

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

## **Annual Report 2017-2018**

During the 2017-2018 Academic Year, the MALSC met once physically (October 18, 2017), and conducted several brief discussions via email. During the October meeting, the Director (who was present via teleconference) 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, moving the remaining students towards their Final Projects, and recommending degrees.

Despite allegations of Russian election interference, the Committee unanimously elected David Vella as committee chair for the year.

At the time of the meeting, the program had four students enrolled. As of June 1, 2018, we are now down to the final three students.

The Director noted that all three students were conceiving final projects that would require IRB review since the projects involved human subjects. Steps were taken to ensure that the students as well as their faculty advisors would complete the new required training through the IRB website.

Two students intend to present their Final Project Proposals to the faculty committee in September 2018 and graduate in May 2019; the third intends to meet the committee later in the fall of 2018, and to complete requirements for the degree by December 2019.

The committee discussed and decided how to distribute the 2017 Scholarship award money, a total of \$5,613 to be divided between the three.

Jacqueline E. Scoones will continue as Director for the next year.

### **Committee Membership 2017-2018:**

Paul Calhoun, Dean of Special Programs

Jacqueline Scoones, Director MALS Program

Ron Seyb, Associate Dean of the Faculty for Student Academic Affairs

David Vella (Chair), Professor, Mathematics

Andrew Lindner, Associate Professor, Sociology (On leave, spring 2018)

David Karp, Professor, Sociology (spring 2018)

Respectfully Submitted:

David Vella, Chair MALSC