
Minutes of the meeting of the **Academic Policy and Planning Committee** held on Thursday 26th May 2005 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Room 310, James (Administration) Building

Present: A. C. Masi (Chair), M. Crago, D. Fraser, W. Hendershot, J.C. Hurtubise, D. McKnight (for J. Schmidt), M. Mendelson, M. Nahon, A. Reid, H.M.C. Richard (Secretary to the Committee)
Regrets: B. Arciero, J. Beheshti, A. Bryan, L. Butler-Kisber, W. Caplin, V. Errunza, J. Feine, J. Galbraith, P. Holland, A. Husain, A. Kenjeev, S. McDougall, J. Schmidt, J. Zucchi
Guests: P. Barry (item 5.a.), B. Lewis (item 5.a.), D. McLean (item 4), R. Provost (item 6), C. Sheppard (item 6), Ph. Smith (item 7)

Document circulated at the meeting:

- 04-APPC-05-71 SCTP Report on meeting held on 21st April 2005
- 04-APPC-05-72 SCTP Report on meeting held on 5th May 2005
- 04-APPC-05-78 McGill University's strategic plan: update May 2005
- Appendices to 04-APPC-04-73 Letter from Dean of the Faculty of Law; Appendix B - Research grants

12.01 Proposed agenda

The proposed agenda was approved with addition of an update on the Strategic Planning process at McGill which Interim Provost Anthony C. Masi presented at the beginning of the meeting.

Dr. Masi circulated a summary of the presentation entitled "McGill University's strategic plan: update May 2005" (04-APPC-05-78) made to the Board of Governors on 24th May and Senate on 25th May 2005. The Strategic Plan will give McGill a high-level sense of direction for the next five years, with the overarching goals of seeing McGill become "one of the top ten research-intensive, student-centered, public universities in the world", and seeing research generated knowledge systematically inform classroom teaching. It is expected that the strategic plan document will be finalized in the fall term.

12.02. Minutes of meeting held on 28th April 2005

The minutes were approved as circulated.

12.03 Business arising from minutes of previous meeting

- Research Centre Proposal Template (04-APPC-05-68)
Item VI c was revised to read: "Physical resources: specific location, space allocated/required, labs, library resources etc." The template will henceforth be used for all new research centre proposals.

12.04 Comité du suivi sur les programmes (CSP) – CUP follow-up

CSP Report #19 Programs in the Arts – unrevised translation (04-APPC-05-69)
(Professor Don McLean, Dean, Faculty of Music)

Dean McLean presented the work of the CSP committee on Arts programs on which he represented McGill. The study comprised programs in various sectors of the arts; in McGill's case, the activities of the Faculty of Music, the Drama Program of the Department of English, and the Department of Art History and Communications. Overall, the activities under consideration were quite mixed and the general finding is that a great deal of difficulty is experienced throughout the regions. The Report does not reflect the significant inroads in funding that have occurred in recent years. Retention rates (Rec 1) remain a uniform challenge for arts programs everywhere but have been improving at both McGill and Université de Montréal. Rec. 2 reflects the fact that dance and drama have been shortchanged at the elementary and high school levels. The Dean stated that it should be acknowledged that students in the arts never receive their full training through the school system but have to receive private training outside it. Likewise CEGEP programs constitute inadequate preparation for university studies in music or dance: students normally have to take a full four-year university program. The Report also notes the withdrawal by Université de Montréal from the visual arts field, while Université Laval has moved into that field.

Overall the Dean found the CSP experience disheartening and not terribly revealing. He noted a certain amount of rivalry present around the table. The Dean also mentioned that a similar exercise of data

gathering is being conducted by the Canadian University Music Society and McGill is being invited to partner with the European Union's ERASMUS MUNDUS program to study standards and mobility.

12.05 Subcommittee on Courses and Teaching Programs (SCTP)

a) Report on the meeting held on 7th April 2005 (04-APPC-05-70)

(Note: Under Section B.1. Program Revisions, 3. Faculty of Education, regarding the MLIS, a third revision should be added: Elective Courses descriptive paragraph revised to read "500 or ... may be taken at another Quebec university ...")

1) B.A.; Minor Concentration in Sexual Diversity Studies (18 cr.) (Prof. Brian Lewis, Chair, Department of History)

Professor Lewis presented the proposed Minor Concentration. In addition to one required course SDST-250 Introduction: Sexual Diversity Studies, students will choose five complementary courses from a list of seventeen courses. APPC questioned the inclusion on that list of the course MUAR-374 *Special Topics in Music*: it was noted that one of the topics was relevant to the subject of the proposed Minor and students may take the course only when the topic is relevant. Professor Lewis stated that the course HIST 438 *The Vietnam Wars* should not be included on the list; it is the course HIST 448 *Gender/Sexuality: Middle East* that will be on the list as soon as it is approved. The error arose as the course number for the Middle East course was changed from 438 to 448 during the approval process in the Arts Faculty without Professor Lewis's knowledge.

In the discussion it was noted that this Minor does not have much of a structure and that, although this trait may be shared by all minors, there ought to be a nucleus even in a Minor that reflects an interdisciplinary approach to a topic. It was remarked that another characteristic of minors is that they come and fade away and there would seem to be no point in having more core courses for them. Whether one should press for depth or breadth or allow informed free choice, it was hoped that Academic Program Reviews would help deal with this issue and that of designing programs around the specific interest of one professor. It was suggested that introducing a capstone course would be a satisfactory solution.

The proposed B.A.; Minor Concentration in Sexual Diversity Studies program was approved for submission to Senate (373rd APPC Report to Senate, for Senate meeting on September 14, 2005), and for implementation in September 2005, with the deletion of Course HIST 438 from the list of complementary courses and with the suggestion that a capstone course be considered.

- 2) - B.A.; Honours in Environment (60 cr.).
 - B.Sc.; Honours in Environment (63-72 cr.).
 - B.Sc.(Ag.Env.Sc.); Honours in Environment (63-69 cr.).
 - B.A. & Sc.; Faculty Program in Environment (54 cr.).
 - B.A. & Sc.; Honours in Environment (60 cr.).

New programs replacing retired streams (because of Banner):

- B.Sc.; Major in Environment; Ecological Determinants of Health – Population (63 cr.).
- B.Sc.; Major in Environment; Ecological Determinants of Health – Cellular (63 cr.).
- B.Sc.; Major in Environment; Water Environments and Ecosystems - Biological (57 cr.)
- B.Sc.; Major in Environment; Water Environments and Ecosystems – Physical (60 cr.).
- B.Sc.(Ag.Env.Sc.); Major in Environment; Ecological Determinants of Health – Population (63 cr.)
- B.Sc.(Ag.Env.Sc.); Major in Environment; Ecological Determinants of Health – Cellular (63 cr.)
- B.Sc.(Ag.Env.Sc.); Major in Environment; Water Environments and Ecosystems – Physical (60 cr.).
- B.Sc.(Ag.Env.Sc.); Major in Environment; Water Environments and Ecosystems – Biological (57 cr.).

(Mr. Peter Barry, Program Coordinator/Adviser, McGill School of Environment)

A number of students have expressed interest in continuing their education beyond their undergraduate studies and requested that Honours in Environment programs be offered in the B.A.; B.Sc.; B.Sc.(Ag.Env.Sc.) and B.A.& Sc. Programs for that purpose. The "B.A.& Sc; Faculty Program in Environment" will provide training flexibility for preparing students to address complex environmental problems.

The other listed new programs replace retired streams which Banner can no longer accommodate as they are one layer too deep. The result will be clearer and easier to deal with.

All proposed programs were approved for submission to Senate (373rd APPC Report to Senate for the Senate meeting on 14th September 2005) and implementation in September 2005.

b) Report on the meeting held on 21st April 2005 (04-APPC-05-71)

B.A. & Sc.: Minor Concentration in Biology; Organismal

B.A. & Sc.: Minor Concentration in Biology; Cell/Molecular

Both programs were approved for submission to Senate (373rd APPC Report to Senate) for the Senate meeting on 14th September 2005.

c) Report on the meeting held on 5th May 2005 (04-APPC-05-72)

The Report contained no new programs for approval by APPC.

12.06 Research Policy Committee: research centre proposal

- Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism (Faculty of Law) (04-APPC-04-73)
(Prof. Colleen Sheppard and Prof. René Provost, Faculty of Law)

Professor Sheppard explained that following APPC's discussion on 28th April, at which it was advised that sociologists should be involved in a Centre whose title includes "social diversity", further consultations were held with the Faculty of Arts. As a result, one of the significant shifts has been a focusing on human rights and legal pluralism issues and a change in the name of the proposed centre. Furthermore the presentation of the proposal has been significantly revised to conform to the new research centre template. A letter confirming the Dean's support for the Centre and a list of research grants and sample publications were circulated. The curricula vitae were also tabled for consultation.

The proposed Centre's Board membership is in the process of being completed and resources are currently being secured as two substantial endowments are being created and a third avenue is being explored. Specific physical space for the Centre is being discussed by the Faculty's Space Allocation Committee. Although the Centre can function without an administrative office at the moment, having a physical sense of the Centre is very desirable and it is possible that space might become available.

Asked what the Centre would actually do, Professor Provost mentioned attracting more researchers and more research money connected to the Centre's topic, which has already been occurring as a result of the proposal to establish the Centre, and bringing graduate students and fellows to the Centre. The Centre will help increase collaboration and will be a pole of attraction which has been missing. Having both a core of professors and graduate students, as well as administrative support, will make it possible to take advantage of the significant opportunities that exist. There has been a concerted effort to make the Centre into a funded centre in order to keep it healthy, secure much needed funding for graduate student fellowships, bring in speakers, etc. The members of APPC stated that it should be a top priority of this centre to seek outside funding from research agencies. The present level of such funding is quite low.

APPC approved the proposal for the creation of the Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism for submission to Senate (373rd APPC Report, September 14 meeting of Senate) and eventually to the Board of Governors.

12.07 Academic Program Reviews - APPC's role and expectations

- McGill Academic Review Process, approved by Senate on October 6, 2004 (04-APPC-05-74)

- Revised Detailed Procedural Guidelines, May 10, 2005 (04-APPC-05-75)

- Letter, Vincent Lemieux, CVEP (21-04-05) and McGill response (05-05-05) (04-APPC-05-77)

(Philip Smith, Academic Planning Officer, Office of the Deputy-Provost, as an observer)

APPC discussed how it should deal with the fifty or so program review reports that it will receive from all parts of the University. It is expected that the reports reaching APPC will be a few pages long and that they will reflect the variation of culture within the University and the fact that the process is very much Faculty-driven. Given that data provision has delayed the process by six or eight months, it now appears unlikely that the process of examining reports will start in fall 2005.

The leeway that has been given each Faculty means that Faculties will not necessarily be considering all the same issues, such as: what is the B.Sc. and what is its value-added at McGill? It was observed that free hand has been given to the Faculty without knowing whether Faculties will be asking themselves the right questions. It was argued however that too detailed a prescription may jeopardize Faculties' willing participation in the exercise. Faculties encounter different sets of problems and it is now to be expected that Academic Program Reviews will be much more significant at the Faculty level than at the University level. There was concern however that the financial implications of the exercise should make it necessary that hard questions regarding value added should be asked on the information received by APPC. "What is distinctive about this McGill program?" is not the question that may necessarily be asked, yet such a question is in keeping with strategic thinking in relation to where the University is going.

APPC also discussed how academic review reports should be presented and by whom. Reports will not all be submitted by Faculty, but ideally the Dean or designate (ie. an authoritative person who knows the details) should present them. While a synthesis presentation, followed by an evaluation will be the format, it was noted that the essential point will be the action taken as a result of the review, in order to reach the desired goal.

12.08 Other business

Interim Provost Anthony C. Masi thanked Associate Provost (Academic Programs) and Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Martha Crago who has accepted a position as *Vice-rectrice (Vie étudiante)* in *Recteur* Luc Vinet's new team at Université de Montréal.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Helen M.C. Richard 2005-06-02