

Minutes of the meeting of the **Academic Policy Committee** held on Thursday 28th May 2009, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., Room 310, James Administration Building

Present: M. Kreiswirth (chairing), G. Brown, W. Caplin, J. Côté, A. DeGuise, R. Dooley, V. Errunza, D. Farrow, D. Klinck, J. Potter, R. Rozen, M. Szyf, H.M.C. Richard (Secretary to the Committee)
Regrets: J. Angeles, B. Dourley, W. Hendershot, P. Holland, C. Jastrezebski, M. Kaartinen, G. Lane-Mercier, A. Ling, S. MacDougall, A.C. Masi, M.J. Mendelson, J. Schmidt, C. Weston, N. Wilkinson
Guests: F. Carnevale (item 4.a), K. Kruczowyj (item 8), T. LaMarre, D. Nystrom (item 4.b), T.V. Paul (item 4.c), P. Smith (item 4.6), E. Stublej (item 4.a),

Documents circulated at the meeting: none

14.01 Proposed agenda

The agenda was approved. The Committee considered items in a different sequence from the order in which they were listed on the agenda, so as to accommodate guests at specific times.

14.02 Minutes of meeting held on 30th April 2009

The minutes were approved as circulated.

14.03 Business arising

- Report on Senate approvals, 20th May 2008 (412th APC Report to Senate)

It was reported that all items submitted by APC in its 412th Report to Senate had been approved by Senate. Regarding the Deans' presentations to Senate of their respective Faculty's Final Academic Program Review Summary Sheets, it was reiterated that the follow-up would be based on Appendix X of the Review reports, rather than on the documents that were presented to Senate and made public.

14.04 APC Subcommittee on Courses and Programs (SCTP)

SCTP Report on 2nd April, 23rd April, and 7th May.2009 approvals (09-APC-05-93)

a) New Graduate Diplomas and Certificates (*for approval by APC & Senate*)

- Graduate Diploma in Primary Care Nurse Practitioner – **Appendix F**
- Graduate Certificate in Theory in Primary Care - **Appendix G**
- Graduate Certificate in Theory in Neonatology - **Appendix H**

Professor Franco Carnevale, School of Nursing, presented the proposed Graduate Diploma and two Graduate Certificates. Quebec has recently legalized the profession of primary care nurse practitioner. For licensing purposes, candidates who have previously completed a master's degree in Nursing equivalent to McGill's M.Sc.(A) in Nursing, but have not completed any Nurse Practitioner theory or clinical courses, will need to complete the Graduate Certificate in Theory in Primary Care before completing the Graduate Diploma in Primary Care. Similarly, the proposed Graduate Certificate in Theory in Neonatology is intended to be completed before the Graduate Diploma (the current Graduate Diploma will be revised in order to be specific for neonatology). The 15-credit Graduate Certificate will provide the theoretical component that students need to pursue the clinical training, while the 30-credit Graduate Diploma will allow students to acquire the clinical knowledge and skills needed for practice.

Discussion focused essentially on the reason for the two-program sequence: government funding regulations determine the length of programs, i.e. 15 credits for a Graduate Certificate, and 30 credits for a Graduate Diploma. The requirements for licensing could not be packaged into one seamless program. The proposed programs are sequential; they cannot be taken simultaneously but were designed to provide an appropriate sequence of courses.

APC approved the proposed Graduate Certificate in Theory in Neonatology, Graduate Certificate in Theory in Primary Care and Graduate Diploma in Primary Care Nurse Practitioner for submission to Senate for final approval. The three programs will be submitted in APC's 413th Report, for consideration by Senate on 16th September 2009.

- Graduate Diploma in Professional Performance - **Appendix I**

Professor Eleanor Stubble presented the proposed Graduate Diploma in Professional Performance. The one-year Graduate Diploma is intended for accomplished musicians, the emerging or professional singer, emerging or established chamber ensembles, and individual artists preparing for competition, audition, performance, recording project etc. The program is intense and involves requirements specifically suited to candidates' professional goals. Admission will be based on audition. Ensembles need to audition as ensembles and remain as ensembles for the full length of the program.

APC approved the proposed Graduate Diploma in Professional Performance for submission to Senate for final approval. The proposal will be submitted in APC's 413th Report, for consideration by Senate on 15th September 2009.

b) New options / minor concentrations (*for approval by APC*)

- B.A.; Minor Concentration in World Cinemas - **Appendix M**

Professor Derek Nystrom, Department of English, and Professor Thomas LaMarre, East Asian Studies and Communications Studies (who will be Acting Chair of the Minor Concentration while Professor Nystrom will be on sabbatical next year) presented the proposed B.A. Minor Concentration in World Cinemas. The proposed Minor Concentration was prompted by faculty and student interest and draws on existing teaching and research activities in a number of departments; the Program Committee includes members from many disciplines, including Music. The proposed Minor is expected to be a large program. It is not a production-oriented program, as McGill does not have the necessary facilities, but students may choose to pursue graduate studies in Film Studies at universities offering such programs

APC approved the proposed "B.A.; Minor Concentration in World Cinemas". This will be reported to Senate for information in APC's 413th Report.

- M.U.P.; Non-Thesis – Transportation Planning (new option) - **Appendix E**

Professor Nik Luka, School of Urban Planning and School of Architecture, presented the proposed option in Transportation Planning in the Master of Urban Planning; Non-Thesis. The proposed option builds on the legacy of the late Professor Ronald Rice, who held a joint appointment in the School of Urban Planning and the Department of Civil Engineering and Applied Mechanics, and continues to forge the relationship between those two units. McGill will be the only university in Canada offering such an option in this burgeoning area of transportation planning. The discipline encompasses all modes of transportation, including cycling and walking. The School plans to admit four or five students per year (the Urban Design option in the M.Arch and the M.U.P. programs admits three or four students).

APC approved the proposed "M.U.P.; Non-Thesis – Transportation Planning" option. This approval will be reported for information to Senate in APC's 413th Report.

c) Major revisions (*for approval by APC*)

- B.Sc.(Kinesiology); Honours in Kinesiology – **Appendix L**

Committee members were of the opinion that the changes submitted were not "major changes" and did not require APC's approval.

- M.Arch. (Post Professional) Non-Thesis; Cultural Mediations and Technology – **Appendix J**

The proposed revised program incorporates new expertise and direction in the area of study, particularly research in digital media and technology. It follows the same structure as the other M.Arch. Post Professional offerings. The Program Revision Form did not include a program description” for the "M.Arch. (Post Professional) Non Thesis; Cultural Mediations and Technology": given the proposed changes to the program, APC questioned the absence of a revised program description. APC was advised that the School of Architecture was revising other options and would be reviewing and updating all program descriptions, and submitting them together for approval at a later date. For the time being, a generic description exists for all M.Arch. Post Professional programs.

APC considered the proposed major revisions in light of additional information provided after the meeting and approved the revisions. APC also requested that the program descriptions for all the M.Arch. Post Professional programs be submitted in the fall.

- M.A. in Classics – **Appendix K**

APC considered the proposed Revised Program Description and decided that it was a list of program requirements. **APC agreed that the proposed Major Revision proposal should be returned with a request that the description reflect the academic objectives of the program.**

- M.A. in Education and Society - **Appendix A**

- M.A. in Education and Society; Non-Thesis - **Appendix B**

- M.A. in Education and Society; Gender and Women’s Studies – **Appendix C**

- M.A. in Education and Society, Non-Thesis – Gender and Women’s Studies – **Appendix D**

APC considered the proposed Revised Program Descriptions of the four programs. Committee members felt that the language lacked clarity and specificity. APC was concerned about the breadth shown in the program descriptions; it wondered how useful and how indicative of available expertise a litany of subject matter could be, and whether the University would be able to deliver expertise and strength in all areas listed. While courses may be available in all areas listed, APC wondered whether revisions to the program descriptions for the calendar would be proposed every time a course in one area is deleted. It was thought that the revised descriptions, for the Gender & Women’s Studies option in particular, lacked the specificity of the old descriptions. The meaning and intent of certain sentences was also not clear, for example: "Through both of these streams, the M.A. program brings to bear diverse applied and critical theoretical perspectives including, for example, philosophy, sociology, cultural studies, policy studies, gender studies, critical pedagogy, and multiliteracies"

APC agreed that the proposed revisions should be returned to the Faculty of Education with a request that the language of the revised program descriptions be clarified and made more concise. The program descriptions should be more specific regarding available expertise and strengths: the Faculty should consider providing a general description of the discipline and mention areas of particular strength.

APC members also stated that SCTP should be advised that the program descriptions that were submitted were not found to be appropriate.

General comment on SCTP’s Report to APC:

APC found that the presentation of Part I of the SCTP Report (Programs) was not helpful. Listings and appendices were not in the sequence in which they should have been: 1) new programs requiring APC and Senate approval, 2) options and minor concentrations requiring APC approval only, 3) major revisions requiring APC approval, 4) other program revisions.

It was agreed that APC’s comments on the program revisions submitted and on the overall presentation of the report should be relayed to SCTP.

14.05 Research Policy Committee - proposal for the creation of a new research centre

- Centre for International Peace and Security Studies (*for approval*) (09-APC-05-94)

Professor T.V. Paul and Associate Vice-Principal (Research and International Relations) Rima Rozen presented the proposal for the creation of an inter-university Centre for International Peace and Security Studies (CIPSS) based at McGill University and Université de Montréal.

The two universities have been developing research collaboration through the Research Group in International Security (REGIS), established in 1996. They are the only universities affiliated with the Security and Defence Forum (SDS) of the Department of National Defence (DND) that do not have a research centre in defence and security studies. Université de Montréal and McGill University need an institutional base in order to apply for additional research funding. The University would benefit from having a centre; the proposed centre would draw attention and funding and would attract more graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. Administrative needs are low: one small office at McGill and another at Université de Montréal suffice at present, although more infrastructure may be desirable. Courses in the field are taught by members of the proposed centre, but creation of an institute was not being contemplated.

In the discussion that ensued, the name of the proposed centre was questioned. It was not clear why “peace” was included in the name. It was noted that one of the other Canadian SDF-affiliated university centres had “war” in its name (the Gregg Centre for the Study of War and Society at the University of New Brunswick) and that “international relations” (used by Queen’s University and U.B.C. in the names of their SDF-affiliated centres) may be better suited to describe the subject of inquiry. It was argued that, as disciplines change and grow, peace was a concept not studied earlier, and that this attempts to restore a balance, much as “war” has given way to “defence”.

APC approved the proposal for the creation of a Centre for International Peace and Security Studies for submission to Senate for further approval. The proposal will be submitted in APC’s 413th Report to be considered by Senate at its meeting on 16th September 2009.

14.06 Academic Program Reviews

- Six-month Progress Report on Action Plans – proposed template (09-APC-05-95)

A template for preparing the faculties’ follow-up on the contents of Appendix X of the Academic Program Reviews was considered. Deans will be invited to report to APC on the actions taken to implement the recommendations as presented in Appendix X, six months after their presentation of their respective faculty’s Final Academic Program Review Summary Sheets to Senate.

The reports will be based on the Appendix X action plan. It was suggested and agreed that Appendix X and APC’s comments on the Academic Program Reviews should be attached to the Dean’s follow-up report. The Deans should, in their reports, specify the items from Appendix X that their Faculty is responding to.

14.07 APC Workgroup on Nomenclature of Academic Units

- Proposed questionnaire to academic units (09-APC-05-96)

Professor Caplin presented the questionnaire that the APC Workgroup on Nomenclature of Academic Units had prepared and was proposing to send to the directors of a limited number of academic units as a pilot. Having reviewed the names of existing academic units and identified anomalies with respect to current definitions, the Workgroup was of the view that a questionnaire might provide useful information on the nature of some units’ activities and justifications for the names adopted. The exercise would provide a framework for future naming in helping to rationalize the nomenclature of academic units. It was thought that the exercise would be useful not only to APC but to the Office of Academic Personnel and to the Vice-Principal (Research and International Relations). It is unclear from the existing definitions, for example, whether a unit is allowed to make appointments: asking the directors of those units seemed to be the only way to obtain such information. It was proposed that a pilot survey of six academic units under each category be undertaken over the summer.

14.08 Proposed agreements (for approval)

- Biofutures Scholars Exchange Program – FAES (09-APC-05-97)

Ms Kalyna Kruczowyj, International Education Administrator, Office of the Deputy Provost, presented the proposed Biofutures Scholars Exchange Program. The Exchange Program is arranged through the Canadian Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine (twelve institutions) and is limited to students in the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Upon successful completion of the exchange semester, students will be given an attestation confirming their participation.

APC approved the proposed Biofutures Scholars Exchange Program. This approval will be reported to Senate for information in APC's 413th Report.

14.09 Schedule of meeting dates 2009-2010

The proposed dates of APC meetings for the academic year 2009-2010 were circulated electronically prior to the meeting. They are:

3rd September 2009
24th September
8th October
22nd October
5th November
26th November *
10th December
21st January 2010
11th February
25th February
18th March
8th April
22nd April
6th May
27th May

All meetings will be held in Room 310, James Administration Building except * 26th November meeting which will be held in the Council Room, Room M48, on the ground floor of the Anatomy and Dentistry Building.

14.10 Other business

None.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Helen M.C. Richard - HMCR/APPCdocs/minutes/2009-05-28