

Minutes of the meeting of the **Academic Policy Committee** held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2010, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., Room 310, James Building

Present: A.C. Masi (Chair), J. Angeles, G. Brown, W. Caplin, J. Côté, A. DeGuise, V. Errunza, D. Farrow, W. Hendershot, P. Holland, M. Kaartinen, D. Klinck, M.J. Mendelson, H.M.C. Richard (Secretary to the Committee)

Regrets: R. Dooley, A. Gauthier, E. Gayagoy, M. Kreiswirth, S. MacDougall, M. Mehta, J. Potter, R. Rozen, M. Szyf, W. Thomson, C. Urbain, C. Weston, S. Woolf

Guests: D. Green (item 4), J. Zucchi, H. Beck (item 5), A. Kirk, S. Ghoshal (item 6), P. Smith (item 8)

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#### **11.01 Proposed agenda**

The agenda was adopted as proposed.

#### **11.02 Minutes of previous meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

The minutes were approved as circulated.

#### **11.03 Business arising**

Senate decisions at its meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010:

- Proposed Policy on Responsible Use of McGill IT Resources
- Proposed Regulation on the Conduct of Research

It was reported that Senate approved the two documents, with minor corrections.

#### **11.04 SCTP - Report #6 from meetings held on 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> February and 4<sup>th</sup> March 2010 (10-APC-04-55)**

New program proposal from the Faculty of Science:

- B.Sc.: Minor in Natural History (*Appendix A*)

Professor David M. Green, Director of the Redpath Museum, presented the proposed “B.Sc.; Minor in Natural History” which will be based at the Redpath Museum. Built in 1881-82 to preserve and display the collections of Sir William Dawson, Principal of McGill, the Museum was transferred to the Faculty of Science in 1994-95. In recent years, more academic staff members have been appointed to the Museum, with a view to strengthening its academic mission. The Museum offers several courses, including *Science and Museums* (REDM 400) and participates in a Concentration in Biological Diversity and Systematics, in association with the Department of Biology, and a Domain in Biodiversity and Conservation, in association with the McGill School of Environment. Natural history dates back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century but remains the grounding of many of today’s ecologists and naturalists. McGill’s Minor in Natural History proposes to restore the cutting-edge aspect of Natural History as an inter-disciplinary field. The proposed Minor includes field courses and enables students to acquire breadth as well as in-depth knowledge of a particular aspect of natural history.

In the discussion, it was noted that no similar minor program exists at other universities in Canada or at other university museums of natural history in North America (such as those at the University of Colorado at Boulder and Harvard University). The proposed Minor program would be unique in North America. In response to a suggestion that the program could be of interest to students from faculties other than the Faculty of Science, it was stated that the matter of prerequisites would have to be considered. Certain interest overlaps with Information Studies and *Muséologie* studies at the Université du Québec à Montréal were noted.

As APC continued its discussion, members expressed ambivalence as well as interest in seeing a Minor program pulling together and packaging existing courses from different disciplines. It was noted that the proposed inter-disciplinary Minor in Natural History might appeal to students in Biology and Environmental Biology, as well as students from other areas of Science and other faculties who have a keen interest in natural history.

**The proposed Minor in Natural History was approved. It will be reported to Senate as having been approved** (APC’s 419<sup>th</sup> Report, D09.59, for the meeting of Senate on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2010).

### **11.05 Proposal to change the name of the Department of History to “Department of History and Classical Studies (10-APC-04-54)**

Professor John Zucchi, Chair, Department of History, and Professor Hans Beck, Director of Classical Studies, presented the proposal to change the name of the Department of History to “Department of History and Classical Studies”. The dissolution of the Department of Classics in 1994-95 caused most of the Department’s faculty to join the Department of History (the Classical Archaeologist joined the Department of Art History). Classical Studies has been rebuilding significantly in the past three years and has become central to the activity of the Department of History. Departments or Schools of History and Classics can be found in other institutions (Acadia University, University of Alberta, University of Edinburgh).

In the ensuing discussion, it was noted that the trend towards a loss of interest in Classics has been reversed. Classical Studies at McGill encompass Greek and Roman History, Classical Languages and Literature, Modern Greek, and, eventually Classical Archeology, all of which used to be in the Department of Classics. The M.A. program has been re-launched and the change in the name of the Department may help achieve a better integration of History and Classical Studies at the graduate program level. It was noted that the proposed name acknowledges the high level of integration of Classicists within the Department and a common desire to increase the recognition, presence, and visibility of Classical Studies at McGill University, which will be beneficial for recruiting staff and attracting students.

**APC approved the proposal to change the name of the Department of History to “Department of History and Classical Studies” for submission to Senate for approval and possible recommendation to the Board of Governors for final approval** (this proposal will be included in APC’s 419<sup>th</sup> Report, D09.59, to Senate for consideration on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2010).

### **11.06 Proposal for the creation of an Institute for Sustainability in Engineering and Design (ISEAD) (10-APC-04-56)**

Associate Dean Andrew Kirk (Research and Graduate Education) and Associate Dean (Student Affairs) Subhasis Ghoshal, Faculty of Engineering, presented the proposal for the creation of an Institute for Sustainability in Engineering and Design. The proposal responds to the need to expose students to the principles of sustainability, to incorporate sustainability into all of the Faculty’s programs and promote a culture of sustainability. Weaving sustainability in courses and programs is viewed as preferable to adding courses on the issue. The introduction of programs in Sustainability in Engineering may also be considered. As a focus point for promoting sustainability in Engineering programs, the proposed Institute would be engaged in a spectrum of activity that would include the creation of a summer school drawing University students and professionals, a speaker series and seminars. The proposed Institute would create a linkage between the Faculty of Engineering and the MSE and would be complementary to what is being offered by the MSE. Broad consultation was conducted within McGill University and strong feedback was received from companies. Funding has already been committed for the first three years and additional external funding will be sought.

In the discussion, a definition of “sustainability” was requested. Sustainability was defined as “creating processes, practices and technologies that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. In response to a question as to whether sustainability is an academic discipline, it was stated that there exists an “International Journal of Sustainable Engineering” and that sustainability is more an orientation within a discipline than a discipline *per se*; one refers to sustainable Engineering, life-cycle analysis, etc. It is an emerging field, an all-pervasive approach and mind-set. While the desired transformation in the Faculty could happen without an Institute, it would be very slow; the proposed Institute will act as a catalyst and as a focus for funding.

With reference to the consultation process, it was reported that the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences was supportive of the initiative and had suggested that it should be broadened, as future engineers trained through the Department of Bioresource Engineering on the Macdonald Campus would benefit from the Institute’s goals; furthermore, the work of many professors in the Faculty focuses on Sustainability. It was suggested that the initiative should not be limited to the training of engineers on the Downtown Campus and that an Institute should include academic staff from faculties other than the Faculty in which it is based. This Institute should serve to improve the education of all future engineers at McGill. It was further noted that the consultation

process was limited and conducted at a rather late stage. In response, it was stated that the Institute would be reporting to the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, but would nevertheless be inclusive and work with all professors who promote sustainability.

APC continued its discussion. Concern was expressed regarding the nature of sustainability, i.e. not a discipline but rather an abstraction, akin to safety or the notion of elegance in design or processes. It was thought that an institute should focus on the study of a subject. It was commented, however, that there is methodology to imbedding safety or sustainability in engineering and that it implies a multi-disciplinary approach. It was also noted that the proposed Institute, which will not be teaching programs, will (like others that have been approved at McGill) challenge the current definition of “institute”.

**APC approved the proposal for the creation of an Institute for Sustainability in Engineering and Design (ISEAD) for submission to Senate for further approval and possible recommendation to the Board of Governors, on condition that the composition of the Board be modified to include a member of the Department of Bioresource Engineering.**

Secretary’s note: *before the proposal was submitted to Senate, the Faculty of Engineering revised the paragraph at the top of page 6 of the proposal (under “Governance”) as follows:*

“... A Board will be formed to provide guidance and input to the Director, and to provide oversight to its operations. The Board will be chaired by the Dean of Engineering (or his/her representative) and the tentative composition will be as follows: five ~~seven~~ members of the Institute (including one member from the McGill School of Environment and one member from the Department of Bioresource Engineering ~~members from outside the Faculty of Engineering~~), the Director, a graduate student, an undergraduate student, a representative of the Vice-Principal (Research and International Relations), ~~a representative of the MSE~~, two industrial or governmental representatives and an international researcher.”

The proposal will be included in APC’s 419<sup>th</sup> Report (D09-59) for consideration by Senate on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

## 11.07 International Education

- a) Proposed Student Exchange Agreement – St. Petersburg State University, Graduate School of Management, St. Petersburg, Russia (10-APC-04-57)

The text of the agreement on the template of St. Petersburg State University conforms in substance to the terms of the template used by McGill. It was suggested that the signatories of the Agreement should be equivalent in the two institutions. (Secretary’s note: *The Dean of the Desautels Faculty of Management will be added as a signatory.*)

**APC approved the proposed Student Exchange Agreement between St. Petersburg State University, Graduate School of Management, and McGill University, Desautels Faculty of Management.** This approval will be reported to Senate in APC’s 419<sup>th</sup> Report (D09-59, Senate meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2010).

- b) Proposed Visiting Student Agreement – University of the Sacred Heart, Tokyo, Japan (10-APC-04-58)

Given that the University of the Sacred Heart in Tokyo is not a research-intensive university and that male students would not have been allowed to participate, a Student Exchange Agreement could not be proposed. A Visiting Student Agreement will be mutually advantageous as students from the University of the Sacred Heart will be paying tuition and other related fees to McGill and will be treated in the same manner as exchange students. This Japanese university has been sending students to McGill’s Summer English Program offered through the Centre for Continuing Education since 2006. Similar agreements have been signed between McGill University and three other Japanese universities and the universities of Bergen and Oslo.

**APC approved the proposed Visiting Student Agreement with the University of the Sacred Heart, in Tokyo, Japan.** This approval will be reported to Senate in APC’s 419<sup>th</sup> Report (D09-59, Senate meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2010).

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**11.08 CREPUQ Commission de vérification de l'évaluation des programmes (CVEP) - Third Audit**  
*Background document: CVEP Third round, 17<sup>th</sup> Feb 2010- English Summary (10-APC-03-51) (18<sup>th</sup> March APC meeting)*

- a) Request 2 sample:  
Faculty of Education: McGill - Université de Montréal B.Ed.; French as a Second Language / français langue seconde (10-APC-04-59)

Missing information and documentation will be obtained from the Faculty of Education.

- c) Request 3 sample:  
Faculty of Medicine: Basic Sciences Graduate programs  
(Anatomy & Cell Biology, Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology, Pharmacology & Therapeutics, and Physiology) (10-APC-04-60)

This sample response to CVEP's request was circulated to APC members for information.

**11.09 Other business**

None.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

*Helen M.C. Richard - HMCR/APPCdocs/minutes/2010-04-08*