

**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 9, 2013, at 2:30 pm, in Room 1009, Kenneth C Rowe Building.

Present: Dr. B. Boudreau (Dean, Chair), Dr. D. Pelzer (Associate Dean), M. Scott (secretary), S. Theriault (secretary), H. Nowlan, D. Pottie, W. Fletcher, D. Rhodenizer, W. Barker, Y. Annini, J. Bannister, S. Bearne, K. Beazley, E. Diamond, S. Faridi, L. Fitting, A. Fleet, J. Gilby, M. Macdonald, K. MacMillan, R. Maitzen, R. Marsters, S. Parcell, D. Patterson, K. Semba, R. Singer, D. Tamlyn, P. Tyedmers, I. Weaver, S. Wells, E. Whelan

**F12/13.1 Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

Dr. Boudreau called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and called for approval of the agenda. The agenda was approved.

**F12/13.2 Minutes of May 9, 2012**

It was **moved by R. Maitzen, seconded by S. Parcell; that the minutes from the May 9, 2012 Full Faculty meeting be approved. The motion carried.**

**F12/13.3 Approval of the 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. H. Nowlan noted that 25 graduate degrees were awarded at the Faculty of Agriculture convocation ceremony on May 3, 2013.

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

It was **moved by K. Beazley, seconded by S. Parcell; 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.**

#### **F12/13.4 Awards**

By way of thanks to the DAGS representatives Dr. Boudreau presented a certificate of appreciation to Alana Fleet, the outgoing DAGS President. Certificates of appreciation will be sent to Ben Bissett, who has finished his term as DAGS Senator, and Ana Vidovic, who has finished her term as DAGS VP Academic, and who will be taking on the role of DAGS President.

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

Dr. Boudreau announced that the Governor General's Gold Medal is awarded for "the most outstanding master's candidate" in a thesis or non-thesis master's programs. Award nominations were requested in March, for student graduating in October 2012 or May 2013. Eleven nominations were received, four in natural sciences and engineering, and seven in humanities and social sciences.

This year's Prize Panel consisted of Mysore Satish (Civil and Resource Engineering), Ian Folkins (Physics and Atmospheric Science) and Elizabeth Cowley (Physiology and Biophysics).

Dr. Boudreau recommended on behalf of the FGS Prize Panel that the 2013 Governor General's Gold Medal Award in the Humanities and Social Sciences be awarded to Emma Curran (Department of Classics) and the Medal in Natural Sciences and Engineering be awarded to Braden Murphy (Department of Mechanical Engineering).

**It was moved by E. Diamond, seconded by P. Tyedmers; that the recommendations of the FGS Prize Panel to award the Governor General's Gold Medals to Emma Curran (Classics) and Braden Murphy (Mechanical Engineering) be approved. The motion carried.**

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

Dr. Boudreau announced that this award was established by Faculty Council in 2003 to recognize the best doctoral thesis submitted by students graduating in the May or preceding October convocation. Awards are given in two categories: Humanities and Social Sciences, and Natural and Medical Sciences and Engineering. Nominations were requested in March, for students graduating in October 2012 or May 2013. Fifteen nominations were received; eleven in natural and medical sciences and engineering, and four in humanities and social sciences.

This year's Prize Panel consisted of Mysore Satish (Civil and Resource Engineering), Ian Folkins (Physics and Atmospheric Science) and Elizabeth Cowley (Physiology and Biophysics).

Dr. Boudreau informed Faculty on behalf of the FGS Prize Panel that the Doctoral Thesis Award in the Humanities and Social Sciences is awarded to Roger Marsters (Department of History) for his Doctoral thesis entitled "Approaches to Empire: Hydrographic Knowledge and British State Activity in Northeastern North America, 1711 – 1783", and the Doctoral Thesis Award in the Natural and Medical Sciences and Engineering category is awarded to Jeffrey Gagnon (Department of Physiology and Biophysics) for his thesis entitled "Unravelling the Mechanism of Ghrelin Secretion and the Effects of Ghrelin Reduction using a Receptor Decoy Approach".

Dr. Boudreau presented the awards to Rogers Marsters and Dr. Younes Anini. Dr. Anini accepted the award on behalf of his student, Jeffrey Gagnon, who was unable to attend the meeting.

### **4.3 Distinguished Service Award**

Dr. Boudreau explained that this award recognizes individuals who have provided “distinguished and long-standing service to the Faculty of Graduate Studies”. There are two awards given each year; one for faculty and one for support staff. The award consists of a certificate and a photo (to be mounted outside the FGS office). Nominations were requested in March.

This year’s Prize Panel consisted of Mysore Satish (Civil and Resource Engineering), Ian Folkins (Physics and Atmospheric Science) and Elizabeth Cowley (Physiology and Biophysics).

Dr. Boudreau informed Faculty on behalf of the Prize Panel that the 2013 FGS Distinguished Service Award for Support Staff is awarded to Jackie Gilby of the School of Nursing. Dr. Boudreau presented the award to Ms. Gilby.

The 2013 FGS Distinguished Service Award for Faculty was awarded to Dr. Russell Boyd of the Department of Chemistry. Dr. Boudreau accepted the award on behalf of Dr. Boyd, who was unable to attend the meeting.

## **F12/13.5 FGS Annual Report**

### **5.1 Dean’s Report**

Dr. Boudreau presented his annual report (which can be found on the FGS website). The subjects he reviewed were graduate enrolments, convocation, student funding, recruitment, and initiatives. The highlights of his report included: new scholarship money received courtesy of Oz Optics, CIBC and the Glen McCormick estate; the launch of GSIS Phase III (digital); a thesis template in LaTeX typesetting language (provided by Dr. Vlado Kesselj, Faculty of Computer Science); policies and services for postdoctoral fellows established and posted on-line; the MITACS Step event (professional development) sponsored by FGS and DAGS; the first Joint Degree Program (JPD) agreement with the Université Européenne de Bretagne (France); and the International Café. Dr. Boudreau ended by thanking the staff at FGS, faculty for their participation as members of Faculty Council, the Academic Planning and Curriculum Committee, and Graduate Coordinators.

### **5.2 Associate Dean’s Report – Scholarships and Programs (D. Pelzer)**

Dr. Pelzer presented his annual report, which included updates regarding graduate scholarships, postdoctoral fellows, and PhD thesis defences. The highlights of his report included: the new system used for making offers of Killam Predoctoral Scholarships (1<sup>st</sup> round offers, with a wait list); the announcement that spending from Dalhousie’s various Killam accounts will likely be cut in the next fiscal year; the current count of 194 PDFs at Dalhousie (including 14 from Agriculture and 10 from IWK); a review of the 2012 Postdoctoral Fellows Research & Appreciation Day; the awarding of two Killam Postdoctoral fellowships; the FGS organization of 115 PhD defences this year; and the evaluation of the remote participation policy for PhD defences, and the paperwork requirements for final thesis submissions.

There was a brief discussion regarding the reductions in funding from Killam accounts, and on the possible elimination of the master's level Killam Predoctoral Scholarship.

### **5.3 Interdisciplinary PhD Program Report (W. Barker)**

Dr. Barker advised that he started as the Director for the Interdisciplinary PhD Program in September 2012. The Interdisciplinary PhD Program is the only program at Dalhousie housed within FGS. In his report Dr. Barker indicated that: the ID PhD program currently has 58 doctoral students; 15 doctoral students graduate between May 2012 and April 2013; 46 students in the program held scholarships, grants and bursaries totaling \$785,000; and the program has standing Admissions, Appeals and Advisory Committees.

### **F12/13.6 Nominations and Elections for Faculty Council and Standing Committees**

Dr. Boudreau presented the list of nominees for the Faculty Council, as contained in the Appendix to these minutes. There were 4 nominations for 7 vacancies on Faculty Council: Mark Gibson (Process Engineering and Applied Science), Sergey Ponomarenko (Electrical and Computer Engineering), Robin Stadnyk (Occupational Therapy), and Peter Boderik (Computer Science). Stephen Parcell (Architecture) re-offered for a 1 year term , and Stephen Bearne (Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) re-offered for a 3 year term.

There were 3 nominations for 6 vacancies on the Killam Predoctoral Scholarships Committee: T. Alexander Quinn (Physiology and Biophysics), Leonard Diepeveen (English) and Ruben Zaiotti (Political Science).

There were no nominations received for 5 vacancies on the Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship Committee.

There were no nominations for 4 vacancies on the Killam Lecture Committee. Theodore Kolokolnikov (Mathematics and Statistics), David Precious (Dentistry), and Michael Fournier (Classics) re-offered for 3 year terms.

There was 1 nomination for 5 vacancies on Academic Appeals Committee: Louise Spiteri (Information Management. Richard Singer (Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) re-offered for a 1 year term , and Alexander Treiger (Classics) re-offered for a 1 year term.

No nominations were received from the floor.

**It was moved by E. Whelan, seconded by K. Beazley; that the list of nominees for FC and standing committees of FGS be approved. The motion carried.**

**It was moved by W. Barker, seconded by P. Tyedmers; that FGS Faculty Council be given authority to approve and ratify members of committees where nominations for vacancies are received after the FGS Annual meeting. The motion carried.**

**F12/13.7 New Mission Statement and Vision for the Faculty of Graduate Studies**

Dr. Boudreau explained that FGS is undergoing Senate review next year and all governance documents are being reviewed, including the mission statement and vision. Dr. Boudreau explained that this document has already been vetted by both APCC and Faculty Council.

**It was moved by S. Parcell, seconded by R. Singer: that the New Mission Statement and Vision for the Faculty of Graduate Studies be approved. The motion carried.**

**F12/13.8 Terms of Reference for Faculty Council**

The Faculty Council Terms of Reference are also being revised in preparation for the Senate review of FGS. Dr. Boudreau explained that the Terms of Reference were revamped to more closely match the Senate model, and have been vetted by Legal Counsel, FGS Faculty Council and APCC. The main change is that the Dean of FGS will no longer serve as Chair for Faculty Council. The Chair will be elected by Faculty Council members. The FGS Assistant to the Deans will provide administrative support to the elected Chair.

**It was moved by S. Parcell, seconded by W. Barker; that the Terms of Reference for Faculty Council be approved. The motion carried.**

**F12/13.9 Other Business**

Dr. Boudreau thanked all outgoing members of Faculty Council (Michael Cada, Jana Fedortchouk, Qigang Gao, George Kipouros, and Geoff Brown) who have finished their term, and also thanked Stephen Bearne and Stephen Parcell for agreeing to step up for another term. He expressed his gratitude to members of review committees, graduate coordinators and departmental staff. Finally, Dr. Boudreau thanked all those present for attending and for their interest in, and contribution to the faculty, our graduate programs, and our students.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05.

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B. Boudreau, Dean

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S. Theriault, Recording Secretary