

# **The Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Committee (MALSC)**

## **Annual Report 2016-2017**

During the 2016-2017 Academic Year, the MALSC met once physically, and conducted several discussions via email. During the physical meeting at the end of September, the Director welcomed the new committee and went over the description and function of the MALSC from the Faculty Handbook. Due to program closure, we noted that most of the business for the year would focus on reviewing Academic Plans, finding faculty to collaborate with students, moving the remaining students towards their Final Projects, and recommending degrees.

The Director noted at the time there were six remaining students in the MALS Program, three of whom were near the end of their program, and one student who had requested readmission to complete her thesis. This student had earlier stopped and withdrew from the program with the intention of reenrolling in the future. Given that the letter from the Dean to this student left open the possibility of reenrollment, that the student had completed all coursework and had already begun her final thesis, and given that the State is only concerned that the final deadline for the program to confer degrees is February 2021, the committee decided to re-enroll this student.

The MALSC changed the selection process for the awarding of scholarships due to the small number of students in the program. Only the Dean, the Director and the Chair of the MALSC would read the application essays, and we loosened the requirement to demonstrate financial need. Each of the four students who applied for the scholarship money received a portion of the approximately \$5600 we had to distribute.

Four of the seven remaining students completed their programs, and graduated on May 20, 2017 (including the student who was re-admitted.) Thus, three students remain in the program. These three students have until May, 2020 to complete their degrees, and at the moment, it appears as if all three are on track to finish a year earlier, in May, 2019.

In the Fall, the MALS Program Office moved across the street to Pine Cottage at 954 North Broadway. Ellen Eldridge, the Program Assistant, retired on May 31, 2017. Jacqueline E. Scoones will continue as Director for the next year.

### **Committee Membership 2016-2017:**

Paul Calhoun, Dean of Special Programs

Bob Jones (fall 2016), Professor, Economics

Sylvia McDevitt (spring 2017), Associate Professor, Biology

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

Jacqueline Scoones, Director MALS Program

David Vella (Chair), Professor, Mathematics

Respectfully Submitted:

David Vella, Chair MALSC