

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES GENERAL MEETING
13 OCTOBER 2015

IN ATTENDANCE: 43 members, Patricia Kalnins and Jackie Osterman (Assistant Deans), Christine Kawerau (Recording Secretary)

REGRETS: 12 regrets received

UNITED WAY

Dr. Martin Dooley presented at the start of the meeting to provide information on behalf of the United Way committee at McMaster. Last year's goal of \$300 000 was exceeded. The United Way is unique in that it supports multiyear funding to many social agencies as opposed to start-up funding. It has a very wide yet local reach. The current priorities are multidimensional needs of low-income families, stronger neighbourhoods, and skill-building in youth to help them better their communities.

The days when United Way could rely on large industrial campaigns are now over given the court ruling regarding Stelco pensioners. Therefore there is more support needed from academic sectors. Less than 20% of funds are devoted to administration, which is well below the recommended level. This year, the chancellor has generously offered to match new time donors. Another matching announcement is set to be made later this week. Dr. Dooley encouraged everyone to become a new time donor or to consider raising their contributions if they are an existing donor.

Dr. Cruikshank thanked Dr. Dooley. He added that our faculty was very generous when he was last on the committee, and would like to see this continue. The number of donors on campus is rather small, and much more could be done.

DEAN'S REMARKS

The dean first welcomed a few members into new positions, including Dr. Corner as the new chair of Classics, Dr. O'Connor as acting chair of English and Cultural Studies, and Dr. McQueen as director of the School of the Arts. He also welcome Dr. Swett as the acting associate dean of graduate studies and research while Dr. Ibhawoh serves as the acting V.P. for research in the School of Graduate Studies. Dr. Swett will still remain as the chair of History.

Dr. Cruikshank also welcomed Jackie Osterman as the new assistant dean (studies) for Humanities, as Patricia Kalnins is retiring. Ms. Kalnins has been with the faculty for many years and has provided continuity for many deans, chairs, and faculty members. She will be very much missed. Her last day is on Friday 23 October.

A committee was struck for the search of the Canadian Research Chair. The dean thanked Michele George who chaired the committee, which reviewed the files and made recommendations on what should be done with the new allocation that was received. A recommendation to convert the Tier I CRC into two Tier II CRCs was recommended, and this has been done. Two faculty members will be applying: Victor Kuperman and Sarah Bannerman. The dean congratulated both of them on their being selected to apply, and the great work they do in their research.

In June, the new website launched. During the summer the Fitzhenry Studio came close to completion. There are still some minor items being resolved. The dean thanked faculty and

members of SOTA who worked to accommodate the construction. The Wilson Hall is still under construction. They are aiming to open the building for September 2016. There has been assurance that some areas will be open beforehand. As a result, the new first year courses will not be required for incoming first year students in 2016-17 as was originally planned. There will still be 3 sections offered of each course next year. Instructors are needed to teach them; anyone interested is asked to please contact their chair.

In regards to the task force established to discuss the future of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Science, this will be on the agenda for November's faculty meeting. If anyone has any views or ideas on liberal arts at McMaster, this will be the meeting to bring them forward. The dean met with the task force last week—there are many interesting ideas being considered.

The call has been put out for the Distinguished University Professor—if anyone is interested in nominating someone this needs to be done soon. There is no University Scholar appointment this year. The decision was made for all faculties to stagger the appointments. The next one will not be made until next year. If anyone knows of someone putting together a nomination package, please provide them this information.

MINUTES

Two sets of minutes from the 31 March and 27 April meetings were brought forward for approval. The dean called for any comments or questions.

With respect to the budget presentation in the 27 April minutes, Dr. Kinder asked for clarification as to the wording around the higher BIU programs. The Dean clarified that whereas Honours programs receive a 1.0 in first year and a 1.5 in years three–four, the Art program receives a higher BIU of 1.5 in the first year of the program, and Music receives a higher BIU of 2.0 for each of 4 years of the program. Whereas a 3 year BA normally receives a BIU of 1.0 in each year, a 3 year BA in Art History receives a 1.5 in years 2 and 3. These differences may have to do with a perception that these programs were more expensive to teach, in 1966 when the funding formula was first developed.

John Weaver MOTIONED and Nancy Doubleday SECONDED the motion to **adopt the minutes from the meetings of 31 March and 27 April 2015**. The motion carried with two abstentions.

BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising as a result of the minutes.

INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES AND FACULTY MEMBERS

Members of the various departments introduced their undergraduate and graduate student representatives [see the Committee Composition List for 2015-16 for full lists of names].

Mary O'Connor welcomed a new postdoctoral fellow to the department, Joanne Leow. She will be working with Don Goellnicht on urban planning in court cities and teaching the first year cultural studies course.

Andrew Mactavish introduced Paula Gardner as a new faculty member and Asper Chair in Communications. He also introduced Andrea Zeffiro, a new CLA who is teaching in both

communication studies and multimedia. She is also the academic director of the Sherman Centre for Digital Scholarship.

John Connolly welcomed Lily Service as the new graduate chair for Linguistics & Languages.

Pamela Swett introduced two new postdoctoral fellows, Asa McKercher and Phil van Huizen. She also welcomed Ian McKay as the next L.R. Wilson Chair in Canadian History. He comes to the department from Queen's and will begin on 1 January 2016.

Dr. Cruikshank welcomed Claudia Emerson on behalf of the department of Philosophy. She took up her position in the summer. Her appointment as an associate professor comes to the faculty courtesy of the Gates Foundation. She is a graduate of McMaster and holds a Ph.D. in philosophy. Her expertise is in bioethics. She is currently working in global bioethics and has set up a program which we hope will become a research centre related to that work.

ASSOCIATE DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH'S REMARKS

Dr. Swett announced that the faculty received over \$590 000 in Tri-Council funding, which is the highest amount received since 2011-12.

At the next faculty meeting there will be a full discussion and vote on a new Ph.D. program. Dr. Swett thanked all those who worked on the proposal, a draft of which is available in the online materials. A few small amendments are being worked on, and a revised version will be made available in time for the next meeting.

The 31st of October is the deadline for major research items, such as research time stipend awards, research leave applications, and reports from those who have returned. Dr. Swett met with Dr. Zeffiro recently, and they are working on a faculty event at the Sherman Centre to discuss digital scholarship and its direction.

On the graduate side, the acting dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Doug Welch, has begun the process of re-evaluating how O.G.S. is allocated to different faculties. Tony Porter [associate dean of graduate studies and research in the Faculty of Social Sciences] has been helpful in getting everyone up to speed on this item. More information will be available on this in future, but hopefully this will not result in a loss for the faculty. Dr. Welch is right to be looking at the rationale, but the challenge is finding a formula that works for all faculties.

The switch to Mosaic led to many problems with graduate pay. S.G.S. is working hard to fix the problem, but much of it is beyond their control. Dr. Welch has put together a working group to evaluate the system of graduate pay. Student representatives as well as Amber Dean are on this committee. S.G.S. also has a working group evaluating the graduate handbooks.

ASSOCIATE DEAN'S REMARKS

Dr. Moro noted that the numbers for Humanities I are up this year, with a total of 653 as opposed to last year's total of 557. MELD's enrolment has also increased from 36 last year to 75. This is in spite of offers going out very late due to Mosaic issues.

Curriculum review is underway. Any new changes will be discussed at the next faculty meeting. Last year the faculty partnered with Business to offer the Specialized Minor in Commerce. There is a new program being brought forward in the School of Business that involves a significant

portion of Humanities courses. This is going for ministry approval. Once curriculum is complete, the next task will be course management.

On the graduate side, McMaster is going to request a speech language pathology program that would be offered through Rehabilitation Science. Students specializing in Cognitive Science of Language would be the natural candidates for admission.

In terms of recruitment, Dr. Moro thanked all those who participated in OUF. Fall Preview is approaching with two dates on 24 October and 21 November. Rowena has likely already emailed with requests for department representatives. These events are important for connecting with prospective students.

The newly modified MSAF policy has been put in place, as well as the new Religious, Indigenous, and Spiritual Observances (RISO) policy.

Dr. Cruikshank added that the point system discussed last year has been adopted. For anyone who has never benefited from the point system, points from 2012-13 onward can be added. He noted this because the point system has implications for course management.

PROGRAM ENROLMENT STATISTICS

Ms. Kalnins presented these reports, pointing to their new format now that they are processed through Mosaic. The first report looks at enrolment on a larger scale. The second is a more detailed breakdown

There has been a rise in numbers, due to varying factors. Many admission offers went out early. As always, there were those who didn't meet the cut-off, and their offers were rescinded.

Last spring, there was a change in the definition of who is considered a full-time student. A student used to have to be registered in 24 units for the year to be considered full-time academically. This has been revised to 9 units in a term. As a result, our full-time numbers have increased and part-time numbers have decreased. Hopefully this will help with our funding.

Dr. Cruikshank noted that this is the first time Mosaic has generated this information for us. What was posted on the website materials does have one error, and that is it underestimates the number of students in Communication Studies and Multimedia because students enrolled in a combination with Social Sciences are not accounted for. The lower cohort is moving through and yet program numbers don't appear to have dropped significantly. It would seem students are coming into Humanities' programs even from other faculties. The other piece of good news is there is not another low cohort coming in. The faculty has exceeded its target and done well. The dean confessed he was concerned that the higher numbers were due to more offers going out to students, even to those with averages below 75%, however the rescinds have already taken place so this is not the case. Looking at the high school averages, there are a few more within the 75-78% range, but even more are at or above 85%. So, there is not a significant change in our standards nor should there be any changes in standards for teaching in the classroom.

The faculty was able to beat a trend one can see in the university. Social Sciences increased their offers but took in fewer students and are below target. This isn't a good thing for Humanities—it doesn't bode well for anyone in the arts to be down in numbers. Nevertheless, the faculty is doing well. While the dean would like to think that our messaging around

leadership may have helped, he knows that many other factors may be at work. The dean also noted that Music is significantly up this year after falling last year, and Studio Art has good enrolments. He thanked all those in the faculty who had helped in recruitment, either informally or through their participation in recruitment events.

He also mentioned that enrolments in the MELD program have increased. He noted that an examination was done of those who finished MELD in the first cohort, to see how effective it was proving. Evidence from the IELTS-based tests show these students' scores improved significantly. There were some failures, which is to be expected given the standards set by the program. Anecdotally, one student last year actually started university, but then requested to switch into MELD in order to improve his English; he has spoken of how much better his academic experience is now than when he initially came to university without having done the program.

SENATE

Don Goellnicht gave an update from senate. The president said the university would be focussed this year on two high-level appointments: one for the vice president of research and the other for the dean and vice-president of Health Sciences. He also said there would be a significant push to attain a Canada First Research Excellence Fund, for which the university previously competed and was unsuccessful. To be competitive, the initiative has to come from the area that is considered within the top 1% in the world, so quite naturally McMaster's initiative is infectious diseases.

Preliminary enrolment figures were discussed. Domestic full-time Ph.D. numbers are up slightly to 104.6 from 103.9 last year, and Master's acceptances also increased to 860.7 from 811.9. The growth in the Master's sector is primarily in Science and Health Sciences, especially in interdisciplinary programs. Ph.D. enrolment is 105 short of ministry targets.

In terms of undergraduate enrolment, Melissa Poole reported that as of 8 September, enrolment was at 5177 full-time students. The target was 5135. She stressed that this varied significantly between faculties. Business is 10% above their target, Engineering is 5% below, Science is 8% above, Social Sciences is 10% below, and Humanities is slightly above target.

It was recently learned that McMaster owns a piece of forest located by Wilson Street and Lower Lions Club Road. Recommendation was brought to include the forest in the McMaster plan. It has been held for many decades and has environmental significance, but was largely forgotten. Dr. Cruikshank added that when he was on the President's Advisory Committee on Natural Lands, the committee discovered the existence of this property. There are remarkable trees and it runs along a ravine; now that it has been officially recognized it is not to be developed.

In terms of C.F.R.E.F., six universities will be receiving this funding. One thing McMaster discovered during this process is it tried to be too democratic and included too many researchers from across campus that weren't in the top 1%, so this didn't help the application.

The search for the vice president of research is well underway. The deans have been invited to meet with the two final candidates before a final selection is made by the committee.

CHAIRS' AND DIRECTORS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nancy Doubleday announced the Fall Peace Institute, stating it will be a transformative experience for anyone interested. Please check the Perspectives on Peace website for more information.

NOTICE OF MOTION

The dean gave notice of a motion taking place at the next faculty meeting for an amendment to the Humanities by-laws. The Essay Prize Committee has recommended a change to allow for one competition instead of two. The change in wording would keep the description open so that the faculty can later go back to two competitions or stay with one if desired.

OTHER BUSINESS

The dean pointed to attachments for this faculty meeting, including the previous minutes, the committee composition list and faculty list for 2015-16, and other materials. Retirements are anticipated, and they will not be replaced. The budget situation is no better, but certainly the higher numbers will help. This will mean that the faculty will not head in a poorer direction. The next meeting will be sure to be a busy one, with curriculum reports being presented and the task force discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.