

## FACULTY OF HUMANITIES MEETING

### 31 January 2019

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IN ATTENDANCE: 17 members, Jackie Osterman (Assistant Dean), Jennifer Richardson (Recording Secretary)

REGRETS: 16 regrets received

#### MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF 8 November 2018

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Dr. Cruikshank **MOTIONED** and Dr. Walmsley **SECONDED** the motion to adopt the minutes from the previous faculty meeting on November 8, 2018. 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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The Dean announced the Faculty review has been completed and the report will be posted. Dr. Cruikshank did not agree with everything in the report. The report is being used to inform the search for the new Dean. No formal response to the report required.

Brighter world research initiative. The deans attended a retreat in January. Happy with the reception of the ideas presented by the Faculty. Tried to highlight some of our research strengths. Happy how the retreat turned out. Thanks to Sean and Pamela for their representation at the retreat.

A Presidential Search is now underway. There will probably be a townhall to hear concerns and what the committee should be looking for in a new president. Dr. Doubleday is Senator on the committee.

Doug Ford is following through on the 10% cut to tuition. This mean a loss of about a million dollars to our allocation. There will be no cut to the grant this year. There is an expectation that the grant will be cut next year. We may be ok. We are leaving 2018/19 with a bit of a reserve. Not promising for expansion, but we may be able to manage without serious changes to the way things are right now.

Not clear what optional student service fees are. Opt out is a serious and mischievous concern from the student perspective.

Admission applications continue to be up over last year, particularly HUM 1 and Studio Art 1. We have convinced Alumni to start a campaign to help fund entrance awards specifically for incoming Humanities students. All automatic scholarships for incoming students with 95% average will be reduced and those blow 85% will no longer receive entrance awards. We are benefiting from an anonymous donor who is interested in entrance scholarships and will match funds. Applications will be required for the new

scholarships in the form of a writing assignment about McMaster and the applicant's interest in Humanities. We would like to be offering 10 x \$2500 scholarships.

#### ASSOCIATE DEAN'S REMARKS

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Dr. Corner reminded the faculty about the Majors Fair, March 7<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 – 2:00 in LR Wilson Hall and the Awards Assembly, February 8<sup>th</sup> in the new Concert Hall. A reception in Council Chambers will follow the Awards Assembly. It is great to have faculty to attend these event.

McPherson Institute has been reaching out after the Teaching and Learning review. Deans met with Lori Goff. People are often unaware about what they do and the resources they offer. We have the prospect of a dedicated representative for our Faculty who could come to DAC, faculty meetings, and department meetings. We have also asked them for a clear bullet point summary of what they do and who to contact.

It is application time for the McPherson Teaching & Learning fellowships. PALAT and Teaching & Learning grants as well seed funds to get going on larger projects. An information session will be held on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

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

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Dr. Swett stated that Dean Cruikshank should be thanked as will for his contribution at the research retreat. ARB conference grants competition is now open; the deadline is March 31<sup>st</sup>. Two other grants are coming up, contact Grace for details. An annual summary of achievements in research is available.

Grad scholarship budgets should be released any day now. We are receiving \$1 million cut to grad scholarships across the university. Ours is probably about 10%. Pamela will circulate when available. We will receive the same number of OGSS, 30 for university. We may lose one in the Faculty.

International PhDs should be able to maintain at domestic rate for at least one more year.

Dr. Walmsley questioned grad scholarships. Grad Studies was spending their reserve on grad scholarships this fund is now depleted.

#### REPORT FROM THE GRADUATE CURRICULUM & POLICY COMMITTEE

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Communication Studies and New Media proposed a few new courses and a prerequisite change.

English and Cultural Studies changed the admission requirements to the MA in Cultural Studies and Critical Theory. They are also proposing a few new courses, and deleting some courses and crosslistings.

French is introducing one new course

History will have two new courses taught by new faculty member and is cleaning up old courses that haven't been taught recently.

Dr. Swett **MOTIONED** and Dr. Walmsley **SECONDED** that the faculty approved for recommendation to Graduate Council the changes outlined in the report. The motion **CARRIED** unanimously.

Dr Swett stated that further changes to curriculum will be presented at the next meeting.

#### UPDATE FROM SENATE

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Dr. Ibhawoh provided a summary of the December 12<sup>th</sup> and January 9<sup>th</sup> meetings. Full Senate meeting minutes are on the University Secretariat website <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca>

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CHAIRS AND DIRECTORS

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None

#### OTHER BUSINESS

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None

The meeting concluded at approximately 2:45 p.m.