**Present:** Samantha Breslin (Anthropology; minutes), Anatolijs Venovcevs (Archaeology), Bethany Paul (Classics), Melanie Hurley (English), Sara Pun (Ethnomusicology), Emma Tennier-Stuart (Folklore), Marissa Farahbod (sitting in as an alternate for Lesley Derraugh, Gender Studies), Sharmane Allen (Geography), Emma Lang (History), Stephen Jackson (IDPHD), Mariana Hernandez (Linguistics), Kelly Brewer-Balch (MER), Steve Kiraly (MPhil), Shannon O’Rourke (Philosophy; Chair), Eli Mason (Religious Studies)

**Regrets:** Celestina Akuffo-Ojegba (Economics), Gaston Letourneau (French & Spanish), Tibor Devai (German and Russian), Haley Kenney/Steve Sutherland (Political Science), Gary Catano (Sociology)

1 **Minutes of the October 14, 2015 meeting**

We agreed to deal with agenda items 1 & 2 via email, in the interests of hearing from the Dean of Arts. (See item 3, below.)

2 **Business arising from the minutes**

None

3 **Dean of Arts, Update on Faculty of Arts revitalization**

A. Dean of Arts, Update on Faculty of Arts revitalization

- The Faculty was directed by the Provost to do something about enrollment numbers and make ourselves more 21st century, currently being referred to as the “Renovation of the Faculty”
- Putting together a package for mid-November as requested by the Provost. Early discussion was for merging departments, which many were unhappy about, so have come up with other suggestions
- List of 9-10 “pockets” for an overall proposal
  1) Name change to “Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences”
     - Generally seems to be a popular idea with overall support from Faculty council.
     - Doesn’t change any administration, more about advertising to outsiders, since there has been confusion about us being fine arts or performing arts. Might help with recruitment.
       - Not meant to create divisions among humanities and social sciences
     - It will go to vote early December, but implementation will take a long time, probably be done in stages
       - The website will be among the big changes
       - The Faculty hasn’t investigated the money/cost it will take for changes
     - Q: How does this affect Music and Ethnomusicology
       A: Faculty of Music will not change
     - Comment: the new name will be more understandable internationally.
     - Q: Where does English fit?
A: It’s a humanities but not trying to define or create boundaries
- Q: Was there consideration of Alumni Response, some are very proud of Arts degree?
  A: Degree awarded will still a BA as a degree, does not change that

2) Reconfiguration of departments, with 4 departments taking on interdisciplinary programs: Communication, Police, Law and Society, Medieval
- Interdisciplinary programs are popular with students, but mostly taught by PCIs, don’t have Heads so don’t have a spot of the Head table
- Tentatively, Communication studies -> English, L & S -> Political Science, Medieval Studies -> Philosophy, Police Studies -> Sociology
- MPhil will be attached to Gender Studies
  - Is a true interdisciplinary program in a way that other departments are not, so makes sense
  - Head of Gender Studies would represent MPhil
  - Will still be able to do an MPhil in topics other than Gender Studies
- Q: Medieval Studies, what is the logic of placing in Philosophy because of crossovers in English?
  A: Hoping philosophy will offer more courses. Currently taught by some full-time faculty and was their choice to go to Philosophy.
  - Would have preferred Philosophy to offer more courses. Hopefully will lead to more cross appointments and building up faculty in these areas
- Language departments are considering creating dept. of Language, Literature, and Culture (provisional title)
  - Includes German, Russian, French, Spanish, etc. – ballots due tomorrow for a vote
  - Would help raise the profile of languages – we teach 12 languages which may or may not be part of it, but would be profiled here.
- Q: Mandarin part of RS department, what would happen with that?
  A: Change would be reflected largely in the website for these. The 4 programs that already exist would be based there, plus maybe Italian. Then list of 12 languages to create linkage, but would still be taught in Religious Studies
- Classics was asked to join because of Greek & Latin and Literature, weren’t given enough time and so were unsure, but door still open

3) New graduate opportunities: developing graduate diplomas, part of trying to renew institutes and research centers as proper interdisciplinary institute
- Trying to renew ISER’s mandate as a research institute, to offer graduate diplomas in some area, about creating choice for students
- Try to make websites of departments more friendly for graduate recruitment to support recruitment and information
  - Comment (History rep): Did a review of department websites, some are good some are terrible
- Degrees being developed in relation with other universities to create 1+1 program MA (also known as Dual Degree) – one year in each place to finish with 2 degrees.
  - Possibly working towards 2+2 for PhDs as well, would help to develop more relationships with other universities
Q (Ethnomusicology): What’s the timeline on this, can it work for us now?

- At the moment, connect your supervisor with another at another institution, need an MOU with the other university
- Haven’t done in Arts before, but possible. Cotutelle being pursued in other faculties
  - Comment: There isn’t a lot of direction for students as to how to make it happen
- Need department support and would take a couple of years to set up. Could produce generic relationship/program or specific to individual students.

These are proposals, so the details still need to be sorted out

Q: How would the fees be paid?
A: Fees would be based out of MUN for students based here as their home university

4) At undergraduate level, have overhauled BA requirements, looking to create two new BAs: International BA and BA in Public Engagement
   - International would entail a field school elsewhere and/or taking courses in International Relations/Global Studies
   - Public Engagement, trying to encompass volunteer work that students do
     - There’s some debate over this
   - Comment: Institute looking at Public Engagement would be a good place to oversee how these things are working, but also questioning the nature of public engagement. Some kind of institute would help as a place for students to provide research orientation to students for a time.
   A: English Language Research Centre (ELRC) as a potential venue for such a center, although has not been interested in pursuing and developing a proposal
   - Would like to repurpose and build on collaborative portion, idea to call it “NEXUS” and build on connections
   - ISER mandate for North Atlantic, focus on Social & Economic Research
     - It was very interdisciplinary as part of the university rather than Faculty, but lost funding with budget cuts and became largely a funding body.
     - Could be so much more.
   - Looking to create opportunities to talk across borders, without doing away with departments

5) Research Centers: Discussed above

6) Get people interested in Archives – people used to use them more
   - People don’t know what are in the archives, create visits to share information
   - Might create relationship with Heritage Days (high school program) to bring them in to participate in archives
     - Works as both public engagement & recruitment
   - Comment: huge amount of student population are also parents, question of how to engage their children and help parents, should pursue this further
   - Positive support among GSC for the proposal

7) Renaming “Digital Research Center for Qualitative Fieldwork”
   - Looking to call it the Film Unit, and having Film Maker in Residence
- Also considering the possibility of a film festival, but this is more ambitious

8) Want a person to help with launch renovated faculty
   - The Faculty of Arts has an embedded MarComm expert, Janet Harron, but she is more in the ‘marketing’ side; the Faculty of Arts would like to have a marketing specialist.
   - Talking to the Provost about possibilities here

9) Working with MarComm and Recruitment to help with recruitment – falsely assumed that recruitment people talked about us during high school visits, etc., but needs to be revised
   - Work towards including mature students – need to create it more inviting space/opportunities
     - Comment: There are noticeably fewer older people here than at other institutions
     - Place can be lonely place if you’re an older student or parent
   - Comment: SGS targets countries that have streamlined educational processes and ones which don’t prioritize arts and social sciences for their international studies
     - Arts and Humanities are underrepresented and MUN won’t recruit students easily from the places for these programs as they value Engineering Programs and other practical degrees
   - Comment: There is no sense of how current students were recruited – should do a survey to find out actual experiences
     - Demographics (local/national/international) vary by department
     - MUN comes up as affordable university in North America as first at Google Search – one student did this search
       - True compared to UBC and McGill in Canada
       - But compared to US, students get a tuition waiver there, so MUN is more expensive in that sense
     - Comment: Chose MUN partially to get out of home province and go elsewhere
     - MarComm doing some research in this area – but not for the purposes of Arts
   - Suggestion: Put stories from students on website so people can see range of reasons and possibilities and relate to these stories

- Faculty Council: question as to whether students can go
  - Might need to be invited, suggestion to have invite extended the whole Arts Graduate Student Council

Meeting extended by 10 minutes to cover additional issues, rest being done over email

B. Other Business
   - Muse News Item (Sharmaine): Contacted reporter, instead of immediately writing a response to find out how much investigation was involved (not much)
     - Background info: Letter was talking about decreased enrollment in Arts, what arts needs to do, and increased enrollment in Engineering/Science. Was framed very negatively, suggesting Arts has no choice but to get with the times.
- Sharmaine suggested the author interview the council about our role and how we are working towards reinvigorating Arts
  - Also suggest that they do some investigation into underlying issues
  - Provincial perspective is that arts and humanities are useless or unpractical, as one reason
  - Goal is to help point towards a new story from a different perspective
- Upcoming, there will also soon be a news item from MarComm that we have more enrollment than Dal etc., could be used alongside the Muse news piece

- Aldrich keynote: Rob Carrick potential Keynote – his message is that with students loans students should only pursue disciplines where they could pay it off, or that parents shouldn’t fund such degrees
  - SGS strongly recommends him as Aldrich speaker
  - Aldrich Committee has rejected the proposal
    - Susan Drodge, Zeta Cobb discussed as potential replacements
      - GAC members voiced support for either choice
    - Comment: Strongly against Rob Carrick – to hear the perspective on debt is unhelpful (offensive?) towards us who study for passion or other reasons
- Other info about Aldrich: Complaint in past few years is that focus is too narrow
  - New topic: “Filling knowledge gaps”
  - Will include a division of presentations between research findings versus research proposals

Meeting ends 5:34