

McMaster University

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

Monday 26 January 2015

Council Room, Gilmour Hall, Room 111

PRESENT: Dean K. Cruikshank, 31 members, C. Kawerau (Recording Secretary), G. Pollock (Research Facilitator)

REGRETS: 12 regrets received

I. MINUTES of the Meeting of 11 November 2014

II. Dr. P. Walmsley **MOTIONED** and Dr. A. Moro **SECONDED** to adopt the minutes of the meeting of 11 November 2014. The motioned **CARRIED** unanimously.

III. BUSINESS ARISING

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

IV. DEAN'S REMARKS

Since the previous faculty meeting, the renewal of the Wilson Institute for Canadian History for another five years was announced.

On the applications front, it is not known yet whether or not there is good news. Once more is known it will be shared. The target number has been reduced, meaning that the flow-through is smaller. Since the target is the same as last year, the reduced target may be realistic, and make for an accurate budget. If the target can be exceeded, the faculty will do so.

The faculty is now heading into budget season, reports on which will be given in the future. There have been a few adjustments; most do not impact negatively. Some will in fact help given current enrolments, as more recognition is given for service teaching. More detail can be provided if needed.

There are currently three searches underway. One is for the Asper Chair in Communications, formerly held by Dr. Henry Giroux, who now serves as the McMaster Chair for Scholarship in the Public Interest. There is also a search ongoing for the Wilson Chair in Canadian History. A 3-year CLA will serve as Academic Director of the Sherman Centre. Sandra Lapointe will be stepping down as of July 1st; the Dean thanked her for her important work in the establishment of the centre. The cost of the 3 year CLA will be shared with the library. The hope is the incumbent will also be able to teach in Communication Studies or Multimedia.

V. UPDATE ON THE WILSON BUILDING

The Dean then gave a presentation on the Wilson Building, providing insight into the design and layout of the spaces [Please view the [Wilson Hall Presentation to the Faculty](#) and the [Wilson Hall Brief Overview](#) documents on the Humanities Website].

Dr. J. Askey then presented information on the active learning classrooms. She and Ann Herring in Anthropology have been working together to create a group of teaching scholars who wish to transition their classes into these rooms and take advantage of the spaces. In the classrooms, which will vary in size, each pod will have a number of hookups designed to bring in one's own device(s). Each pod also has a projector and screen. These can be shifted at the instructor's preference. Students work in small groups and can project their work to be shared with the class. Student-centred active learning is facilitated. Departments are encouraged to examine what classes might be a good fit for this style of room. There has been much positive feedback received from other institutions on these classrooms.

Dr. C. Grise asked for some clarification on how note-taking on particular items being presented in this way might work. Drs. Askey and Cruikshank noted that the set-up will require and encourage a level of cooperation among the students, as not everyone will be able to attach their devices. Another member asked about the acoustics in the classrooms, and what has been done to ensure people can hear each other. Dr. Cruikshank has been told the acoustics will work with the design. Dr. Askey said the microphones are for projecting sound, but they can record as well. Dr. Cruikshank added that the practice rooms can both play and record music. Dr. P. Swett asked what Social Sciences is planning on doing with these rooms. Nothing has yet been heard—Ann Herring said their first year mandatory courses are not on the agenda for these rooms.

VI. ASSOCIATE DEAN'S REMARKS

Dr. Moro encouraged members to RSVP to the Humanities Awards Assembly. The current awards season is underway, and USRA proposals are due by February 4th.

The Majors Fair is on March 4th, so it is important for departments to start thinking about what information they wish to get out to potential students. The Enrolment Management Team has regularly been putting on their agenda the issue of access to residence. This issue has had an impact on retention rates. Access to residence spaces is given based on the highest averages. Generally, Humanities and Social Sciences do not fare as well. This is being looked into—an update will be given once it is available.

The new Mosaic system goes live across the university in mid-March. This has not been an easy transition but efforts are being made to ensure it is as glitch-free a transition as possible. Staff in departments will have a lot of work to do because everything needs to be done in a new system.

Statistics from Fall Preview are now available. In previous years when Fall Preview was one day, the numbers were around 7 000. Now that the university has moved to a two day format, the numbers have been a total of 12 000 in 2013 and 14 500 last year.

On the curriculum front, the Specialized Minor in Commerce has been fully approved. The

School of Business is willing to consider students who possess the requirements now during their first year. Course management is complete. Departments should know their teaching assignments. For Human Resources, EOHSS forms need to be completed and record as complete when students do placements and are working outside the classroom. Dr. Mitchell asked where to find the forms, and Dr. Moro said they should be within department offices. Prof. Major-Girardin asked where the forms go. Dr. Moro replied that a copy should go to EOHSS to keep on file.

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

Dr. Ibhawoh has communicated with graduate chairs about the scholarship funding guidelines for 2015-16. The message from the School of Graduate Studies is they are still in 'grow-mode'; if anyone can accommodate for graduate students, please feel encouraged to take them in. There are BIUs for eligible domestic graduate students. SGS has decided to have 40% of the OGS sent directly to the faculties. Humanities received 12 of these and, rather than have another competition, it was decided they would be allocated to individual programs. Every program has received an OGS, so they can make offers to students they really want to attract. Dr. Ibhawoh thanked those on the scholarship committee for their work. For international students, there are international bursaries.

On the research front, a list of major awards of our faculty is currently being worked on. This information is occasionally requested by the research office, so it would be beneficial to have this ready. Grace Pollock sent an email requesting this information, so everyone should respond wherever possible.

Dr. Ibhawoh reminded everyone of the research incentive program, where the Dean's Office will pay for three units of teaching release based on tri-council grant awards. He encouraged those who have ongoing research to apply.

VIII. REPORT FROM THE GRADUATE CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Dr. Ibhawoh presented this report. In English and Cultural Studies there are new courses being added as well as course cancellations. French is trying to cancel some course and make some changes to requirements. Philosophy also has a course cancellation and a couple of changes to other courses. Dr. Gedge pointed to an error made in the Philosophy submission—none of the courses listed are full courses, they are all half courses. Dr. Ibhawoh said they would note this. With this amendment, Dr. Ibhawoh **MOTIONED** and Dr. Walmsley **SECONDED** to adopt the changes outlined within the report. The motion **CARRIED** unanimously.

IX. PROPOSAL FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS IN MUSIC EDUCATION AND COGNITION

Dr. Ibhawoh pointed out that this was one of two new graduate program initiatives (the other being a joint Ph.D. program with Communication Studies and Cultural Studies). He thanked Dr. Renwick for his work on the MA proposal. This program is being aimed at music educators in Ontario and builds on the strengths of other programs. It is also geared towards professional musicians and education professionals. So, it has a potentially broad school of applicants. One innovative feature of the program is its design—it makes effective

use of faculty, administrative, and fiscal resources. The Wilson Building will house a concert hall and practice studios. These will be an attraction for students. Many faculty members involved have extensive experience. This had to go through the new budget model, which has detailed criteria. If one looks at the budget sheet, the program is expecting to break even by its third year and turn a profit starting in its fourth year. The hope is, upon approval, to next have this go to GCPC.

Dr. Connolly asked about a previous item, the list of awards being compiled. He wondered if the research office is asking for items that have already been given to them. Dr. Ibhawoh clarified that the faculty should be thinking about awards that have no relation to grants. That is, awards that are not typically reported. Dr. Connolly expressed concern about resupplying information—he wondered if this information could not be pulled from the activity report. Dr. Ibhawoh agreed that much could also be pulled from this report as well.

Another member asked if this new program would be 18 months. Dr. Renwick said the instruction would take place over the fall/winter and the subsequent fall term. The interim spring/summer session would have the potential for independent research if approved. The same member asked if the rule has changed where, to receive BIU funding, full-time study in the summer needed to be demonstrated. Dr. Ibhawoh said not necessarily, as the School of Graduate Studies reviewed the arrangements for this program and approved it. Prof. Major-Girardin asked for the target number, which was reported to be 10.

Dr. Ibhawoh **MOTIONED** and Dr. Kinder **SECONDED** the approval of the proposal for the Master of Arts in Music Education and Cognition. The motion **CARRIED**. The Dean thanked all those involved in the creation of the proposal.

X. REPORT FROM SENATE

In Dr. Eilers' absence, Dr. Cruikshank gave an update from Senate. A fall break beginning next year was approved. With this comes a couple of changes in next year's dates. Classes will begin the Tuesday after Labour Day. Exams can be a maximum of two and a half hours as opposed to three hours, and there will be no days between the last day of classes and the first day of examinations. A committee was set up by the university which made this recommendation to senate and it was adopted. A member asked if this would affect graduate students, and it was confirmed it would not.

The President referred to the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF), a large pot of money the government has offered to the universities as the CFI budget is reduced. The university has created a team to try to get the funding, likely in partnership with other universities. There is a meeting regarding this on January 28, so those interested in hearing more about this can attend.

XI. CHAIRS' AND DIRECTORS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Kinder noted there are lots of events coming up in all areas of SOTA; more information and details will be sent to everyone via email.

Dr. Ibhawoh noted the annual lunch with the deans for graduate students next Wednesday. The Dean will talk about leadership and the new fellowship opportunities for graduate

students to teach their own courses. Dr. Cruikshank added that there is not yet an official number on how many fellowships will be available. Dr. Swett asked if this information will also be sent by email to ensure nothing is miscommunicated. Dr. Cruikshank said he would make note of this action item. Dr. Gedge asked if these are different from awards in any way. Dr. Cruikshank clarified that they are one and the same, and that there has been some struggle in giving a name to them. At the lunch, all that will be done is bringing awareness to these fellowships.

Dr. Walmsley announced that Audra Simpson, from the Department of Anthropology at Columbia University, would be giving a lecture on January 29th. The discussion would be on gender, politics, and the Canadian treatment of First Nations.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business. The Dean thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded at approximately 2:35 pm.