



## Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

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**To:** All academic staff in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

**CC:** Dr. Aimée Surprenant; Dean, School of Graduate Studies  
Dr. Danine Farquharson; Associate Dean, School Graduate Studies

**From:** Dr. Jennifer Simpson, Dean Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

**Date:** January 28, 2020

**Re:** Master of Philosophy in the Humanities

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This memorandum provides information regarding the MPhil in the Humanities program and the ongoing efforts and forthcoming call to have an ASM serve as the Director of the program. The MPhil in the Humanities is an interdisciplinary program offered by HSS that draws on the expertise of a range of faculty members and requires a strong and involved director to oversee, coordinate and teach within the program. It also requires the support and involvement of the Faculty overall. Given the need to ensure that the MPhil in the Humanities is a sustainable and successful program, the Faculty (both the Dean's Office and ASMs) are at a pivotal point in determining whether the program will continue. Specifically, it will be necessary for faculty members to serve in the roles of a) Director; and b) members of an Advisory Committee.

This update provides information on what the next steps will be, and context on how we have arrived at this point.

### Background Information/Process to Date

- In March of 2018 the Dean's office requested a 3-year regular term appointment for a Director of the MPhil in the Humanities program. This request was denied.
- In Spring 2019, the Dean's office put out a call for expressions of interest in the position of Director for the MPhil in the Humanities program. Two individuals submitted their names; both withdrew from the process prior to an appointment being made.
- The Directorship and administration of the program was discussed at the October 16, 2019 Heads meeting and a working group of three Heads (Dr. Jennifer Dyer, Dr. Pat Dold, and Dr. Jennifer Lokash) and the Associate Dean (Curriculum and Programs, Dr. Ailsa Craig) was

assigned to assess the call for the Directorship role and make recommendations to the Heads and Dean on how to sustainably move forward with the MPhil program.

- At the December 2019 Heads Meeting, the working group recommended a new model for the program that includes changes to the duties of the Director, and the creation of an Advisory Committee to provide additional support in the administration and teaching of the program.

The Heads and Dean are in support of those recommendations, which will ideally strengthen and support:

- 1) The interdisciplinarity of the program
- 2) Sustainable succession planning opportunities for the Director's role
- 3) The sustainability and continuity of the program
- 4) Opportunities for the involvement of pre-tenure faculty to formally participate in the program

The Advisory Committee will be made up of four ASMs from HSS, with no more than two members being from the same discipline.

#### Role of the Dean's Office

- Provide administrative support
- Ensure that the home department of the director gets support for courses as needed
- Ensure a sustainable model for the program

#### Role of the Faculty Members (ASMs)

- Serve as Director
- Serve on the Advisory Committee
- Serve as Tutors to students

#### Next Steps

1. Terms of Reference and Calls for expressions of interest in both the advisory committee and the Director will be circulated by **Friday, January 31, 2020**.
2. Deadline for expressions of interest will be: **March 13, 2020**
3. The Advisory Committee will be appointed by the Dean.
4. The Director will be appointed by the Dean following collegial consultation as required by Clause 28.03 of the Collective Agreement

The goal is to have the process for securing a new Director and the Advisory Committee complete by **April 2020**.