. M. Lee)**

Dr. Lee reported on the changes and progress made to date for Postdoctoral Fellows at Dalhousie. Dr. Lee indicated that progress was being made on Postdocs holding research funding in their own right. The change in the tax situation led to the suspension of the RSCH 5600 class but professional development sessions continued. Progress had been made on benefits and the co-supervision of Master's students. The discussion of minimum stipends is still ongoing.

The Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship committee considered 48 applications from 32 departments. Three new offers were made. Dr. Lee reported on the new Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships worth \$70,000. He reviewed the aims of this award. Dalhousie received 10 applications. Three of these developed into full submissions with one Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship being awarded.

Dr. Lee reported that FGS organized 94 PhD defences over the last year. He also discussed the E-Thesis submissions and the harvesting of archival PDF/A documents by DalSpace.

Dr. Lee finished by reporting on the Interdisciplinary PhD Program indicating there are currently 82 students with seven new students being admitted this year, six under the new admission requirements. Dr. Lee is currently working on the self-study document in preparation for the FGS review.

**F10/11.08 Nominations and Elections for Faculty Council and Standing Committees**

Dr. Marche 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 10 vacancies – **Stephen Parcel** (Architecture), **Yonggan Zhao** (Business Administration), **Keith Johnson** (Maths & Stats), **Greg Scherkoske**

(Philosophy), **Hal Whitehead** (Biology), **Emma Whelan** (Sociology & Social Anthropology), **John Kozey** (Health & Human Performance), **Deborah Tamlyn** (Nursing).

**Killam Predoctoral Scholarships Committee:** There were four nominations for 6 vacancies – **Richard Wood** (Maths & Stats), **Eli Diamond** (Classics), **Fiona Martin** (Sociology & Social Anthropology), **Frank Harvey** (Political Science).

**Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship Committee:** There was one nomination for three vacancies – **Frank Harvey** (Political Science).

**Killam Lecture Committee:** There were no nominations for one vacancy.

**Academic Appeals Committee:** There were no nominations for one vacancy.

**It was moved by R. Singer, seconded by K. Dilcher: that the list of nominees for FC and standing committees of FGS be approved. The motion carried.**

#### **F10/11.09 Other Business**

Dr. Marched thanked all outgoing members of Faculty Council (Jerry Bannister, Pauline Gardiner Barber, Susan Guppy, Malcolm Heywood, Raymond Mopoho, Tamara Romanuk, Michael Bliemel, Sara Faridi, Susan Tirone), 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 expanding role including web sites, recruitment, and special projects such as the electronic thesis.

In closing the Acting 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 4:15.

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S. Marche, Acting Dean

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M. Scott, Recording Secretary