

## **The Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Committee (MALSC) Annual Report 2015 – 2016**

### **Committee members 2015-2016:**

Paul Calhoun, Dean of Special Programs

Sylvia McDevitt (Chair), Associate Professor, Biology

Crystal Moore, Associate Dean of the Faculty for Personnel and Diversity

Jacqueline Scoones, Director, Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Program

Martha Wiseman, Visiting Lecturer, English, and Assistant Director of the Writing Center

During the 2015-2016 Academic year MALSC met three times, including one regular business meeting and two meetings devoted to reviewing student Academic Plans and Final Project Proposals.

### **Business meeting:**

The business meeting was devoted to the review of the committee's responsibilities in light of the closure of the program, which will focus on the review of Academic Plans and Final Project proposals as well as program policies relevant to student progress. MALSC also reviewed and partially approved a student's request to waive the transfer credit policy allowing for a higher than usual number of credits from another program to be allowed towards the MALS degree. Lastly the committee briefly discussed the future of the MALS Program scholarships and decided to continue awarding the scholarships until the program closes. At that point the funders will be consulted regarding reallocation of the funds.

### **Academic Plans and Final Project Proposals:**

In 2015-2016 MALSC reviewed Academic Plans and Final Project proposals from three students. All three Academic Plans were approved. While one of the Final Project Proposals was approved as submitted (the committee made some recommendations), the other two proposals were approved pending revisions (to be reviewed by the Faculty Advisor and Program Director).

### **MALS student enrollment status:**

Four students completed their Final Projects this year and graduated in May 2016. There are currently six students enrolled in the program. Three students are working on their Final Projects, with one required to complete the degree in May 2017 and the other two by August 2017. The remaining three MALS students are at different stages of their coursework. Based on their current progress, one student is anticipated to graduate in January 2019 and two students are expected to graduate in May 2019. Based on MALS Program policy, however, the last student admitted to the program has until May 2020 to complete requirements for the MALS degree.

Submitted by Sylvia McDevitt (Chair MALSC)

June 28, 2016