

## FACULTY OF HUMANITIES MEETING

### 1 February 2017

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IN ATTENDANCE: 28 members, Jackie Osterman (Assistant Dean), Christine Kawerau (Recording Secretary)

BY INVITATION: Dr. Parminder Raina (McMaster Institute for Research on Aging)

REGRETS: 11 received

### MCMASTER INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON AGING

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Dean Cruikshank introduced Dr. P. Raina, who presented on the McMaster Institute for Research on Aging.

The process of building this institute began about 2 years ago as a result of a generous gift of \$15 million from Chancellor Labarge. The intention is a cross-disciplinary initiative that looks at what else McMaster can do in the context of research on aging and education. Currently, the varying levels of governance are being established, and new centres are being proposed.

[The full presentation can be found on the Faculty of Humanities meeting webpage].

### MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF 8 NOVEMBER 2016

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Approval of these minutes is deferred to the next faculty meeting.

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

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Dr. Ibhawoh said the information of the earlier presentation from Dr. Raina has been disseminated to all graduate research chairs. It is important for faculty to be given the opportunity to decide how the money ought to be spent. If anyone feels their research aligns with the goals of the MIRA, please let your chair know.

Dr. Ibhawoh noted the annual 3-Minute Thesis Competition. More information can be provided to anyone who has interested graduate students.

In terms of budget, Humanities has received 11 OGS allocations as opposed to last year's 12.

Dr. Ibhawoh then directed everyone to the approval of the report from the Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee, which was posted for review last week.

Dr. Ibhawoh MOTIONED and Dr. P. Swett SECONDED the motion that the faculty approve for recommendation to Graduate Council the curricular revisions as cited within this report. The motion CARRIED unanimously.

## DEAN'S REMARKS

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The Shepherd Book Prize announcement will hopefully be ready for the next faculty meeting.

The University Scholar nominations have come in with referee letters. Recommendations will go forward after the committee meets this month.

The Humanities Awards Assembly is a week from Friday. This year's guest speaker is Diana Weir, a graduate of the Music and Cultural Studies and Critical Theory program, as well as the M.C.M. program. She was recently appointed the Executive Director of the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra. Dr. Cruikshank encouraged faculty members to attend.

Budget season has been moved up this year, with all budgets being formally submitted during the midterm recess. The faculty's is ready to go; Dr. Cruikshank has a meeting with the provost tomorrow. It is possible that if things go well, the faculty will be running a surplus and be debt-free by the time the dean leaves his post in a couple of years. There is a projection for a small number of hires, and these will be done strategically where needed.

The dean has been engaged in the slow unveiling of Wilson Hall. He has seen the concert hall, but this will not be ready in its entirety until hopefully fall. The active learning classrooms are an exciting endeavor, and the faculty will continue to support those who are interested in creating a new course or adapting a current course to be taught within these rooms.

The other slow unveil is the government's policy on university funding. There are predictable increases that can be relied upon due to the continued tuition increase framework. The universities in the province may be looking at a model of funding that sets a target for the university. One could go a bit above or below, but going too high or low might bring punitive results. Nothing is changing with the B.I.U. system except renaming it. The more serious concern, however, is it appears the government is holding the system to no growth. This is not so bad for our faculty, but could prove problematic for the university as a whole. Basing any plans on enrolment growth is an issue. Our submitted budget is not predicated on growing student enrolment.

In terms of applications, the university is up by 5%; our faculty is down by less than 1%. The concern though is the number of first choice applications is down, which is from where our core group comes. The faculty will continue to monitor the enrolment situation. Director of Administration David Kingma had made note in discussions that even with the university growth, the way expenses are allocated results in us still paying proportional costs to such things as library expenses, etc.

There are almost 500 applications for the new Integrated Business and Humanities program [IBH] in the School of Business. This is without much marketing as the program was only recently approved. The numbers are almost comparable to those for the iSci and Arts and Science programs. Though this program is in Business, our faculty is doing 35% of the teaching, and in turn receiving teaching and sharing revenues.

In terms of government policy, there is no limit on intake of international students. Though our faculty does not take in many to our programs, the MELD program easily benefits all faculties who wish to bring in more international students, which in turn benefits Humanities.

The dean then discussed the new activity report, which was introduced in late November/December. Many were trying to put everything into this report, but this makes it appear like a CV. He asked chairs to be forgiving of those who weren't quite sure what to do with this as it is very new. There is ongoing discussion that the official CV for the university needs to be changed in some way to better recognize research creation for those in this faculty. It does help this is a fully recognized component of SSHRC. The dean hopes to see progress of these things in the senate.

## ASSOCIATE DEAN'S REMARKS

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Dr. Moro noted that all curriculum changes went through Undergraduate Council with no issues.

She concurred with the dean that the application numbers do more or less look like last year's. Things are a bit delayed this year because of the government's system and so the Registrar's Office is slower in getting us the most current figures.

Dr. Moro also reminded faculty to attend the awards assembly so that students and parents could meet their instructors.

The faculty is working with Nathan Nash, Humanities and Social Sciences' new recruitment coordinator, to think through this admission cycle and May @ Mac. He may be reaching out to departments about refreshing any current recruitment materials.

Several committees have been established to review all sort of policies at the university. There are no definitive outcomes yet but they will be reported when ready.

Discussion ensued as to whether departments could receive a list of award winners in advance so as to encourage members to attend the awards assembly and support notable winners from their areas. Jackie Osterman said this is something we could start doing by sending the PDF of the program in advance of the assembly. Christine Kawerau will send this out this week.

## UPDATE FROM SENATE

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David Clark provided an update from senate. The Combined Honours degree of Arts and Science and Indigenous Studies was established. New minors were introduced. The process for tenure and promotion was discussed. Dr. Robert Baker discussed the vision of McMaster for the future. He cautioned that we cannot slip up but praised the research done thus far. A policy on the treatment of animals that had not been reviewed since the 1990s was updated and approved. Senate also approved for recommendation to the Board of Governors policies on sexual violence. The details of the policy and support services available to all members of the McMaster community were discussed. This stand-alone policy is subject to a two-year renewal.

Dr. McQueen asked if Dr. Clark could speak to proposal for the Minor in Muslim Studies. She, Dr. S. Noack-Haley, and others had requested that it instead be called Islamic Studies, but there was no definitive response to this. She asked if this was discussed at the meetings. Dr. Clark said there was no discussion of that on the floor. Dr. McQueen expressed concern about the gap in communication. Dr.

Moro said she could bring an amendment forward at the next Undergraduate Council meeting. Dr. Noack-Haley will speak with Dr. Moro after the meeting.

#### NOTICE OF MOTION: AMENDMENTS TO FACULTY OF HUMANITIES BY-LAWS

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Dr. Cruikshank spoke to the proposed changes. Mainly, they are putting us in line with the processes and regulations of other faculties and more accurately reflect the duties and tasks of various committees. Minor housekeeping changes for the Dean's Advisory Committee have also been proposed, though the dean is always open to bringing other people in to certain meetings when needed.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CHAIRS AND DIRECTORS

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Dr. A. Mactavish announced the following events:

February 3: DATA/QUE/E/RIES: A public seminar on Big Data organized by Andrea Zeffiro (CSMM & Sherman Centre). DATA QUE/E/RIES is a public seminar organized as part of CSMM 708: Technocultural Politics and Practices of Big Data, and the Critical Methods in Technoculture Series, in collaboration with the Lewis & Ruth Sherman Centre for Digital Scholarship.

February 10: Communication Studies & Multimedia presents a public talk by Dr. Christina Baade entitled, "Vera Lynn Sings: Domesticity, Glamour, and National Belonging on 1950s British Television" 3:30-5:00pm Sherman Centre for Digital Scholarship - Mills Library

March 9: The Computable Self and the Politics of Data (Bannerman and Gardner) Day-long workshop held in the Sherman Centre, sponsored by CSMM, organized by Sara Bannerman and Paula Gardner, and featuring a talk by Nora Young (host of CBC Radio's "Spark").

March 24: Marc Raboy book talk for "Marconi: The Man Who Networked the World" BOOK TALK: Marconi: The Man Who Networked the World by Marc Raboy, Full Professor, Beaverbrook Chair in Ethics, Media and Communications, McGill University Department of Art History and Communication Studies Friday March 24 2017 2:30-4PM Location: TBA

#### OTHER BUSINESS

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There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:45 pm.

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