

McMaster University

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

Tuesday 11 November 2014 at 1:30 pm
Council Room, Gilmour Hall, Room 111

PRESENT: Dean K. Cruikshank, 41 members, C. Kawerau (Recording Secretary), J. Richardson (Academic Advisor), G. Pollock (Research Facilitator)

REGRETS: 14 regrets received

I. MINUTES of the meeting of 1 October 2014

Dr. P. Walmsley **MOTIONED** and Dr. K. Kinder **SECONDED** to adopt the minutes from the meeting of 1 October 2014. The motion **CARRIED** unanimously.

II. BUSINESS ARISING

Dr. Cruikshank said the business arising from the minutes would fall under the Dean's Remarks.

III. DEAN'S REMARKS

Dr. Cruikshank referred back to his talk at the last meeting, at McMaster, Humanities means leadership. The Economist (October 4-10) released a commentary suggesting that business leaders would benefit from studying great writers, that retreats focused on emptying one's mind might be replaced with those aimed at filling one's mind.

The Dean has received lots of feedback and questions regarding the concept of leadership, and would argue this is why there needs to be an ongoing conversation among the faculty. We know that business leaders are catching up—they now recognize that charismatic leaders are no longer enough, and they are coming to better understand the importance of collaboration. Some have asked about the role of critique. If the term has been avoided it is because it has been associated with destructive as opposed to constructive criticism. The use of the term 'soft skills' in the talk has been met with some criticism; it should have been framed, and will appear in the calendar, differently. Employers are finding these soft skills to in fact be hard skills because they are difficult to teach.

A couple of issues to address; one is the point system has been circulated. It is a proposal for which the Dean would like feedback. It will need a fuller discussion. At the senate meeting this week there was a discussion on changing the distinguishing university professor process and introducing the category of university scholar, assuming Senate will

approve this. There has already been a call for the former, and the Dean wished to highlight that the Faculty will now not have anything to do with the adjudication of the Distinguished University Professor; nominations should be sent directly to the Provost. There has been an increase in the number of DUPs in the university—there could be up to five appointed this year.

The new category, University Scholar, is intended to elevate the stature of those in mid-career. This has been defined in a particular way as someone within five years of their promotion to associate professor or 15 years of the completion of their Ph.D. The committee has some discretion in the application of this condition. The faculty can make one appointment this year, but cannot use the Tenure and Promotion Committee to adjudicate. The Dean has asked the nominating committee to recommend who will be appointed to the committee. The final selection will be discussed with the chairs and directors. There will be a call put out for this particular category of scholar.

A status update of Wilson Hall was given. There have been concerns about the progress of the building. The opening may be delayed by about a year, likely until the 2016-17 year. The Deans of Humanities and Social Sciences will need to discuss the timeframe for scheduling classes in the building.

The November 1 preliminary numbers are out and the faculty is down by about 86 students in Humanities, Music, and Studio Art I combined. It is partly a sign of what is going on in the province, but the faculty needs to pay attention a great deal to recruitment activities.

IV. ASSOCIATE DEAN'S REMARKS

Dr. Moro had only note, which was a reminder to everyone that Fall Preview is this Saturday. She asked that everyone discuss their reps with Rowena.

V. ASSOCIATE DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH'S REMARKS

Dr. Ibhawoh first updated the faculty on the adjudication of OGS and CGS. He noted that he was pleased to see Humanities was well represented on the adjudication committee.

On the research side, Dr. Ibhawoh shared information on the numbers for various SSHRC and research grants. Overall, the message is that though more faculty are writing grants, success rates have not been commiserate with the efforts put in. However, this doesn't mean that members shouldn't apply. Members of the faculty are encouraged to think about partnership grants. There are resources available—there are some funds that can be tapped if anyone is thinking about partnerships.

VI. REPORT FROM THE GRADUATE CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE

There were routine housekeeping items and changes made, including the addition and cancellation of courses. Those cancelled were due to faculty members retiring who traditionally taught these classes. Communications & New Media has a change to its program description. Communications Management introduced new courses in line with the original vision of the program. These are more in keeping with the expectations of the students coming into the program. French also made some changes to their graduate programs as well which are detailed in the report. Dr. Ibhawoh **MOTIONED** and Dr. C. Anderson **SECONDED** to adopt these changes as described in this report. The motion **CARRIED** unanimously.

VII. REPORT FROM THE UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Dr. J. Sokalski gave the report from the Undergraduate Calendar and Curriculum Committee. He noted that a common thread will become apparent of opening up courses to more students as well as opening up program entry requirements.

STUDIO ART

Four new art courses will be added due to two new CLAs tied to the new building for Studio Art. This is an exciting opportunity to open some art classes to non-program students. Another new course is in exhibition, which allows for art historians to work in exhibition practices. The revision to program notes indicates a list of courses open to non-program students. This is significant as the university moves to an online-only calendar, it is becoming more difficult to identify those courses. Dr. Sokalski **MOTIONED** and Dr. K. Kinder **SECONDED** that the faculty approve for recommendation to Undergraduate Council the curricular revisions for Studio Art as described in this report. The motioned **CARRIED** unanimously.

ART HISTORY

A revision to program entrance requirements show only three units of level I Art History is needed. The second course not taken will need to be completed by the end of level II. A new course, Art History 3BB3 on Indigenous Art is being offered through Art History's connection with McMaster's Museum of Art. References to offerings in alternate years are being removed to free up offering times. Dr. Sokalski **MOTIONED** and Dr. K. Kinder **SECONDED** that the faculty approve for recommendation to Undergraduate Council the curricular revisions for Art History as described in this report. The motioned **CARRIED** unanimously.

MUSIC

Music has also revised its Notes section, highlighting a list of courses for non-program students. There were a number of courses that used to be offered in Spring/Summer only- this notice is being struck from the calendar.

Music Cognition 2MP3 is being offered in place of the now discontinued 2MA3. In the desire to open the course up and drop music theory as a component, it became easier to replace the course with a new one rather than to rewrite it. Music Cognition is asking for a stronger background in music.

Music therapy courses will expand their enrolment by now offering them in the Fall/Winter session. Music 3AA3 is demanding students be able to read music at a basic level to take the class.

The Diploma in Music Performance is putting in a phrase demanding excellence in music performance.

Dr. Sokalski **MOTIONED** and Dr. K. Kinder **SECONDED** that the faculty approve for recommendation to Undergraduate Council the curricular revisions for Music as described in this report. The motioned **CARRIED** unanimously.

THEATRE & FILM STUDIES

This program is also adding a department note suggesting courses for non-program students. A note clarifying the possibility of non-program student access is being added. Very often students have requested to take courses for which they do not have the prerequisites. They may believe they cannot ask to take them, so this note is to clarify that they might be able to receive permission.

Other revisions include cross-lists with English & CSCT as well as opening up courses to more students.

Dr. Sokalski **MOTIONED** and Dr. P. Walmsley **SECONDED** that the faculty approve for recommendation to Undergraduate Council the curricular revisions for Theatre & Film Studies as described in this report. The motioned **CARRIED** unanimously.

CLASSICS

Honours Classics requirements are changing to increase flexibility in course selections. A new course in ancient Law (2LW3) is being offered to meet demand for students studying ancient history as well as likely being one of great interest to students in JPPL.

Other revisions include changes to course titles for clarification and prerequisites to open courses up to more students.

Dr. Sokalski **MOTIONED** and Dr. P. Walmsley **SECONDED** that the faculty approve for recommendation to Undergraduate Council the curricular revisions for Classics as described in this report.

The Dean noted that the change in course titles is in light of an IQAP review that suggested that the titles could be more descriptive. He also said that the faculty will be offering the new ancient law course in the Spring/Summer 2015 session on Dean's Letter, which may be of interest to students in JPPL.

The motioned **CARRIED** unanimously.

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Arts and Science is introducing a new combined program of Honours Arts & Science and Communication Studies [information purposes only]. The CMST program is shifting from its initial program set-up of four different streams of courses to a more broad selection from level II and III lists. These changes apply to the combined program as well. Core course revisions were done for clarity's sake.

Dr. Sokalski MOTIONED and Dr. C. Baade SECONDED that the faculty approve for recommendation to Undergraduate Council the curricular revisions for Communication Studies as described in this report. The motion CARRIED unanimously.

MULTIMEDIA

Multimedia has several course additions and deletions. One new course is a six unit fourth year course (4ST6 Senior Thesis Research and Production). 4A03, 4B03, and 4R03 have been removed. In the process of sequencing and moving content around, it became easier to simply strike this as one six unit course, allowing greater coherence for students.

Dr. Sokalski MOTIONED and Dr. C. Baade SECONDED that the faculty approve for recommendation to Undergraduate Council the curricular revisions for Multimedia as described in this report. The motion CARRIED unanimously.

ENGLISH & CULTURAL STUDIES

Based on an IQAP review done in 2013, the department has proposed several changes. The program will now require only three instead of six units for entry, and require 2RW6 in second year. The program is also moving from four to two areas of study.

Due to shrinking enrolment rates, the CSCT program will close entry starting September 2015. Courses will be retained, and students currently enrolled will be able to complete the degree.

The department is also proposing the change of the program name to English & Cultural Studies to reflect how students will fulfill the requirements.

Some courses were restructured from six to three unit courses to increase timetabling

flexibility. Prerequisite changes will make courses more available to program students. The course deletions are self-explanatory.

Dr. Sokalski **MOTIONED** and Dr. P. Walmsley **SECONDED** that the faculty approve for recommendation to Undergraduate Council the curricular revisions for English & Cultural Studies as described in this report.

J. Huff wondered if one three unit course is enough for a student to move into level II. Dr. Walmsley said the required second year course in reading and writing will focus students on developing the necessary analytical skills. It will ensure that everyone is up to speed.

The motion **CARRIED** unanimously.

FRENCH

French 1Z06 will have a change its hours as the course is now residing in the faculty instead of the Centre for Continuing Education. The changes will bring the course in line with others taught in the departments. Course deletions are due to no faculty members being available to teach them.

Dr. Sokalski **MOTIONED** and Dr. P. Walmsley **SECONDED** that the faculty approve for recommendation to Undergraduate Council the curricular revisions for French as described in this report. The motion **CARRIED** unanimously.

HISTORY

The program will now require three instead of six units for entry, bringing it in line with other programs in the faculty. Some housekeeping items include course additions, cross-lists, and deletions.

Dr. Sokalski **MOTIONED** and Dr. C. Baade **SECONDED** that the faculty approve for recommendation to Undergraduate Council the curricular revisions for History as described in this report.

L. Mascotte-Carbone questioned the title for 3U03, indicating the title seems misleading and has created confusion amongst students. Julie Huff agreed, indicating that the course often seems very science based.

The motion **CARRIED** unanimously.

HUMANITIES

New courses being introduced include 2DH3 (Digital Humanities). This course will be open to Humanities students and will be run out of the Sherman Centre. 3CL3 (Community Leadership at McMaster) will create an opportunity for students who are volunteering as

mentors o receive credit for what they have undertaken. Some non-credit course codes have been created to recognize internships.

3LM3 (The Art of Leadership: Mentorship) is composed of lectures and experiential learning within a mentoring realm. The course is currently being offered as part of McMaster's MELD program on Dean's Letter. There is a desire to see this new course, as well as 4LM3 (The Art of Leadership), in the calendar as both are in keeping with the new direction of the faculty.

Another new course between Humanities and Business is 4BU3 (Applied Arts and Commerce) is meant to be a capstone course for students completing the specialized minor in commerce.

Course deletions of 1AA0 and 1HU3 are due to new level I courses being discussed further down in the agenda.

Dr. Sokalski **MOTIONED** and Dr. C. Baade **SECONDED** that the faculty approve for recommendation to Undergraduate Council the curricular revisions for Humanities as described in this report.

Dr. D. Hollander asked if this course would be open to students outside of Humanities. Dr. Sokalski said the Humanities faculty was approached to house the course and it is intended to be filled with Humanities students. He suggested she speak with the Director of the Sherman Centre. Dr. Ibhawoh added that this course is being offered next term on Dean's Letter, and Dr. Cruikshank spoke to the relationship of Humanities and the Sherman Centre. He reiterated that Dr. Hollander should feel welcome to approach the director regarding outside students taking the course.

Discussion then ensued about the mentorship courses, in particular their descriptions. Dr. S. Fast expressed concerns about the use of the term leadership in the course descriptions, stating there ought to be a section on defining what leadership means. Dr. Moro replied that the course will be taught with the question of the assumptions of what makes a good leader, what it means to build a relationship, how to reach mutually defined goals, as well as discussions of emotional intelligence and other related matters. Dr. Cruikshank said the descriptions can be revisited.

Dr. K Balcom asked if someone could clarify the difference between 3CL3 and 3LM3. Dr. Moro replied that 3CL3 came through as part of working group efforts to have a certificate in community leadership. It is meant to acknowledge various, sustained volunteer experiences. 3LM3 is a structured course run as a lecture class and part of the mentorship experience. Further discussion ensued among members regarding clarifying the course descriptions. There was some concerned expressed that the community leadership course is not

articulating properly the sort of experiences and skills students can expect. The issue there is the activities will vary and one set of learning objectives may not apply. Dr. Anderson noted that once the course takes place, a series of templates may be worked out as a guide for supervisors in establishing learning objectives and goals.

With the amendment of changes to the descriptions for 3LM3 and 4LM3, the motion **CARRIED** unanimously.

LINGUISTICS & LANGUAGES

Revisions of minors took place to allow for more courses to satisfy requirements. Both German and Italian will now be minors in German Studies and Italian Studies respectively. The minor in Japanese has been removed, but students can complete the minor in Japanese Studies offered through the Department of Religious Studies. Chinese 1Z06 will have a statement added indicating it is not open to native speakers.

1A03 and 1AA3 are being modified in regards to method of instruction. That is, flipped classrooms where the major content is learned online through web modules and tutorials are undertaken in the classroom with the instructor.

Other housekeeping items such as descriptions and course deletions are included.

Dr. Sokalski **MOTIONED** and Dr. Anderson **SECONDED** that the faculty approve for recommendation to Undergraduate Council the curricular revisions for Linguistics & Languages as described in this report. The motion **CARRIED** unanimously.

PEACE STUDIES

Courses are being opened up to a wider variety of students, in particular those in JPPL. Small revisions to the minor are also included.

Dr. Sokalski **MOTIONED** and Dr. E. Gedge **SECONDED** that the faculty approve for recommendation to Undergraduate Council the curricular revisions for Peace Studies as described in this report. The motion **CARRIED** unanimously.

PHILOSOPHY

Program entry requirements are falling in line with others, where students will now require only three instead of six units for entry. Other changes include a new course in Philosophy (4XP3 A/B). It is a three unit course that is over two terms, and the new PeopleSoft system requires this 'A/B' demarcation. This course provides an experiential component to the JPPL program over two terms to track students' experiences.

Dr. Sokalski **MOTIONED** and Dr. Gedge **SECONDED** that the faculty approve for recommendation to Undergraduate Council the curricular revisions for Philosophy as

described in this report. The motion **CARRIED** unanimously.

WOMEN'S STUDIES

New courses are being cross-listed with English & Cultural Studies, and a course deletion is included.

Dr. Sokalski **MOTIONED** and Dr. S. Fast **SECONDED** that the faculty approve for recommendation to Undergraduate Council the curricular revisions for Women's Studies as described in this report. The motion **CARRIED** unanimously.

Dr. Cruikshank thanked Dr. Sokalski, the Assistant Dean, the Associate Dean, and the chairs and directors who have all managed these significant changes.

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

(i) Proposal for Changes to Humanities I Requirements

Dr. Cruikshank discussed the changes to the structure of Humanities I, which include the introduction of two new required three unit courses (1QU3 and 1VV3). The structure of first year would then also include nine units of other courses in the faculty and 15 units of electives. This will still ensure a broad introduction to the faculty. The descriptions are meant to provide more details about the courses.

The intent is to put together committees to formulate how these courses will be taught, what teaching assistant compliment may be required, and other related matters. The courses will be in Wilson Hall, but not offered there until 2016-17. For the coming academic year, a single section may be taught but it will not yet be required. This will allow some time for preparation and testing of how best to teach these courses.

Dr. Cruikshank **MOTIONED** and Dr. J. Donaldson **SECONDED** to adopt these new requirements and courses for the Humanities I program. He then opened the floor for discussion before voting.

One member asked if any thought had been given to make one of these new courses a level II course to allow for continuity of building skills. Dr. Donaldson said the working group did not think of this as they were solely working on the structure of level I. In addition, the intention of these courses in level I is to build momentum and inspire them through this core experience to choose a program. Dr. Cruikshank noted the importance of coherence over the whole year, and not to lose them during the second term, which could be concerning.

Dr. Baade expressed concerns over the descriptions of the courses and communicating exactly what will be happening in these classes. Given our current enrolment crisis, this is very crucial. These descriptions as they are now would require translation to potential students at recruitment events and fairs. Dr. Cruikshank replied that he had conflicting messages from APC that members didn't want longer descriptions, but longer ones were received. Dr. Fast said it is important to get students' opinions and receive their input. A couple of student representatives agreed that course descriptions need to be transparent and not mislead students on the content of the course. Dr. Moro pointed to course outlines, affirming that this is where detailed course information is found, not in the calendar. Narrowing a course description too much may lead to instructors not being able to adapt it.

Dr. Fast noted a sentence that Dr. Baade added to the description for 1QU3: "In a world of smartphones and google, it seems we can find answers in an instant--the bigger challenge is to ask the right questions and to know when we have found a good answer". It is a great way of framing the course and speaks a little more to the intended target audience.

Dr. D. Goellnicht raised questions about the use of the term leadership in the descriptions. He wondered if it was being used too much as a buzz word and if the implication is that Humanities produces only leaders. He asked whether it would make more sense to use a term such as 'good citizens' or 'critical thinkers'. Dr. Anderson said anyone with a university degree is a potential leader and it is the faculty's job to prepare students for this. Dr. Cruikshank added that it is about the aspirations Humanities has for its students, and the other issue is whether engaged citizenship will make anyone feel excited. Further discussion ensued on the proper use of the term leadership and how it might apply to students in the faculty.

Sixteen voted for the motion, one voted against, and six abstained. The motion **CARRIED**. Dr. Fast noted she was reluctant to vote without knowing if some points would be taken on in a serious way.

[Note: The descriptions were amended subsequent to the meeting.]

(ii) Proposal for Changes to General Academic Regulations

This is a proposal to change the grade point average for continuing in Honours programs. Currently the faculty has an escalating average, and this would level it to a 5.0. This same proposal is going through Social Sciences, and Science is adopting a variation of this. In comparison with other institutions, there are some that have higher and lower averages for continuing.

Dr. Cruikshank **MOTIONED** and Dr. Moro **SECONDED** the adoption of these changes to the general academic regulations. The motion **CARRIED** with two opposed.

(iii) Proposal for Specialized Minor in Commerce

This is the faculty's first attempt at working on a degree with the School of Business. This minor would be open to a few students who want a specialized minor in commerce. It cannot be put in the calendar, but it can be advertised that upon completion, a student can complete their MBA in one year instead of two.

Dr. Cruikshank **MOTIONED** and Dr. MORO **SECONDED** the adoption of the Specialized Minor in Commerce. The motion **CARRIED** unanimously.

IX. REPORT FROM SENATE

Dr. N. Attewell gave the report from senate. She noted the Dr. Deane would be joining other research-intensive universities from around the world in The Netherlands to sign a statement affirming the importance of the social sciences and humanities in the research landscape.

The open discussion was devoted to FWI. Dr. Deane talked about the sense of its purpose and where it is headed. He stressed the importance of its commitment to open-ended discussions of the ongoing process of renewal and revision. New phases of FWI will be devoted to research.

The President spoke to changes in the funding model and to the way senate operates, where members can contribute to discussions of committee candidates from their own departments. Dr. Cruikshank added that there is a document that has gone to cabinet that suggests some changes in the provincial funding formula, but he is unsure of what this entails or where this is going. Dr. Gedge asked about the changes to the Senate Committee on Appointments, and expressed concern about voting at more than one level and conflicts of interest. Dr. Cruikshank said there is currently a discrepancy as in faculty committees there is no rule preventing someone from the same department speaking and voting; but at the senate committee there is. This prevents the Senate Committee from hearing from faculty members experienced in the discipline. The rules against conflict of interest or about participating in more than one committee are not being changed.

X. CHAIRS' AND DIRECTORS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business. The Dean thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded at approximately 3:40 p.m.