

McMaster University

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

**Wednesday 1 October 2014 at 1:30pm
Council Room, Gilmour Hall, Room 111**

PRESENT: Dean K. Cruikshank, 48 members, C. Kawerau (Recording Secretary)

REGRETS: 11 regrets received

I. UPDATE FROM UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

The Dean welcomed Dr. M. Dooley [Faculty Co-Chair], Serena Paton [United Way Liaison Representative] and Natalie Michlewicz [Big Brothers Big Sisters] to give an update on the United Way campaign. The United Way is celebrating 87 years in the community. Ms. Paton gave an overview of the many support systems offered to individuals, as well as the level of government with which the United Way has been working. Ms. Michlewicz presented a case study of a boy from Rwanda who received support from Big Brothers Big Sisters and how it helped him overcome challenges and succeed both academically and personally. The program serviced over 1700 students last year and would not be possible without support from the United Way. The return on investments into United Way seen by the community is very large.

Dr. Cruikshank thanked the committee members and encouraged everyone to support the United Way in any way they could.

II. ASSOCIATE DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES & RESEARCH'S REMARKS

Dr. B. Ibhawoh first welcomed Grace Pollock back to the position of Research Facilitator.

Graduate numbers are looking good. They are strong and comparable to last year. This is good news because there are budget implications—10% of the faculty's actual revenue comes from graduate programs. It is important to maintain, if not grow, these numbers.

Dr. Ibhawoh thanked those who volunteered to sit on scholarship committees. The new system is such that almost all scholarships are adjudicated in house. It is important for members to be at the table, otherwise the faculty's narratives will not be considered in the process.

On the research front, the research stipend initiative is ongoing, allowing for teaching release to dedicate more time to research. The call has gone out and the applications will be adjudicated by the Research Advisory Council. Incentive grants for SSHRC applications will also continue. The rate of applications has gone up significantly.

The University Research Council has put procedures in place for reviewing research centres and institutes, and are reviewed annually.

III. MINUTES of the meeting of 24 April 2014

Dr. Eilers **MOTIONED** and Dr. C. Anderson **SECONDED** the motion to adopt the minutes of the meeting of 24 April 2014. The motion **CARRIED** unanimously.

IV. BUSINESS ARISING

No business arose due to the minutes.

V. DEAN'S REMARKS

Dr. Cruikshank's only remark was to note that he is now in the position of Dean of Humanities, and no longer 'Acting Dean'. He thanked everyone for their support and welcome to this position.

VI. INTRODUCTION OF NEW FACULTY MEMBERS AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

In History, Dr. P. Swett introduced Curran Egan and Ashley Chiang as the graduate and undergraduate representatives respectively. She also introduced Ian Mosby as a new post-doctoral fellow who will be starting in September.

In Communication Studies & Multimedia, Dr. C. Baade introduced Cameron Taylor and Katrina Owens as the graduate and undergraduate representatives. She then welcomed Christopher Myhr as a 3-year CLA, who will also be working in Studio Art.

In English & Cultural Studies, Dr. P. Walmsley introduced Jordan Sheridan as the graduate representative and Julie Huff as the undergraduate representative.

Dr. C. Eilers introduced Katherine Joun and Owen Phillips as the undergraduate and graduate reps for the Department of Classics.

In Philosophy, Dr. E. Gedge introduced the department's undergraduate and graduate student representatives, Ashley Whalley and Igor Osowski. She also welcomed Matthew Grellette as a new CLA in the department.

Dr. E. Nshimiyimana introduced Sarah Hasselman as the graduate representative for the Department of French.

Dr. M. Stroinska welcomed Jennifer Askey to the Department of Linguistics & Languages, who will also be working with English & Cultural Studies and Arts &

Science. She also introduced Cassandra Chapman and Paige Bernard as the graduate and undergraduate student representatives.

Dr. A. Moro then introduced Lucas Mascotte-Carbone as the undergraduate representative for Peace Studies.

Tess Fairbridge was introduced as the representative for Gender Studies and Feminist Research, and Elise Naccarato for the School of the Arts.

VII. ASSOCIATE DEAN'S REMARKS

Dr. A. Moro highlighted some of the new initiatives taking place within the faculty.

She first thanked those who participated in the Ontario Universities' Fair and noted that information regarding fall preview will be going out soon. Flyers were given out at OUF regarding the new Specialized Minor in Business for Humanities students. It will be going through for approval this fall as a result of ongoing discussions with the School of Business. More information will be available in the coming year.

Dr. Moro then presented information to the faculty on the MELD program. The information comes from the same report given to the Enrolment Management Team. The program went through all of the appropriate channels last year and was officially approved last May. It came through in connection with a proposal both she and Dr. J. Connolly put together in regards to a research centre for linguistics and languages that would see part of its funding also come from this program. Students are given a conditional acceptance to their faculty because, while some students meet the academic requirements for admission to their program, they fall short on the English proficiency requirement. These students are told that if they successfully complete the MELD program, they can then continue into the original program to which they were conditionally admitted. There is a cut-off on the percentage by which students fell below the proficiency requirement, so students are within a certain range when they enter MELD.

In terms of the structure of the program, there are six units [Linguistics 1Z03 and 1ZZ3], and the other 24 units are specific MELD courses. There are 21 hours of contact hours in class, and five courses per term. All the other faculties are on board, and the program has received seed money from the Provost's Office. The Registrar's Office was cautious in making offers—150 students received offers and at one point there were 54 acceptances. With such factors as deferrals of admission and those who found they would not be able to come, there are now 36 students registered in the program. The most popular program represented is Business I. There are two sections, each of 18 students. Instructors are TESL certified and have a minimum two years teaching experience.

The vision is to deliver a comprehensive program and a range of literacies needed to function broadly in society. Academic literacy is focussing on academic integrity, note taking skills, and more. In terms of acculturation, there are measures in place to ensure

students feel part of the community and do not feel marginalized as is often felt by international students. The Passport System is a component of the program, whereby students must sign up for at least three workshops or events, and it counts as a small part of their grade. Students have TA's and undergraduate mentors from the mentorship course with whom they can speak.

Progress will be tracked—the Oxford online test is being used in first year to see how they have done, and the other faculties are on board with tracking progress beyond first year.

A research centre focusing on experimental and applied linguistics in connection with this program has been proposed and will be being put through this year. The centre is linked to the Cognitive Science of Language graduate program and focusses on experimental and applied linguistics. There will also be a section on second language learning.

From what can be seen, the program is doing as well as can be expected. It is being viewed as different from those of other universities. Here it is being treated as a transition year with a focus on acculturation and general student development. The other faculties are thus far very pleased.

Dr. Walmsley asked what those students in the program who are in Humanities I hope to major in. Dr. Moro said it is not known at this point. Another member asked about how this might be connected with ESL support for students already enrolled in programs. Dr. Moro said it is not for the time being, though there has been a lot of interest in expansion of services. The program first needs to be done well on its own and then be considered for expansion. There is also a need for services to be extended to graduate students. The representative from Social Sciences asked about writing courses for non-international students, as this has been in high demand as well. Dr. Moro said right now the target is ensure the program in itself is working properly, and then look into expanding its services. The Student Success Centre does offer these sorts of workshop services, but it is volunteer based. Dr. C. Quail asked if there was a target enrolment number. Dr. Moro replied that the complications arise with residence—this is always the issue with the university. Once this is resolved, it is about the other faculties and how many students they would like to be taken on. Another member asked how expensive this program is for us to run. Dr. Moro said it is in fact not expensive for us but for the students. The students are paying for the program and we pay the expenses out of this. There is some leftover to reinvest in the program. The cost is \$24 500 which is competitive. The cost for the same sort of program at University of Toronto is \$32 000. Dr. Cruikshank noted that there is the potential to look into offering bursaries or some sort of financial support at a later point. Dr. Sokalski asked if the Registrar's Office sets the offering priorities or if this is done in conjunction with the faculty. Dr. Moro said it has been in conjunction with us and the other faculties—they have been good at ensuring there are even scores across the skills (i.e. reading, speaking, etc.).

VIII. REPORT FROM SENATE

Dr. Quail gave an update from the last senate meeting. In the President's report, Dr. Deane reported on three main items. The first was Forward with Integrity, noting that the elements of the student experience and community engagement have both been doing well in their development. This year, he would like to focus on research and announced that on September 24 there would be a large data forum and that would be an example of the research being focussed on. He also mentioned a focus on internationalization and that the Strategic Advisory Group would be leading more initiatives in this area across campus and urged others to participate.

The second item on the agenda was the expansion initiative. The government is asking enrolment in Ontario to grow by 60 000 spaces. There is pressure to grow enrolment at university—in the last decade there has been investments made by the government in university but the current expansion initiative will require universities to make proposals that will grow enrolment. In addition, these proposals are required to have support from municipalities because expansion will have an impact on community. The President said McMaster should participate but said it is likely the government will not give the university extra money for other reasons, so McMaster should apply in a way that reinforces our own strategic objectives. Currently the university is operating at 170% capacity, so he decided to make a proposal with the City of Hamilton's support. It will include new buildings for education and residence. It will also involve building out into the community and not just in Westdale. The proposals were due September 26, and the province will adjudicate thereafter and let universities know.

The Shanghai ratings were released and McMaster has climbed up two spaces to 92. He also noted that the Times Higher Education University Rankings would come out in the winter. The University World Rankings would come out September 16, and it is known now that McMaster is 113 on that list.

In the rest of the open session, there was discussion on the calendar for the year. There were reports of committees that met over the summer, resulting in revisions of faculty by-laws in Social Sciences. There were recommendations to change a couple of chair titles. The University Planning Committee proposed a graduate diploma in Clinical Epidemiology and a Health Professional Entrance certificate.

The Graduate Council reported that graduate enrolment is up slightly, there are 79 more Master's students, but six less Ph.D. students and ten less eligible BIU Ph.D. students. The total number of Master's students is 4375 and the total number of Ph.D. students is 2305.

The year one undergraduate enrolment has been exceeded however that is down from last year, though that number also still exceeded enrolment target.

In the closed session, which now has been approved to be reported on, Patrick Deane has been approved for another term as President.

Dr. Cruikshank commented that the City of Hamilton agreed to give the university a parking lot for expansion of the downtown campus. Specific programs would be moving there. Largely, the expansion on campus would be a new building to expand enrolment, but there would also be a residence building. It is expected that the proposal will not

likely be successful but it was helpful to put this together. If any campus expansion were to happen, it is fully expected to be a suburban campus such as Sir Wilfrid Laurier in Milton. The President has been getting mixed messages on whether the government is committed to enrolment growth—the new minister seems less enthusiastic, but time will tell.

Dr. Cruikshank also added that the 'Acting' has been dropped from Dr. Moro's title as well, and he welcomed her as the Associate Dean of Humanities.

IX. DEAN'S RESPONSE TO WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Dr. Cruikshank began with a letter. The letter indicated three significant factors affecting universities in Ontario and throughout Canada. The first was a reduction relative to cost, the second was a decrease in the enrolment of students in university, and the third a shift in student interest to vocational areas within universities. The letter also indicated that measures were being taken to adapt to these shifts and the university being bettered as a result. Dr. Cruikshank said he received this letter on June 16, 1978 from the Dean of his Liberal Arts College at Carleton University.

The Dean read this letter to indicate partly that in some ways things do not change, but also in many ways things do change. In fact, the message in the letter was to announce a number of changes that were taking place at Carleton at the time.

The faculty does need to think about the fact that over a long period of time universities have had to adapt to a number of trends, many of which have not changed, but the need to adapt to them continues.

The Dean thanked all of the working groups for all their hard work. He wished to talk about what he heard and interpreted at the town hall meetings, and then the lens through which he reread the working group reports. The lens was one offered at the faculty meeting and it was the notion of leadership.

The Dean then proposed that at McMaster, Humanities means Leadership.. [Please See: [Notes from the Dean's Response to the Working Group Reports, 1 October 2014](#)].

Comments and discussion ensued. Dr. Walmsley asked if the two new first year courses would be going forward for next year. Dr. Cruikshank said the new building is not likely to open in fall 2015. Experimental versions of the courses could run next year and then fully launch in 2016-17. The notion of using brand new active classrooms in first year should get students excited. The faculty representative from Social Sciences asked if such services in enhancing writing and reading skills could be expanded beyond to other areas. The Dean replied that this would be a faculty initiative but hopes it could expand beyond. An advantage of this new direction is it lays the groundwork for thinking about how resources are shared and calculated.

X. PROGRAM ENROLMENTS

Dr. Cruikshank said Humanities is 58 students under the target set by the university. To say this is a province-wide problem does not help the case. This is a sobering notion and why the faculty must invest in making Humanities look attractive. Hopefully the new Fitzhenry Atrium will help the numbers in Studio Art, which are down. The target number of Music is down as well, and the number of applications was troubling. Otherwise, program numbers show Humanities as not doing too badly in retaining and attracting other students. It is unknown how many have been lost since last year, but it seems what numbers we do lose may have been picked up from other faculties. The faculty is down 98 students from last year, so help is needed. It must be noted that there has been growth in Communication Studies & Multimedia. Justice, Political Philosophy, and Law is now a separate item so it is easier to get a better idea of the number. He reiterated that the reason these numbers may be up for these programs is students can see an answer to their question of why they are here before going into these programs.

Dr. C. Graham asked for clarification on any difference it makes financially if students are full-time or part-time. The Dean said funding is proportionate. There is not much that can be determined by the part-time numbers that we provide because it indicates the number of bodies, not the number of courses a part-time student is taking. When it comes to assigning BIU's, part time students are part of the calculation, based on the number of courses they are taking. The Dean also noted that these program numbers are not the numbers that are officially reported to the provincial government. Those numbers are based on enrolments on November 1.

XI. CHAIRS' AND DIRECTORS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Walmsley said English & Cultural Studies has received Canada Council funds to have a Writer-in Resident, Hal Niedzviecki, for eight months. He will be shared with the Hamilton Public Library. Hal works in youth culture, so this will be great for the youth in downtown Hamilton as well as the faculty's own students. Dr. Cruikshank congratulated Dr. S. Brophy for her election to the College of New Scholars by the Royal Society of Canada, one of three from McMaster.

Dr. K. Kinder announced the celebrity concert series starting next week, and said to watch for announcements regarding these as well as the theatre production and visiting artist series.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business. The Dean thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded at 3:07 pm.