

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES GENERAL MEETING
27 APRIL 2015

IN ATTENDANCE: 31 members, Patricia Kalnins (Assistant Dean), Grace Pollock (Research Facilitator), Christine Kawerau (Recording Secretary)

REGRETS: 6 regrets sent

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 31 MARCH 2015

Review and approval of the minutes of the meeting of 31 March 2015 were deferred to the next meeting.

BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

DEAN'S REMARKS

Dr. Cruikshank first congratulated Dr. Christina Baade on being awarded the title of University Scholar. This honorific goes to mid-career scholars, and is held for four years. This also includes some research support.

The Dean took this opportunity to publically thank and bid farewell to Claude Eilers as chair of Classics and Keith Kinder as director of SOTA. Sean Corner is set to become the new chair of Classics. This is still going through senate. The replacement for the School of the Arts hasn't yet gone forward. Dr. Cruikshank also noted that Mary O'Connor will be filling the role of the acting chair of English & Cultural Studies while Peter Walmsley is on leave. Representatives in Communication Studies are busy appointing the Asper Chair, which will be announced in the fall. Work is also being done to appoint the Wilson Chair in History as well.

Dr. Cruikshank expressed appreciation to those in Studio Art who have had to work around the construction as the new space is prepared. He thanked all faculty for their patience in learning the new Mosaic system, particularly with respect to grade submission.

He then congratulated all faculty members on the CP/M scheme who will receive an increase in salary in recognition of gender inequity as negotiated between MUFA and the provost. Studies were carried out and there was no detection of differences between faculties, which is why this is being applied to all faculties in the same way. This will be applied before the across the board increase occurs.

In a couple of weeks, another announcement is expected from the provost and the deans of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Science. It will be something to the effect of striking a task force to look at the future of arts and science at McMaster and the barriers students face when working across faculties, as well as research between faculty members. The task force would look at what approaches can be taken to do away with such obstacles. The chair will be Dr. Gary Warner and it will include representatives from each faculty. Mary O'Connor will be one of Humanities' reps, and advice will be sought for a second member.

ASSOCIATE DEAN'S REMARKS

May @ Mac takes place on Saturday 9 May. It is the last recruitment event for the year. This is a crucial visit for many potential students, as they often come to decide if this is the university whose offer they wish to accept. It is important we get as close to our new targets as possible.

The new MSAF regulations are going to take effect for the Spring/Summer session. A message from Sean Van Koughnett and Susan Searls-Giroux will be going out.

ASSOCIATE DEAN GRADUATE STUDIES & RESEARCH'S REMARKS

Dr. Bonny Ibhawoh was not present at the meeting, nor was there anyone acting on his behalf.

PROPOSAL: THE CENTRE FOR COMMUNITY-ENGAGED NARRATIVE ARTS

Dr. Lorraine York presented this proposal. It seeks to respond to FWI and the evolving understanding of community engagement as reciprocal.

The summary gives details about the context but specifically projects funded by seed funding that has been growing. She wished to highlight that at the moment the centre is very heavy in English and Cultural Studies. However, there are a number of colleagues whose research is not captured here but is very much in tune with the spirit of the proposal. Should it fare well in the various committees it faces, the first thing to do will be to send out an invitation to faculty and colleagues to get a sense of potential interest and suggestions.

Dr. York wished to thank Grace Pollock in helping work through the various parts. She encouraged feedback now or through email at yorkl@mcmaster.ca

BUDGET PRESENTATION

The dean has worked with chairs and directors, and has a particular audience in mind when presenting to the budget committee.

Changes in government funding have not happened, nor has there been any indication of this happening. Grant revenues will presumably be flat for the next few years.

It appears the faculty was optimistic in some revenue projections. This is a work in progress. Our undergraduate recruitment did not meet our target number. Things are ok in terms of retirements. The issues regarding combined honours have been resolved, and has had a negative impact on our budget.

Dr. Cruikshank first went over revenue allocation. Every year the faculty has new allocation based on a number of factors. Graduate tuition and grants go entirely to the faculty. Undergraduate is now known as teaching tuition. Undergraduate grants are going down because enrolment is down. Tuition is up for 2015-16 because there is change in the formula. Students in seats matters more now than it did originally.

In terms of gross revenue allocation, the way in which MCM is counted has been changed.

The formula has not changed for undergraduates. We receive less for a B.A. or Humanities I student, and more for Honours. Students in the Music and the first year of the BFA in Studio Art are treated differently, as are students the three year BA in Art History. Every student in one of our courses, regardless of their faculty, is about \$600 in gross revenue for 2015-16.

The dean then spoke to the university fund tax. If revenue goes down, then our taxes also go down. There is also a research infrastructure tax of 1%, which is then reallocated back to faculties based on revenues. The cost of research is positive revenue generated by the indirect cost of research.

Due to combined degrees with Social Sciences, we have lost \$307 000. Costs of support units, libraries, scholarships, etc. were also considered. Support unit costs are lower because our enrolments are lower. The held harmless protects the faculty from dramatic changes that would have occurred under the old model. The surprise is no one remembered that the held harmless is adjustable and can go down if enrolments go down. We don't know when and if the held harmless will expire.

In regards to the faculty's expenses, things are being held as steady as possible. After the held harmless, there is a \$2 million deficit. There will likely be more retirements than the 3 that were predicted, and one CLA was not renewed. Sessional costs did not go as high as once predicted. This is a budget that does not show retiring members being replaced.

The Dean discussed deficit projections based on enrolment numbers. More admission offers have gone out, and time will show if this has any effect. Demographics are working against most universities in Ontario. Projections show a general decline in the university-age population until 2020-21, and then shows a gradual increase in that population. The Toronto area, a potential McMaster catchment zone, is the exception, where the potential student population is growing.

A member asked if the new gender inequity pay is factored into this budget. The dean answered no, it has not yet been established how this will affect the faculty, although we have proportionately more faculty who will receive the increase than in other Faculties. The Dean emphasized that this is fair, because it means our Faculty salary expenses were low, in part, because of gender inequity in salaries.

The topic then turned to battling the college alternative rhetoric. The dean noted that the faculty's leadership skills development focus has been one way to try and combat this.

In regards to cost containment, proper course management has made a difference. Space costs and use must be reviewed. It now appears that the new concert hall will be treated the same as Convocation Hall, as a university expense. Practice and performance spaces will be charged to us. The dean noted that Wilson Hall is not built into this budget projection.

Wilson Hall and the Fitzhenry Studio spaces give opportunity for recruitment. The Wilson and Asper Chair positions raise the faculty's profile. The Strategic Mandate Agreement is a chance to get through some new graduate programs currently being worked on. This agreement does expire, so it is important to take advantage of it.

The main message around the budget is the same as last year: recruitment and retention is important, and teach and be prosperous.

Dr. Pamela Swett asked if offers have been done for the MELD program. Dr. Moro answered that they have been delayed due to Mosaic complications. Offers are going to start going out in early May. Dr. Cruikshank added that the MELD program is attracting instructors from other universities, who believe we are delivering a program worth the money being collected for it. Dr. Moro said MELD is currently done only as a conditional offer program in consultation with the

other faculties. There have been requests from current students who wish to take the program to improve their language development.

Dr. Claude Eilers wished to confirm that to be in the black, the faculty must be teaching a certain number of students, and classes have to be a certain size. The dean cautioned that one has to consider the hold harmless. It all goes into our allocation before the hold harmless. Until we are out of held harmless, we need to be cautious: additional expenses directly affect our operating deficit, additional revenues simply get us closer to our held harmless revenues. There are faculties that are at or above their hold harmless. Science has a larger deficit but as proportionate to their budget it is not as large as ours. Our current focus is on the in-year deficit even "held harmless" revenues.

ADDITIONAL FLEXIBLE WORK ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES (THE POINT SYSTEM)

The dean made note that these are guidelines and not a formal policy. It is to help chairs in the allocation of teaching assignments. The goal is to give clarity around the things the faculty wishes to recognize, such as research and graduate supervision. Teaching assignments are still at the discretion of the chair and the dean. There is still the question of what to do with our existing resources.

Dr. Nicholas Griffin expressed concerns about teaching assignments. McMaster presents itself as a research-intensive institution and the undergraduate teaching assignments are not standard for such an institution. These suggestions are sending the wrong message to prospective faculty and graduate students. There are universities elsewhere that have fought hard against government micromanaging; we are damaging our own case with this. The dean replied that the normal teaching expectation of 2-3 is not dramatically out of line with other universities. It is to ensure the equitable assignment of duties. If there are those not contributing to parts of the research mission, there needs to be ways of recognizing that and realigning teaching expectations. This is a way of ensuring this happens.

Dr. Magda Stroinska asked for a definition of being research active. It appears to be equated to having a grant. Research such as hers does not have a lot of grants, so this could be punitive if one is researching but doesn't have grants. Dr. Cruikshank replied this is not defining what research active means. This is defining thresholds where it is felt someone's research is contributing to the mission of the faculty, and to recognize the kind of extra work that comes with a larger grant, particularly supervising graduate assistants. Research grants make a difference to the faculty budget. The grants are likely what have earned a CRC for the faculty. A member added that in a system where a fifth year Ph.D. student has fewer options for a T.A. position, having a chance to pay for an R.A. is a major contribution.

Dr. Don Goellnicht asked if there was a sense of the timeline for the task force to be struck on an amalgamation of the three faculties. The dean said the details are still being developed and terms of reference are still under negotiation. It would be expected to report no earlier than January of next year. There will be no staff or students on this task force. It may not result in an amalgamation but more directed to finding ways to ensure students have ways of taking courses across the different departments and faculties. The dean of Science is actually quite interested in this initiative as he feels his students would benefit greatly from skills that are found in Humanities courses and teachings.

REPORT FROM SENATE

Dr. I. Kucerova delivered an update from Senate. The last senate meeting involved talk about the provincial government developing a new funding formula. It is unknown when it will happen. The president expressed concern because it is a very technical approach they are taking. The Board of Governors endorsed the Senate's decision for McMaster to become a signatory to the Berlin Declaration on Open Access. Changes to our Faculty's by-laws were accepted. These mainly pertained to committee structures. There were some general housekeeping items discussed. There were also some changes recommended for the Residence Code of Conduct, most editorial in nature. Some discussion ensued regarding behavioural issues on campus and ways in which Student Affairs was working reduce their frequency.

CHAIRS' AND DIRECTORS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The meeting concluded at approximately 3:00 p.m.