

## FACULTY OF HUMANITIES MEETING

### 2 October 2019

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IN ATTENDANCE: 34 members, Jackie Osterman (Assistant Dean), Jennifer Richardson (Recording Secretary)

REGRETS: 17 regrets received

### MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF 31 JANUARY and 28 MARCH 2019

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Dr. Swett **MOTIONED** and Dr. Eilers **SECONDED** the motion to adopt the minutes from the previous faculty meeting on January 31, 2019. The motion **CARRIED** unanimously. Dr. Swett **MOTIONED** and Dr. Grodek **SECONDED** the motion to adopt the minutes from the previous faculty meeting on March 28, 2019. 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 welcomed new Chairs and Directors. Director of Finance Jeff Chuchman who is replacing Marcy while she is on leave. Martin Horn, the new Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research. Chandrima Chakraborty, the new Director for Peace Studies. Christina Baade, the new Chair for Communication Studies and Multimedia. Susie O'Brien, the new Chair of English & Cultural Studies. Christine Quail, the Acting Director of Gender Studies & Feminist Research. Michelle George, the Acting Chair of Classics.

Each department introduced their new faculty members as well as their undergraduate and graduate student representatives for the year. A full list of 2019-20 faculty members and student representatives can be found on the Faculty List and Committee Composition List respectively. Sumanth Shankar, the new representative from the Faculty of Engineering introduced himself.

The Dean continued, we were quite lucky to get four appointments in one year. This year we will have three further appointments to make. Currently posted, an Assistant Professor in Philosophy (feminist philosophy); the search for the Hope Chair in Peace & Health over the winter; and a Director for the School of the Arts, interviews for short-listed candidates will begin soon.

The search committee for a new university president has been working all summer. They are down to two candidates and should have a decision by December.

The Human Resources Department has just finished an external review. A major overhaul of the entire Department is expected to take place beginning with payroll. This is an issue for the Faculty as the cost for changes will be downloaded to the Faculties as a result of the new budget model.

We are absorbing a 10% tuition cut and an internal cut to grad scholarships. It is 5-month budget cycle season, Phoebe and Jeff are working on it. After the 5-month budget has been approved we will start to look at next year's budget.

The Brighter World research initiative will go for several years, however the public face is on hold while the search for a new President continues. It is nomination season for University Scholar and Distinguished University Professor, however it is not our turn for either this year.

The Socrates Project is in its final year of the 2 year pilot. Events are posted on the website, [socrates.mcmaster.ca](http://socrates.mcmaster.ca). The Dean highlighted a few events, including the Kronos Quartet's performance in November. The Whidden Lecture is also taking place soon (Oct 24-25). Dr. Kim Tallbear from the University of Alberta will speaking over two days.

On a more light-hearted note, Colin from Media & Computing has scheduled a new photo day, October 28 from 12:00-5:00 for those who did not participate last time. A professional photographer will be available to take profile pictures for use on departmental websites. Please sign up for a timeslot ahead of time. Colin has circulated the link for appointments by email and will do so again before the 28<sup>th</sup>.

SMA 3 is the next phase of the strategic mandate between the university and the provincial government. There are a couple of key points: we don't have a lot of details on how the performance metrics will affect our funding at this stage. The first 6 metrics, however, are going to impact the 20-21 budget. The university is considering now how best to position ourselves so our allocation is not cut. Metric #1 - the proportion of graduates who think the skills they learned in their undergraduate degree are directly related to their current field of employment. We need to be more explicit about the skills students are learning in their programs and how these are tied to real-world employment. Metric #5 (in yr 2) - experiential learning, the percentage of students who have taken at least one experiential education course in their program. Not just the number of experiential courses offered, but the number of student who take such a course as part of their program. Clearly, experiential education is increasingly important to the Faculty.

The MacPherson Institute and Community Engagement office have recently gone through reviews. Both offices are beginning to have embedded liaisons with the Faculties. Think about what we would like to have them work on with us. Reach out to Dr. Corner if you would like any more information.

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

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Dr. Horn stated the SSHRC doctoral fellowship changes, pointing out that they followed upon the Tri-Council (CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC) initiative to harmonize the CGS/D competition process. The net effect for McMaster, for the Faculty of Humanities, and for our doctoral applicants, has been the most sweeping set of changes in decades. Internal discussions (at the Decanal/Associate Dean and Faculty graduate chair levels) have been underway since July to prepare. We shall see next spring what the outcomes are.

Graduate student numbers for 19/20 will be available after November 1.

There are some grant application deadlines to be aware of, ARB is October 31<sup>st</sup> and another to be announced tomorrow that have a deadline of November 6<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Horn thanked all who had applied for grants or were in the process of doing so.

## ASSOCIATE DEAN'S REMARKS

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The Assistant Dean provided an update as Associate Dean Corner was unavailable. An orientation for new sessional instructors was held recently which outlined relevant policies and classroom expectations. There was an 80% turnout and initial feedback indicates it was well received. We hope to repeat it in January.

We have a dedicated recruitment officer, Leanna Aref, for the Faculty on a 2-year contract. The initial work completed resulted in increased applications and confirmations, however actual enrolments were down. This may be due to the fact that we stopped making offers earlier than normal. The university had reached its institutional target and therefore, we had to stop making new offers. We met our target for 101 (direct from high school) applicants, however 105 (mainly transfer students) confirmations decreased. Thank you to all who participated in recruiting events last year.

The university is introducing an Intersession in May. This will be for mini courses of 1, 2 or 3 units focused on experiential education, conferences, field trips, et cetera. Students may bundle three modules into INSPIRE 1A03. More information will follow. Students have been concerned that the university has not been able to provide a comprehensive list of courses which are offered in the Spring/Summer. We are hoping to be able to provide this in the future. Sessional dates for the Intersession have not been finalized. Intersession will be separate from the regular spring session.

Thanks to all who attended the Ontario University Fair. Attendance for Friday was over 31,000, Saturday was over 47,500 and Sunday 41,000. The university collected 17,389 email addresses from potential applicants.

Dr. Swett expanded on Intersession. AVP – Faculty office is coordinating; it will be a quick turnaround once the details are available. Faculty members are encouraged to think about possibilities now for course development before the details and dates are available. This will not be for just putting on a course that you are putting on in the regular year. The hope is that we may be able to hire some 5<sup>th</sup> year grad students for the modules.

## REPORT ON PROGRAM ENROLMENT STATISTICS

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We have met our domestic admission targets, however did not meet our targets for international undergraduate students.

Overall numbers for faculty are up though mostly because of MELD. There are an estimated 518 students in MELD. Some level 2 and 3 Humanities program numbers are down. The report is posted on the Faculty meeting website, [humanities.mcmaster.ca/about/faculty-meetings/](http://humanities.mcmaster.ca/about/faculty-meetings/)

## UPDATE FROM SENATE

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Dr. C. Baade provided the update. Andrea Thyret-Kidd was announced as the new University Secretary. The Magna Charta Observatory Conference will be held at McMaster this year, October 16-17. Further to information previously provided on SMA 3, the funding impacts at the end of the 5 yr rollout of SMA 3 will be that one third of funding will be based on enrolments and two thirds will be based on performance metrics.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CHAIRS AND DIRECTORS

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None

## OTHER BUSINESS

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None

The meeting concluded at approximately 2:20 p.m.