

**The Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Committee (MALSC)
Annual Report 2014 - 2015**

During 2014 - 2015, the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Committee met 16 times.

- 10 meetings were devoted primarily to discussions of academic policies and procedures, potential program restructuring, and communication with faculty;
- 6 meetings were dedicated to the review of student Academic Plans and Final Project Proposals.

As we waited for the outcome of the CEPP subcommittee decision on MALS, our committee meetings during the fall semester were devoted primarily to considerations of how to redefine and sustain MALS, what other models of MALS might look like, and what role graduate education might play at Skidmore College. Once the CEPP subcommittee findings were finalized, the MALS committee spent time reviewing how to handle the newly enrolled candidates, how to most effectively guide the current MALS enrollees to completion of their degrees, and how best to celebrate the good work that MALS has done over the past 20 years.

The specific topics discussed during the 2014 -2015 Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Committee meetings are listed below. Additional information about those conversations and details regarding committee recommendations and votes are documented in the minutes of the committee meetings, which are available upon request through the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Office.

2014 - 2015 Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Committee Topics of Discussion

Action Items:

- Academic Plan Reviews (6): Five approved and one rejected (currently in an appeal process)
- MALS Introductory Seminar January 2015: Cancelled
- MALS Introductory Seminar July 2015: Cancelled
- Replacement course for the Introductory Seminar for new MALS students: Approved.

Discussions and Recommendations:

- Advising: Faculty Recruitment and Orientation
- Application and Enrollment Figures and Projections
- Conversations with Faculty (particularly Junior Faculty) about teaching in the MALS Program
- CEPP Chair: Invitation to attend a MALSC Meeting in order to discuss the possibilities of graduate studies at the College
- CEPP Subcommittee on the MALS Program (CSMP): Committee Formation, Report, and Recommendations
- CEPP-IPPC Recommendation to the Faculty to terminate the MALS Program
- Culmination of the Student's MALS Degree Program: Capstone Activity, Final Project Presentation, Thesis Defense
- Faculty Workload, the "Helios" Project, and the MALS Program
- FEC Question regarding the number of Faculty on MALSC (reduced by three)
- Graduate Studies at Skidmore: Advantages for Faculty and Undergraduate Students and the challenges of implementation
- *Learning 2014* Conference Reports from Michael Arnush, Tim Harper, and Jacqueline Scoones
Academic Technology and its potential use in MALS and at the College in general

- MALS Introductory Seminar July 2014 *Civil Society for Sale?*
Benefits of the Team-taught seminar and the positive response from students
- Potential Concepts for a Restructured Skidmore MALS Program/Sample Programs
Specific Examples: Arts Administration and Documentary Studies (4+1 models)
- Research and Methods Course: Objectives and Timing
- Research Projects on Graduate Liberal Studies and anticipated trends in Graduate Education.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the MALS staff, Jacqueline Scoones, Sandy Welter, and Ellen Eldredge for their extraordinary work this year on behalf of the committee and the program. Sandy Welter, who is leaving the MALS program to take a full time position in the English Department, will be sorely missed.

Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Committee Members 2104- 2015

Ruth Copans, Chair
Paul Calhoun
Hope Casto
Sylvia McDevitt
Eric Morser
Paty Rubio
Jacqueline Scoones
Sandra Welter
Martha Wiseman

Submitted May 21, 2015 by Ruth Copans, Chair
Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Committee 2014 - 2015