

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES MEETING

6 October 2016

IN ATTENDANCE: 49 members, Jackie Osterman (Assistant Dean), John Bell (Director, HMC), Christine Kawerau (Recording Secretary)

REGRETS: 10 regrets received

WELCOME

Dean Cruikshank welcomed everyone back to the new academic year, particularly those who were away on leave. He then identified new leadership in different departments. Dr. W. Waluchow will be acting chair in the Department of Philosophy. Dr. S. Sciaraffa will thereafter take on the role as chair. Dr. M. Stroinska is now chair of the Department of Linguistics & Languages. Dr. J. Stout is acting chair of French until Dr. E. Nshimiyimana's return in January. Dr. A. Dean is acting director of the Gender Studies and Feminist Research program until Dr. S. Fast returns, at which point Dr. Fast will begin a 3-year term. Dr. P. Swett continues to serve as acting associate dean of graduate studies and research until the end of the year. She is also serving as chair of History for another year until Dr. S. Heathorn assumes the role.

MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF 26 APRIL 2016

Dr. P. Swett **MOTIONED** and Dr. S. Bannerman **SECONDED** the motion adopt the minutes from the meeting of 26 April 2016. The motion **CARRIED** unanimously.

BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising as a result of the minutes. Dr. Cruikshank noted that he had talked about the new budget at the previous faculty meeting. Currently the faculty is in the midst of its five month review to see how things are tracking. The situation may be more positive than anticipated in that the surplus for 2016-17 may be bigger than originally thought. More of the debt being carried will be paid down.

DEAN'S REMARKS

Dean Cruikshank noted that tomorrow is the deadline for nominations for the Shepherd Book Prize. These should be submitted as soon as possible. A call has been put out for nominations for the Dr. Harry Lyman Hooker Distinguished Visiting Professor for the 2017-18 year. Faculty members should speak to their chairs if they have anyone in mind. We are looking for speakers who have a broader public appeal and who can bridge over a few disciplines.

In regards to nominations for the Distinguishing University Professor, please let the dean know if you are planning to nominate someone. There are two phases to the process; the first is getting a letter signed for the nomination. The committee will then look at the letter and recommend whether all or some of the nominated candidates' referees should be approached. Dr. Cruikshank emphasized that he or the chair of the respective department should be notified of any nominations to ensure that all are going forward for consideration.

Nominations for the University Scholar are due by November 1. Currently, the faculty is able to nominate one junior scholar every two years, and this is one of those years.

Dr. Cruikshank then turned to the activities of the Task Force. There is no pressing demand to merge faculties. Rather, more cooperation amongst them is encouraged. Two committees have been struck with that end in mind. One is the Committee of Academic Structures for Student Success. Dr. Nancy Bouchier and Ms. Elizabeth Williams sit on this committee for Humanities, which looks at academic regulations that are creating barriers and preventing students from bridging their studies across the faculties. The other committee is Programming in the Arts and Science Faculties. This committee examines the ways in which we can encourage students to take courses in other faculties. Drs. Sean Corner and Anna Moro sit on this committee.

The dean gave an update on Wilson Hall. The unveiling has been happening slowly. There is limited occupancy; the concert hall and the tower remain off limits, and the black box theatre is not yet ready to use. The large lecture hall is open and being used to accommodate over-enrolment in Science, Business, and Engineering. It is hoped the rest of the building will be open by December and all in place by next spring.

The active learning classrooms are up and running. For at least a year we will maintain control over scheduling of these classrooms. Dr. Cruikshank thanked faculty members who volunteered to try their courses in these new spaces this year. He noted that Dr. Christine Quail has been appointed Active Learning Educational Fellow. She has been working with Katrina Espanol-Miller in Humanities Media and Computing to think of ways to utilize and promote the classrooms. Dr. Amy Beth Warriner has been working in the classroom as well and has designed a first year course for these classrooms. McMaster's common reading book, *The Illegal* by Lawrence Hill, is being utilized and faculty members are coming in to discuss the approach their discipline would take to the themes and issues discussed in the novel. Lawrence Hill will be coming to talk to our students in the course during his visit to the university.

There are lots of spaces to fill in these classrooms and we have less than 10 faculty members who have signed on to design courses. We'd like to see these spaces used as much as possible by our own faculty.

Dr. Cruikshank briefed everyone on his presentation to the Board of Governors. In that presentation, he focused on three strategic objectives of the Faculty.

The first is enhancing our research excellence. He first explained to the Board the diverse definitions of research in our Faculty – illustrating it to the Board by way of slides showing the many books produced by faculty members in recent years, work in our different cognitive science labs, and creative expression, whether it be directing choir or theatrical performances or mounting an art exhibit. He then outlined four areas of research excellence that we have been focused on recently: 1) Understanding the Modern World (including the Bertrand Russell Centre and the Wilson Institute for Canadian History), 2)

Community Engaged Scholarship (including the Centre for Community Engaged Narrative Arts), 3) H-STEM (Humanities engages STEM, including the Centre for Advanced Research in Experimental and Applied Linguistics, and the Institute on Ethics and Policy for Innovation), and Engaging Our Digital World (including MacGRID and HitchBOT, and the Asper Chair in Communications).

The second objective has been to support and inspire the aspirations of our students, including the focus on reimagining leadership, and the creation of new programs that allow our students to have access to more business courses and that direct business students to Humanities courses, including the new Integrated Business and Humanities program, which will be the subject of a donor announcement in support of scholarships tomorrow. On the leadership initiative, Dr. Cruikshank emphasized that this had been both a response to discussions in the Faculty, but also a response to surveys of our students done during IQAP reviews. Those surveys show that students overwhelmingly expect to gain skills in writing and critical thinking when they come to our programs, but a significant number also expect to acquire leadership skills. Students think we do a pretty good job of delivering on the first two – although there is room for improvement – but do not think we provide the latter. It may be, as many faculty members have noted, that we are providing those skills without saying so, but there is something to be gained from highlighting them in our programs.

The third objective has been to focus on building a sustainable platform for success in the Faculty. In the presentation to the BOG on this was brief, but addressed the budget issues that we faced, and how we well we are addressing those.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW FACULTY MEMBERS AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Faculty members from each department introduced their new faculty members as well as their undergraduate and graduate student representatives for the year. [A full list of 2016-17 faculty members and student representatives can be found online on the Faculty List and Committee Composition List respectively.]

ACTING ASSOCIATE DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH'S REMARKS

Dr. Pamela Swett said the School of Graduate Studies is undergoing an internal review, which will give a sense of direction moving forward with that unit. There is also a new Director of Finance, Sally Ramsammy.

McMaster has a blanket policy that, while they do not have to be uniform in format, comprehensive exams must be conducted for all Ph.D. programs. Changes to this are being explored. There is also a plan to create a standard checklist for graduate handbooks. Once this checklist is created, handbooks will be updated and maintained accordingly, as inconsistent information has led to issues in student appeals.

After the next faculty meeting on November 8, the faculty will host its research reception. Dr. Grace Pollock has been effectively putting together nomination packages, and it is rewarding to commend colleagues for their excellent work. If anyone knows of prizes or awards in their field, please speak with her or Dr. Pollock.

ASSOCIATE DEAN'S REMARKS

Dr. Anna Moro spoke to changes in policies for student accommodations, which are a result of work being done with the Ontario Human Rights Commission to meet standards of the province. A final document outlining the changes is forthcoming.

If anyone has names they wish to put forward for the undergraduate student speaker for next year's awards assembly, please submit them to your chair. Any input and recommendations is appreciated.

Curriculum revisions are underway. Jackie Osterman and Elizabeth Williams have been meeting with the departments to see what is being proposed for the various programs. Formal curriculum meetings will begin tomorrow.

The faculty is working on early recruitment initiatives. She thanked all those who participated in the Ontario Universities' Fair. Participation will be needed for the upcoming fall previews taking place on October 29 and November 19. Both faculty and student representation is appreciated. Jackie Osterman has been sending necessary information to the departments, and more communication will be sent when available. The faculty is working on hiring a recruitment person, but they will not have started for the fall preview. We will be located in Wilson Hall, along with Social Sciences.

Dr. Cruikshank also thanked everyone for their past and upcoming recruitment efforts.

REPORT ON PROGRAM ENROLMENT STATISTICS

Dr. Cruikshank spoke to the current program enrolment statistics. The faculty is falling a bit short of its first year enrolment target. Other faculties have gone past theirs, however, and this should result in an adjustment to the support unit cost structure for our Faculty. The overenrolment of other Faculties also has meant putting up larger classes, for which funding has come from the Provost's Office. In general, Dr. Cruikshank emphasized that the presentation of these statistics is a Faculty tradition that we may need to review. Graduate numbers are not included in this report, nor are the number of undergraduate units we teach. The latter now accounts for half our revenue. Undergraduate program students are still important for determining units, but so, too, is service teaching.

Although this may seem contrary to the last point, Dr. Cruikshank did indicate that the Faculty of Science is offering a course called, 'Numbers for Life'. This is a service course that aims to improve numeracy, one of the skills some of us think our students need, and has been promoted to our students.

The MELD program has 166 students and is growing rapidly. These students are in the faculty for a year; some may stay but most will go to other faculties to which they've been accepted. The superior quality of this program is becoming well-known by word-of-mouth, given the excellent foundation the program is giving international students. MELD also is revenue-generating and helps the faculty in important ways.

UPDATE FROM SENATE

Dr. C. Quail gave an update from senate, from both the June and September meetings. Reports from Undergraduate Council were discussed; the McMaster English Readiness for Graduate Excellence

(MERGE) program went through. Revisions were made to research leave policies. At the meeting in September, President Deane spoke about diversity issues on campus. Human Rights and Equity Services is now known as the Equity and Inclusion Office.

The CFREF application made by McMaster did not receive approval. The president is looking for alternative ways to move forward without funding. President Deane spoke to the university's reputation and plans for branding. The concept, 'advancing human and societal health and well-being' is still the position the university will take, so we must figure out what this means for our faculty.

Preliminary enrolment figures were shared. Graduate numbers are up, and undergraduate numbers are at 115% across the university. Discussion went on about how to better accommodate these numbers in the future.

Dr. Cruikshank clarified some of the president's comments in regards to discussions about the university's rankings. Though McMaster moved up in one ranking, we dropped in another, so it is important be cautious about the university's standings in these. In the ranking where we rose it was for research. Where McMaster fell was in rankings for reputation, hence the exercise in rebranding. This is why more awareness is being raised about the university's research. If anyone has any interesting research underway, please send the information to Colin Czerneda in HMC. These may possibly be translated into stories that can be used through the university's publicity platforms.

In regards to changes in research leave policies; there is a process to make sure that a deferral request will not affect future research leaves. There have also been improvements to the appeal processes.

The dean reminded everyone of the equity census. The number of responses has improved but the goal of 80% is still far off. The results may reach anyone making appointments of any kind, and examine traditional procedures in the hiring process.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CHAIRS AND DIRECTORS

Dr. A. Mactavish noted Dr. D. Ogborn's International Conference on Live Coding is taking place here on campus October 12-15. Dr. L. Platt's new documentary will be screening on November 18 at the Cotton Factory.

Dr. M. Stroinska noted the continuance of the Language Matters series. On November 3, Dr. I. Kucerova will be talking about language by design.

Dr. A. McQueen said the School of the Arts is launching its series of lunch concerts, which will occur on various Tuesdays. Some concerts will also take place in the evenings. The major production will begin on November 10, which will be raising important issues on genetic engineering.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

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