

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES MEETING

26 April 2016

PRESENT: 36 members, Ms. Jackie Osterman (Assistant Dean), Ms. Christine Kawerau (Recording Secretary)

ABSENT: 10 regrets received

MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF 10 NOVEMBER 2015 AND 1 FEBRUARY 2016

Dr. A. Moro noted that the proposed changes to academic regulations discussed in November did not go through in Social Sciences, and were ultimately pulled from curriculum discussions in our faculty as well.

Dr. Moro **MOTIONED** and Dr. N. Serruys **SECONDED** the motion to adopt the minutes from the two previous faculty meetings. The motion **CARRIED**.

BUSINESS ARISING

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

DEAN'S REMARKS

Dean Cruikshank said no follow up has taken place on the branding exercise, but this may occur after meetings take place with all of the Faculties.

There have been two town halls on the Report of the Task Force on Future Directions for the Faculties of Humanities, Social Sciences and Science. He thanked all those who participated as well as Drs. M. O'Connor and W. Waluchow for their participation as members of the task force. At a town hall the provost commented on meeting with all the deans, but this has not yet happened.

The dean gave an update on Wilson Hall. The crane is being moved away and roads have been blocked due to major construction. The building should be functioning in some capacity by September, and overall it is looking better save for the concert hall and black box theatre. There may not be, however, full access to the technology in the active learning classrooms. Some money was received from the University Fund to support faculty using these classrooms. A search will take place to find a faculty member to champion them. Undergraduate student assistants will be available to help interested faculty in converting their current courses, or creating new courses, to be taught in these active classrooms.

The dean's office has been focussing on recruitment and retention. Collaboration has taken place with the dean of Social Sciences, and some funds have been received from the University Fund to support a new staff person to focus on recruitment in liberal arts. The faculties will be working with the recruitment office to coordinate exactly from where the new staff member will work.

Part of recruitment and retention involves raising the profile of the Faculty. The dean receives regular reports from the Office of Public Relations. He noted that when it comes to coverage on the Daly News,

Humanities is like most other Faculties and well in front of Social Sciences in respect to exposure, and this is due to the Faculty's investment in Colin Czerneda [Digital Media Specialist, Humanities Media and Computing]. Colin has been effective in bringing the work of the Faculty to the attention of the Office of Public Relations.

ASSOCIATE DEAN'S REMARKS

Dr. Moro said the new program in the School of Business, Integrated Business and Humanities, is with the ministry; the hope is a response will be received before September.

She reminded faculty members of the upcoming recruitment event, May at Mac, which takes place a week from Saturday.

On the admissions front, just fewer than 1900 offers have gone out. It is too early to track confirmations as students have until the first of June to accept. E-cards have been sent with contact information for the advisors to establish connections and answer any questions from prospective students.

Dr. O'Connor asked if there was any update on program selection. Ms. Osterman said programs do not get confirmed until May when reviewing takes place, so this sort of information would not be available until after that time.

ASSOCIATE DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH'S REMARKS

Dr. P. Swett congratulated those who have won various research grants within the faculty.

She noted the SSHRC Open Forum happening on May 16, where Dr. Ted Hewitt, Executive Vice-President of SSHRC, will speak. The forum is open to all researchers in Humanities and Social Sciences, so please RSVP.

In regards to graduate studies, the admissions process was made difficult this year due to issues in Mosaic. Despite this, offers to domestic students to Master's are up 17% and 29% for Ph.D. programs. Intake is still in process, but hopefully this will have the same good results.

As of the first of May, all graduate pay and benefits matters will go from School of Graduate Studies to Human Resources. One of Dr. Doug Welch's initiatives is to go paperless and deliver more electronically through Mosaic. He hopes for this to be done by fall.

In terms of comprehensive exams, the university has a policy that every Ph.D. program must have one. There is a huge range in terms of how these are handled, and Dr. Welch wishes to have a discussion on this. A uniform exam is not being proposed, but rather creating minimum standards.

There has been talk to systemize and annually review the graduate handbooks produced by programs. Though the graduate calendar is the official repository for policies, information in the graduate handbooks has been used considerably in student appeals. SGS therefore feels a checklist or set of best practices of some sort should be adopted.

Dr. P. Walmsley asked if comprehensive exams were being considered as only an option. Dr. Swett replied that discussion has been around minimum standards. She has been put in charge of researching

if the exams are mandatory and if there are any universities that don't have one. If anyone has any information in this respect, please let her know.

BUDGET PRESENTATION

Dean Cruikshank discussed the budget results from each year since 2013-14. By 2016-17, it appears the faculty will be in the black for the operating budget. He thanked everyone for their efforts and adaptations, which have made this possible.

[The full budget presentation is available online for review]

Discussion took place among members as to how spaces in the new building would be used. The dean said the concert hall will be a shared university cost, much like Convocation Hall. The theatre is not seen in the same way, and will be treated as such. It will not be open to the public. It is still unsure how some student spaces and study areas will be handled. It may be that the Registrar's Office will book any multipurpose rooms, with the understanding that priority will be given to Humanities and Social Sciences. Wilson Hall has not been taken into account for any projections in the budget presentation as it has not yet been determined when payments will begin.

SENATE UPDATE

Dr. C. Quail gave the update from Senate. McMaster made it to the next round for CFREF, which is being announced in May. A long and fruitful conversation took place on the work of the task force. The provost said he would be speaking with the deans further. Revisions were made to the policies on the Distinguished University Professor; applications from those who are not successful will be kept on file. The president spoke to updates on Tri-Council policies. All else was budget related. The president said Ottawa is optimistic and more opportunities will be coming to the university. A new funding formula is still ongoing but hasn't been revealed. Ontario student grant changes should impact the university, but in what way is still uncertain.

The Dean noted that the biggest change will be that students will know upon acceptance what they will be paying and any credit being received. This could encourage people to come to university who otherwise thought they could not afford to do so. On the increase to SSHRC's budget, the Dean asked that people attend Dr. Hewitt's talk and give feedback on how best to use the money.

CHAIRS' AND DIRECTORS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. M. O'Connor announced the John and Douglas Taylor Conference, which will bring together many individuals in a dialogue about the Air India 182 tragedy of 1985. It will take place from May 6-7 and is being organized by Dr. Chandrima Chakraborty.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business. The meeting concluded at 2:50 p.m.