

Minutes of the meeting of the **Academic Policy Committee** held on Thursday 17th January 2013, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., Room 302, James Administration Building

Present: A.C. Masi (*Chair*), J. Galbraith, A. Ghoshdastidar, H. Hatch-Dinel, W. Hendershot, I. Henderson, L. Hendren, S. Huebner, M. Kreiswirth, S. McDougall, M.J. Mendelson, A. Misra, P. Perez-Aleman, J. Potter, P. Smith, N. Srinidhi, L. Stone, S. Stroud, C. Urbain (for C. C. Cook), C. Weston, M. Zidel, H.M.C. Richard (*Secretary to the Committee*)

Regrets: W. Adams, C. C. Cook, K. Dalkir, E. Laverdière, C. Mandato, P. Tikasz

Guests: R. Goldstein, P. Todd, C. Lannon (*item 5*), J. Galaty (*item 6*), M.D. Lee, A. Jones (*item 6*)

Document circulated at the meeting: *none*

06.01 Proposed agenda

The proposed agenda was adopted.

06.02 Minutes of previous APC meeting held on 13th December 2012

The minutes will be considered at the next meeting on 31st January 2013.

06.03 Business arising

None.

06.04 Board of Governors approval from meeting on 13th December 2012

On 13th December 2012, the Board of Governors approved the proposed name change for the Centre for Research on Language, Mind and Brain (CRLMB) / *Centre de recherche sur le langage, le mental et le cerveau* to Centre for Research on Brain, Language and Music (CRBLM) / *Centre de recherche sur le cerveau, le langage et la musique* (CRCLM).

06.05 Research Advisory Council (*for approval*)

- Proposal for the creation of a “**McGill Centre for Health and Economic Convergence**”, presented by the Desautels Faculty of Management (13-APC-01-42)

Dr Rose Goldstein, Vice-Principal (Research and International Relations), Dean Peter Todd, Desautels Faculty of Management, and Dr Chris Lannon, Managing Director - McGill World Platform for Health and Economic Convergence, joined the meeting.

APC was reminded that, on 5th May 2011, APC had considered an earlier version of the proposal, for the creation of a “Center of 21st Century Science for Health, Well-Being and Sustainable Prosperity for All”, exceptionally without a recommendation from the Research Advisory Council, which was not able to consider the proposal at its meeting the day before. That earlier proposal was considered by RAC on 25th May 2011 and was returned by RAC to the Faculty with comments. A new proposal was considered by RAC on 18th January 2012; an updated proposal was then circulated to RAC on 3rd June 2012. That document underwent further revisions and a final proposal was reviewed and approved by RAC on 21st November 2012 for recommendation to APC on the condition that an executive summary be added, which requirement was met on 8th January 2013.

Dean Todd presented the proposal as an ambitious pioneering proposition, an international and multidisciplinary activity involving several faculties and aiming to take scientific outcomes and translate them into behavioural changes. He stated that federal granting councils are increasingly interested in action-oriented research. The proposed Centre will provide a formal structure for pulling expertise worldwide, raising funds and allowing activities to grow.

Vice-Principal Goldstein stated that this is a complex proposal on a complex topic. RAC’s suggestions and input had been taken seriously, and RAC was satisfied that issues had been clarified. The group’s work, while not traditional, is consistent with McGill’s goals.

Professor Lannon spoke about nutrition-related health challenges, about over and under-nutrition as being two sides of the same coin, and briefly presented the Centre’s three foci of research.

In the discussion, the following points were raised:

- *Relationship between the proposed centre and the Institute for Health and Social Policy.* In response to questions as to whether the proposed Centre could not be rolled into the Institute to save on administrative costs, it was noted that the question had indeed been considered, as the Institute is undergoing a review following the departure of its founding director, but the approach and mindset were thought to be different. Other administrative structures were considered, and various units were consulted, but researchers in the proposed Centre were reaching the point where not having a unit was impeding their growth.

- *Emphasis on nutrition, although the chosen name for the Centre is very broad, and possible overlap with other units.* It was noted that the first domain is linked to obesity, but research may grow into other areas and the Centre's name allows for that.

- *Concern about the vision of society that was reflected in the initial proposal.* It was suggested that, while the new proposal shows much improvement over the initial proposal, concerns raised initially, about a certain imbedded ideology and a certain naïve vision of what society should look like and confidence about the Centre's ability to change the world, should not be lost sight of.

- *The name of the proposed Centre.* The terms health and convergence were questioned.

It was made clear that research centres do not offer courses, while teaching institutes do. Any courses tied to the work of the Centre would come forward from the Faculty. It was also stated that space has already been allocated to the proposed Centre, and staffing is from the existing complement of professors.

APC approved the proposal for the creation of the McGill Centre for Health and Economic Convergence for recommendation to Senate for further approval and recommendation to the Board of Governors with the proviso that the Desautels Faculty of Management may reconsider the name of the proposed Centre. The proposal will be included in APC's 444th Report to Senate for consideration by Senate at its meeting on 19th February 2013.

06.06 APC Subcommittee on Courses and Teaching Programs (SCTP)

Report from the SCTP meeting of 6th December 2012 (13-APC-01-43)

A. New program: B.A.; Joint Honours – African Studies Component (36 cr.) - Appendix A

Professor John Galaty, Department of Anthropology, presented the proposal for a Joint Honours – African Studies Component, which was requested by students keen on pairing African Studies with a core discipline, rather than having African Studies as a stand-alone. The field may not be sufficiently mature for an Honours program, but suits studies in conjunction with another discipline.

In response to a question as to why a 6-credit course in French was not required, given the importance of that language on the African continent, it was noted that this is a very focused program, and that Arabic and Swahili are available. In the discussion, it was also stated that this is an area of growth and that the number of students taking African Studies will increase as a result of the Joint Honours being offered. The program makes use of existing resources and courses.

APC approved the proposed B.A.; Joint Honours – African Studies Component for submission to Senate for final approval. It will be included in APC's 444th Report for consideration by Senate at its meeting on 19th February 2013.

B. New program: B.Com.; Major in Organizational Behaviour (30 cr.) - Appendix B

Professor Mary Dean Lee, Desautels Faculty of Management presented the proposed program. It replaces the B.Com.; Psychology for Management Students Major which was retired (SCTP, 6th December 2012).

APC approved the proposed B.Com.; Major in Organizational Behaviour for submission to Senate for final approval. It will be included in APC's 444th Report for consideration by Senate at its meeting on 19th February 2013.

C. New program: **B.Sc.; Honours in Neuroscience** (74 cr.) - *Appendix C*

APC approved the proposed B.Sc.; Honours in Neuroscience for submission to Senate for final approval. It will be included in APC's 444th Report for consideration by Senate at its meeting on 19th February 2013.

D. New program: **B.Sc.; Minor in Earth System Science** (18 cr.) - *Appendix D*

APC approved the proposed B.Sc.; Minor in Earth System Science.. It will be reported to Senate, as having been approved, in APC's 444th Report which will be considered by Senate at its meeting on 19th February 2013.

E. New program: **B.Sc.; Honours in Earth System Science** (66 cr.) - *Appendix E*

APC approved the proposed B.Sc.; Honours in Earth System Science for submission to Senate for final approval. It will be included in APC's 444th Report for consideration by Senate at its meeting on 19th February 2013.

F. New program: **M.A.; Art History; Thesis** (45 cr.) - *Appendix F*

Professor Amelia Jones, Department of Art History and Communication Studies, presented the proposed Thesis option, which replaces the Non-Thesis option that has been retired (SCTP, 6th December 2012). The Department, having earlier abandoned the Thesis option to open a Non-Thesis option, is reverting to the Thesis option. Art History is one discipline where the trend toward non-thesis masters was not helpful, as it is difficult to apply to doctoral studies without a Master's thesis. Asked why both options could not be offered, it was stated that the Department is trying to bring its Art History programs in line with its Communication Studies programs.

APC approved the proposed M.A.; Art History; Thesis. It will be reported to Senate, as having been approved, in APC's 444th Report, which will be considered by Senate at its meeting on 19th February 2013.

06.07 Approval Paths for New and Revised Courses and Teaching Programs (*12-APC-12-32 REVISED*)

Revised 11th January 2013

This item was considered after item 8 (Retirement of Zero-enrolment Courses). The paragraph on Discontinued/Retired Courses will reflect the discussion on item 8 and use the same revised text.

APC approved the revised "Approval Paths for New and Revised Courses and Teaching Programs". This approval will be reported to Senate in APC's 444th Report, for consideration by Senate at its meeting on 19th February 2013.

06.08 Retirement of Zero-enrolment Courses

Memorandum from Deputy-Provost (Student Life and Learning), 15th January 2013 (*12-APC-12-41 REVISED*)

The Deputy Provost explained that the memo was redrafted to reflect changes that were agreed on at the last meeting. A list of five reasons for not retiring zero-enrolment courses was added. Reinstating a retired course will take a memo. All requests for retaining zero-enrolment courses will come to SCTP.

In the discussion, it was suggested and agreed that the memo should explicitly state that the faculties will be asked to consider lists of zero-enrolment courses and indicate which of the courses should be maintained for any of the reasons provided. Courses on the list for which no justification is received will be retired.

APC approved the Proposal for Retiring Zero-Enrolment Courses, on the condition that the text should be clarified as agreed at the meeting.

06.09 Other business

None.

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Helen M.C. Richard - HMCR/APPCdocs/minutes/2013-01-17