

## FACULTY OF HUMANITIES MEETING

### 5 October 2017

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IN ATTENDANCE: 36 members, Jackie Osterman (Assistant Dean), John Bell (Director, HMC), Christine Chauvin (Recording Secretary)

REGRETS: 10 regrets received

#### PRESENTATIONS ON ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION AND SAS ACCOMMODATION PROCEDURES

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Alise de Bie and Anne Pottier presented on accessible education across campus. Tim Nolan presented on changes to accommodation procedures through Student Accessibility Services.

[Both presentations are available on the faculty meeting webpage].

#### MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF 22 MARCH 2017

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Dr. T. Flynn **MOTIONED** and Dr. S. Corner **SECONDED** the motion to adopt the minutes from the previous faculty meeting on 22 March 2017. The motion **CARRIED** unanimously.

#### BUSINESS ARISING

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There was no business arising due to the minutes.

#### DEAN'S REMARKS

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Dean Cruikshank welcomed everyone to the first faculty meeting of the year. He also welcomed Dr. Stephen Heathorn as the new chair of the Department of History, Dr. Magda Stroinska who is returning to her duties as chair of the Department of Linguistics and Languages following a leave, Dr. Claude Eilers as acting chair of the Department of Classics, and Dr. Sean Corner as the acting associate dean of graduate studies and research.

The dean thanked all those involved in the new Brighter World campaign. More participation may be asked of everyone as the new campaign launches.

The Canada 150 Research Chair was introduced; details were received over the summer. A candidate from Humanities will be going forward to the central competition in Ottawa. The dean thanked those who were on the selection committee. About a dozen applications were solicited, and the committee received another 115 unsolicited ones. There are six nominations coming from McMaster, of which we are one.

As part of the process, all selection committee members for the Canada 150 Research Chair were required to participate in an equity-training workshop. In future, this training will be mandatory in order to sit on a university search committee.

There have been other changes outside of our faculty. The new university secretariat is Christi Garneau, who has a background in history. The new chief technology officer, Gayleen Grey, has a background in English. McMaster currently has an overlap in the provost position. David Wilkinson will be stepping down by the end of this month, and the incoming provost, David Farrar, started on Monday. Farrar is immediately faced with meeting the various support units to discuss their budgets.

## INTRODUCTION OF NEW FACULTY MEMBERS AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

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Each department introduced their new faculty members as well as their undergraduate and graduate student representatives for the year. A full list of 2017-18 faculty members and student representatives can be found on the Faculty List and Committee Composition List respectively.

[After the meeting, it was discovered that there were errors in who was identified as the undergraduate representatives for the departments of History and Communication Studies & Multimedia. Corrections will be made at the next faculty meeting.]

## ASSOCIATE DEAN'S REMARKS

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In Dr. Anna Moro's absence, Assistant Dean Jackie Osterman made announcements on her behalf.

She gave thanks to those who participated in the Ontario Universities' Fair this September. If not already received, communication from Nathan Nash regarding the fall previews will be sent soon. This is the time to welcome potential students to our community and have them meet professors and current students.

As Tim Nolan pointed out, MSAF should be kept separate from a student's SAS accommodations. The Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances policy (RISO) should be kept separate from MSAF as well. RISO has its own forms for absences.

## ACTING ASSOCIATE DEAN'S OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH'S REMARKS

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Dr. Sean Corner addressed the question of the Strategic Mandate Agreement and what effect this may have on graduate enrolment. It has now been confirmed that there will be room for expansion, so we should continue to recruit, and the enhanced level of support of recent years will continue.

The faculty continues to encourage departments to be proactive and get in touch about any awards or prizes within their discipline. It is difficult to centrally track these sorts of opportunities, but if departments believe they have a colleague who would be eligible for a prize, we are happy to assist.

There are surprisingly low numbers of SSHRC MA applications. Departments will be working with existing graduate students to put applications forward. If anyone knows of senior undergraduate students who

intend to apply for an MA and may be unaware of these awards, please encourage them to apply. SSHRC has changed some of its policies in that it has relaxed its criteria to allow for certain health-related projects, though the exact terms remain unclear. Dr. Cruikshank added that SSHRC will be looking to support projects that are not framed as having a specific health outcome.

Research time stipend submissions are due October 20<sup>th</sup>.

## REPORT ON PROGRAM ENROLMENT STATISTICS

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The dean noted that this year's numbers are not yet official, but it is useful for chairs to have this information to assist in course planning. A full-time student is considered to be taking at least 18 units. We were short of our target in terms of incoming first year students, about 5% if you exclude the MELD program.

Humanities by the Numbers shows historical figures and FTE statistics. The decline is fairly general, and smaller in some departments. Fortunately, in terms of our budget, we still appear to be tracking to have a higher allocation than originally thought.

## UPDATE FROM SENATE

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Dr. D. Enns said the president's focus on research will include a plan to have small fundraising campaigns for grants. Recommendations from the Warner Report will be used to make some changes in academics. Developments are underway in the new 'Brighter World' branding initiative.

Preliminary enrolment figures as of September 12 are showing a decrease in full-time domestic graduate program enrolment. Applications have seen an overall increase, which means there has been an increase in international applicants. More Visa students than ever have registered.

Dr. Wilkinson discussed the Strategic Mandate Agreement. He mentioned that McMaster is in a corridor due to the new funding formula. Dr. Cruikshank confirmed this, adding there is no advantage to being above your target by much. For the moment, funds will come back to the university the way it always did. However, the long-term plan is to measure and assess against the targets Dr. Enns previously mentioned.

Dr. Corner rightly noted that it had been unclear how graduate recruitment and enrolment is going to be treated. There was talk of capping at our current enrolments but we now know that the cap is close to our more recent expansion targets; we are being encouraged to recruit more graduate students so that we meet those targets.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CHAIRS AND DIRECTORS

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The dean encouraged everyone to attend events taking place in the new concert hall. This past Friday was the first big concert of the year. The unveiling of Wilson Hall is still taking place. The dean noted also that this year's major production will take place in the new black box theatre. He also expressed appreciation

to those affected by the various renovations and moves to accommodate changes in space allocation both in the new building and in the arts towers.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

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There was no other business. The meeting concluded at approximately 2:30 p.m.