

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES MEETING

4 October 2018

IN ATTENDANCE: 36 members, Jackie Osterman (Assistant Dean), Jennifer Richardson (Recording Secretary)

REGRETS: regrets received

MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF 22 MARCH 2017

Dr. Corner **MOTIONED** and Dr. Walmsley **SECONDED** the motion to adopt the minutes from the previous faculty meetings on November 9, 2017 and March 26, 2018. The motion **CARRIED** unanimously.

BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising due to the minutes.

DEAN'S REMARKS

The Dean welcomed the new Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, Dr. Pamela Swett, and the new Acting Associate Dean, Dr. Sean Corner. He stated the Dr. Moro has a new position as the Director of MELD | MERGE | MODEL. There has been enormous growth in MELD, it is now at approximately 380 students. David Kingma has moved on to another position with Guelph Public Health, there is currently a search underway for a replacement.

The Provost has instituted a Faculty review process to coincide with the final year of the current Dean's term. The initial report is available in the meeting documents. There will be a Town Hall meeting to discuss the state of the Faculty on Thursday, November 1st in the Robinson Memorial Theatre. Separate meetings will be held with Charis and Directors, and Graduate Chairs. There are two external reviewers both of whom have experience at research intensive universities. The internal reviewer is from the School of Social Work and has some experience working with our Faculty. The delivery date of the report has not been finalized, however it is expected to be used in the search for the new dean. That search committee has been struck.

There was successful launch of Socrates project for 2018-19 season, Jeremy Dutcher preformed in advance of his Polaris Prize win. The Engendering the Stage talk has also taken place. There are many more upcoming events including; an immersive virtual reality creation of a future Toronto reclaimed by nature; Gathering of Art, Gentrification, and Economic Development (GAGED): A Public Forum for Hamilton; and a performance titled The Mush Hole reflecting on the realities of the residential school experience. A complete calendar of events is posted online, <https://socrates.mcmaster.ca/events/>.

There is a new provincial government in Ontario. It is not clear what this means for the university sector at this time. We will see when the budget is released in the spring. McMaster has already prepared a free speech guideline for speakers and protestors alike. We seem to have already done what the province was looking for.

Nominations are now open for University Scholar, an honourific which goes to a mid-career faculty member among other criteria. Nominations are due to the Deans' Office by November 1st. The Dean will put together an adhoc committee, who will be in place in time to review the first phase of the nomination process.

Nominations of speakers for the Hooker series for next year are also being accepted. Speakers whose work would be of interest to a variety of departments are preferred.

Keep your eyes open for a new university-wide research initiative expected in 2019.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW FACULTY MEMBERS AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Each department introduced their new faculty members as well as their undergraduate and graduate student representatives for the year. A full list of 2018-19 faculty members and student representatives can be found on the Faculty List and Committee Composition List respectively.

ASSOCIATE DEAN'S REMARKS

Dr. Corner thanked everyone who participated at the Ontario University Fair. Roughly 120,000 people attend the fair this year and 14,000 visitors had their wrist bands scanned at McMaster's booth. Thanks to Jenna Gloazzo for organizing for the Faculty. A new Recruitment Officer dedicated to the Faculty of Humanities will be hired in the near future. Undergraduate curriculum review meetings are underway. We need to do more to help with the timely identification of students in difficulty. Think of new ways to support and retain students who may be struggling. Reviewers of MacPherson institute have been receiving feedback and we look forward to their report.

Some discussion arose around the challenges of early identification of students in difficulty when typically grading happens toward the end of term in Humanities courses. May start asking faculty about attendance or earlier assignments. Work with IRA (Institutional Research and Analysis) to build models about how students are faring; tools that can help us identify students. How to get students to actual go to advising office when they need it. Possibly develop courses that could provide students that are struggling with the skills they need to learn and be successful at university.

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

Dr. Swett stated the Faculty has great success with SSHRC grants last year, totally approximately \$2 million awarded. She thanked Grace Pollock for her hard work. She noted ARB grant applications are due at the end of the month.

Graduate Studies scholarship applications are now available. October is supervisory meeting month, all graduate students must meet with their supervisor. The School of Graduate Studies (SGS) has had trouble finding Chairs for all of the PhD defence meetings. She encouraged all Faculty members to volunteer at least once per year, once per term would be even better. SGS will focus on three main topics this year, a review of joint PhD programs, fostering grad student/supervisor relationships and a review of policies regarding professional degrees. The Graduate Calendar is written based on research focused programs rather than professional programs.

MACPHERSON LEADERSHIP IN TEACHING AND LEARNING FELLOWSHIPS

Dr Grisé presented about the Fellowship opportunity and associated award as well as the services available through the MacPherson Institute.

REPORT ON PROGRAM ENROLMENT STATISTICS

After a lot of work in the advising office, we have met our domestic admission targets, however did not meet our targets for international undergraduate students. The Dean stated that the international targets were quite ambitious and no Faculty met their target. Most MELD students will complete the program successfully and move on to their Faculty of admission the following year. The numbers presented are preliminary and not official. 18 units per year, at least 9 units per term is considered full-time. Anything less than that is part time. It is useful for Chairs to have this information to assist in course planning.

Last year 57% of funding came from bums-in-seats rather than program students. More stats are available in Faculty report. Thanks were given to Jackie Osterman and the Advising Office for doing everything possible to ensure the target was met.

UPDATE FROM SENATE

Dr. C. Anderson noted the Free Speech guidelines are linked in on the Daily News website not on the President's page <https://dailynews.mcmaster.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2018/02/Ad-Hoc-Committee-Report-February-2018.pdf>

Graduate student enrolments are below target. The campus wide number of faculty members (905) has been static for far too long, projects 35 new hires this year and 30 the year after that to bring it up to 970. The university wide student: faculty ratio is too high. The Dean added that we had four new appointments the year, two in Communication Studies and two in Philosophy, though the Philosophy appointments are replacements not net-new. Every Faculty seems to be currently in a healthy budget situation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CHAIRS AND DIRECTORS

Judy Major-Girardin made posters available for the Paradise Revisited series, part of the Socrates project. McMaster's natural lands are the setting for this series.

Dr. Walmsley announced the 2018-19 Writer-in-Residence is Kate Cayley. The welcome reception is tonight at the Central Library. Ms Caley will be on campus in term 1 and at the downtown library next term.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Dean reminded everyone about the additional meeting material documents, committee composition list, faculty list et cetera available on the Faculty Meeting website. <http://www.humanities.mcmaster.ca/about/faculty-meetings/>

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