PRESENT: M. Deibis, T. Hemphill, V. Lotfi (Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs), B. Maki, M. Mani, A. Okungbowa-Ikponmwosa (Student), F. Svoboda, A. Yorke

ABSENT: J. Kupperman, S. Tu (Sabbatical)

1. Minutes of October 2, 2014 were approved.

2. Full Review of Liberal Studies (MALS) Program

- The MALS was the first graduate program at UM-Flint and was approved in December 1977. There are two MALS concentrations: American Culture and American Theatre. Students can customize the program based on their interests and are required to choose from the thesis option (30 credits) or a non-thesis, Research/Creative option (36 credits).

- MALS enrollment has declined in recent years to an average of approximately 20 students per term. Graduation rates have remained steady with 53 graduates over the past 6 years.

- There was discussion regarding these aspects of the program including: why students choose MALS; makeup of a typical student; average class size; average time/degree completion; and percentage of students in thesis vs. non-thesis track.

- Program strengths and achievements that were discussed included:
  - Very strong overall student satisfaction as evidenced in the survey of graduate students, conducted by the Office of Graduate Programs.
  - Interdisciplinary nature of the program and the ability for the student to customize it based on their own requirements.
  - A strong core faculty with long term commitment to the program.
  - Curriculum that is being taught almost entirely by terminally qualified faculty.
  - Well-qualified and strong-achieving students.
  - Excellent support from alumni.
  - Establishment of an operating budget for the 2014-15 academic year.

- There were some issues/challenges identified by the Committee:
  - Long-term viability/relevancy of the program needs to continue to be addressed. New recruitment opportunities need to be considered.
  - Implementation of delivery mode change should also be considered. Potential ideas include: fully online program; low residency program; 3+2 ‘joint’ program with guaranteed admission; use of Skype or Camtasia.
Consider curriculum change for non-thesis option reducing required number of credits.

Identification of new core faculty as retirements/anticipated attrition occurs.

Allocation of funding to support student travel and research.

- The Committee considered the MALS review to be satisfactory. However, there will be a need for a progress report by 2017, detailing the progress made to address the long-term viability of the program.

3. Matters Arising

- There were no matters arising.