I. Welcome:
The Dean welcomed everyone present and announced that Antoinette Somo will be taking over the recording of the minutes. It makes more sense to have someone from the Dean’s office doing it. Thank you to Jennifer Richardson for having taken the minutes.

II. MINUTES from the meeting of 11 November 2019:
Approval of the Minutes will be deferred to the next meeting.

III. Dean’s Remarks:
Dr. Swett discussed the new President’s priorities – Dr. Farrar does not want to set priorities for more than two years at a time.
He has talked about six priorities as follows:
  a) Brighter World Campaign: is geared towards research, which includes five main areas of interest, some are connected to other areas on campus, but some we can consider
     i) McMaster as a civic University – the idea hasn’t been fully fleshed out yet, but perhaps a democracy minor that would be available to all students, courses could be offered in smaller units and in the new May intersession, during Welcome Week, during the two Reading Week breaks in Fall and Winter. It would be different than our other minors, and would be filling in the gaps. Some courses that already exist may be included, and some of our course in Humanities could be counted. Dr. Kim Dej’s office will work on this initiative.
     ii) Aging: Traditionally housed in Health Sciences and Social Sciences, but Dr. Farrar wants to include aging across the life span. Some of our own courses and Faculty may be involved.
     iii) West campus re-design: Dr. Judy Major-Girardin and Dr. Daniel Coleman are offering a course for undergraduates around this project. University administration are supporting this initiative and have invested in SAF funding to bring to campus an expert Patricia Johansson to create the design. Hopefully, University funds will be earmarked to make this happen.
  b) President’s own interest in growing our participation in European countries – Brexit influencing some of the initiatives with English speaking universities – UK is also interested in working more with Canada in light of their departure from the EU.
  c) International minors: We should start thinking about international minors – a collection of courses about a theme that could be offered all in one term – if we offered all the courses in one term International students could attend McMaster for that term to gain the designation. Start thinking of ideas for a set of 6 or so courses – that we would like to sponsor or tap into themes of other programs where our current courses fit. We should try to be creative. A reminder that the courses need to be open so students could easily gain entrance during their visit. The hope to launch in the Fall 2021 – if you have ideas – please pass on ideas to the Deans.
Question was asked if new such minors would be available to our own current students – some logistics need to be investigated -- brings up financial question of how will this be funded – create scholarships or funds available to help the students with the finances -- there is a list of 20 European institutions that are already on the list of potential partners.

DAC – Hooker nominations – due February 14 – for 2020 -- please send your nominations -- CPM will happen in early March between Dean and Departmental Chairs

IV. **Associate Dean’s Remarks:**

Undergraduate applications: Humanities has stayed level, and we have been doing better than our colleagues – we are working hard on getting offers out sooner than in previous years.

Evaluations: Town halls last week – as part of the consultation – gathering of student feedback and the concern – that evaluations are subject to systematic biased -- there is no correlation between evaluation and the quality of teaching we are looking to move towards the midterm evaluation- less about the quality of teaching but more about the learning experience. The committee is looking at having surveys and having students evaluate the entire program not just one course.

Experiential learning is a major topic – across the faculty we really have to engage – and how do we do it so that opportunities are available for all of our students -- what makes sense for our students -- S. Corner working with Elliot Storm in MacPherson Institute on trying to come up with ideas – thank you to those of you who have submitted suggestions already.

Final Exams: Where are final exams useful and where they are not useful – they may not be the best way to evaluate – instructors should be looking at the structure of the term in relation to the course they are delivering– various committees have been struck to learn about the different aspects of exams and their usefulness

Mental health on campus – different training initiatives have been taken and online modules under the banner Hippo-on-Camus have now been made available to everyone, students, Faculty, and staff.

V. **Associate Dean Graduate Studies and Research:** SGS has put together an ad hoc committee to look at micro-credentials – one unit course at the graduate level – there is no university policy on what is a micro credentials – the university is looking at 3 faculties to do this -- Humanities has indicated that they would like to participate – surveys have been conducted at other universities – the micro credentials completion rate is low – the idea is to have 3 faculties participate at the onset.

There are a lot of things that happen on campus that can be considered micro credentialing – but it is taking long to develop a policy – even though we already see examples on campus – It is not clear if milestones will be counted as micro credentialing
Research: In terms of tri council research funding – 28% increase since 18-19 – Thank you to all Faculty who put forward grants for funding – thank you to Grace Pollock for helping out with the applications.

VI. Report from The Graduate Curriculum and Policy Committee:

Dr. Martin Horn moved:

That the Faculty approve for recommendation to Graduate Council the curricular revisions as cited within the materials of the meeting:

Classics changes to approve the 4 recommendations put forth: Dr. Christine Quail seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Cognitive Science curricular changes: Dr. Elzbieta Grodek seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

English & Cultural Studies course changes: Dr. Christina Baade seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

VII. MOTION: Amendment to the Faculty By-Laws:

Dr. Pamela Swett moved that Faculty adopt the proposed changes to the Faculty of Humanities by-laws, Dr. Stephen Heathorn seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

VIII. Senate update:

Dr. Joe Sokolski provided some highlights of December 11th, 2019 Senate Meeting: Meeting was Chaired by Dr. Susan Giroux as Senate was voting who the next president would be; which we now know Dr. David Farrar was chosen because of his vision for McMaster University and education and his enthusiasm for students, as well as his interest in research.

There has been an increase in undergraduate enrollments by 1000 students

A 3% increase in MA students

The Centre for Research and Empirical Social Sciences (CRESS) was approved it is open to everyone and CRESS’s mission is to support the production of leading-edge empirical social science research, to advance methodological innovation, and to foster research collaborations, networks, and partnerships within and beyond McMaster University.

Revision to the Teaching Stream Faculty Policy SPS A9: The proportion of teaching-intensive positions shall not exceed 20% of the full-time McMaster faculty complement. Within an individual Faculty the proportion of teaching-intensive positions shall not exceed 23% of the full-time McMaster faculty complement. In Humanities we are well below our maximum number of teaching professor appointments.

Highlights of January 15th, 2020 Senate Meeting: Newly installed President Dr. David Farrar opened with remarks on the loss of lives in the Ukraine Flight 752 and the affiliations with McMaster University.

The review of the two programs in Honours Environmental Sciences and Honours Geography and Environmental Sciences programs found significant overlap between them. For this reason, SGES recommended merging these programs into a single Honours Environmental Sciences program (also available as a Coop program). Motion was approved.
Faculty of Humanities proposals passed.

XI. Other Business:

Announcements:

Dr. Elżbieta Grodek introduced Dr. Fanny Macé – Postdoctoral Fellow in French – helping restructuring of the French program. Dr. Macé has a PhD in Education from the University of Calgary and has extensive research in Education and taught at various institutions. Her MA is from Études Postcoloniales & du Commonwealth, Sorbonne (Paris IV), Paris, France.

Dr. Christine Quail announced:

1. Gender Studies & Feminist Research and Communication Studies & Multimedia present A Conversation on Race, Religion and Media (with Dr. Faiza Hirji’s class on Race, Religion and Media) Monday, February 10, 2020; 11:30-12:20, KTH B135
   “Characterizing the Acceptable Muslim? Little Mosque on the Prairie and reaffirming (qualified) citizenship” by Dr. Shelina Kassam, Instructor, Gender Studies & Feminist Research
   “‘She seems completely Americanized to me’: Crazy Rich Asians, From Book to Big Screen” by Kim Khanh Tran, PhD Student, Communication, New Media, and Cultural Studies

2. Dr. Ummni Khan, Carelton University
   2a Grad seminar: Tues Feb 25, 1:00-2:30, TSH 530 (please email Christine Quail for reading materials)
   2b Public talk: FEBRUARY 26, 12:30-2:00, BSB B154: “A guilty pleasure” legal and feminist verdict against hip hop and rap lyrics

3. Miriam Toews, author. co-sponsored with ECS and Dr. Grace Kehler — “Talking with Women about Women Talking” – council chambers. Feb 25, 3:00-5:00.