

Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Policy and Planning Committee held on 24th April 2003, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Room 609, James (Administration) Building.

Present:	J. Beheshti, E. Cooper, M. Crago (chairing), G. Demopoulos, F. Groen, J. Galbraith, M. Graham, W. Hendershot, A. Lau, H.G. Leighton, P. Martineau, L. Proulx, J. Zucchi, H.M.C. Richard (Secretary to the Committee)
Regrets:	J. Bilec, C. Bushnell, Ph. Depalle, H. Knox, A.C. Masi, N. Peters, R. Roy, F. Sagel, L. Vinet
Guests:	E. Hopmeyer, J. Torczyner (item 3), D. Buszard (items 4,5,6), N. de Takacsy (item 7)

Documents circulated at the meeting:

Revised 02-APPC-02-40 M.S.W. Non-thesis – International Partner Program
02-APPC-04-62 General Student Exchange Agreement with Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen
02-APPC-04-55b Report to Senate regarding Dissemination of Course Evaluations D02-71

13.01 **Proposed agenda**

The proposed agenda was accepted with addition of the revised proposal for an “M.S.W. Non-thesis – International Partner Program” under Business Arising.

13.02 **Minutes of meeting held on April 10, 2003**

Adopted as circulated.

13.03 **Business arising from the meetings held on April 10 and February 6, 2003**

a) CGPS student representation (*Revised 02-APPC-04-57*) from APPC meeting held on April 10

Dean Crago presented the three options described in the revised document *02-APPC-04-57*. On motion by Professor Demopoulos, seconded by Professor Leighton, **APPC approved Option 3**. Option 3 is for one post-doctoral scholar and eight student representatives: one student representative per faculty from Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Arts, Education, Engineering, Management, and Science, one from Medicine and Dentistry, and one from Law, Music and Religious Studies grouped together.

Option 3 will be submitted for approval to Senate.

b) M.S.W. Non-thesis - International Partner Program (*Revised 02-APPC-02-40*) from February 6, 2003

Dean Crago reminded APPC that Legal Services were consulted following Professor Galbraith's question as to whether it was legally possible for McGill to offer a MEQ-funded program restricted to non-Canadians and Legal Services advised that it was not. Dean Crago explained that the program could be of interest to Canadian citizens who may originate from a “given” developing country and have a good knowledge of the language and culture of that country which would enable them to do the required three-year practicum in that country. Canadian candidates would therefore have to speak the necessary language and would have to agree to do their practicum in the relevant country, hence the proposed addition to the proposal description in bold: “...; participation in the program requires the applicant to have command of a specific language in which the practicum part of the program takes place...” The notion that the program could be of interest to such a clientèle grew out of the search for ways to allow Canadian students access to the proposed M.S.W. Non-thesis, now called “**International Partner Program**”. The program would allow immigrants from given developing countries to reverse the brain-drain by bringing their knowledge and expertise back to those countries. While this is not a typical McGill program it does not contravene any obligations McGill has. If a student were unable to carry out the practicum in a given country, a similar practicum setting would have to be found here.

Professor Hopmeyer and Professor Torczyner from the School of Social work joined the meeting. Questions to them first dealt with the nine credits of summer qualifying courses which cover an introduction to social work practice and social work skills, program-specific activities (such as site visits to collective gardens, community kitchens etc.), plus intensive English. The summer qualifying program will allow students to learn the basics of social work in the Canadian context, since they would come from countries where studies towards a B.S.W. are not established, and thus be

better prepared. It was noted that some Canadian M.S.W. programs have a B.A. rather than a B.S.W. as a requirement; Université de Montréal offers a qualifying program for students to take the master's program. A movement is afoot towards establishing the master's degree for entry into the profession.

Supervision of students while they do their second-year practicum in the other country was the subject of the next question. Professor Torczyner's response assured members that supervision was appropriate. Evaluation of the practicum would follow the same model as what takes place in Montreal; there would be close monitoring of learning.

The modification necessary to make the program legal was minor and satisfactory. In addition to being open to students from countries with which partner programs exist, the program will indeed be open to Canadian students who have the languages and cultural backgrounds that make it possible for them to participate in the program. This is a new notion which gives the program a mini peace-corps dimension. Learning from the program and incorporating some of the learning that happens in the partner country into the McGill training was suggested. APPC was assured that there was a loop.

On motion by Professor Demopoulos, seconded by Mr Lau, the program was **approved for submission to Senate**.

13.04 SCTP Report on April 3rd, 2003 meeting (02-APPC-04-58)

a) Barbados Field Study Semester

Dean Buszard presented the proposal. McGill's Bellairs Research Institute in Barbados, which will be the field study site, is more than a marine science station and it is in an excellent location in a desirable part of the island. It is ideal for the study of issues related to the way human activity influences the environment, i.e. urban development and the use of scarce resources, shared use of access to water etc. Barbados with _ million residents is one of the 14 members of CARICOM (Caribbean Community and Common Market) and has one of the most advanced and most highly studied economies, and a high standard of living and education; it is facing problems with globalization trade and competing economic pressures. McGill's field study semester would study such issues. Most of the 18 students who have signed up are from the School of Urban Planning or the Department of Civil Engineering.

In addition to the regular registration and tuition fees and a \$1600 airfare, accommodation costs amount to \$6000, the cost of living being higher than in Panama. No modalities for financial assistance have been worked out but mobility funding is available from Quebec's Ministry of Education through McGill's Student Exchange Office. The University of West Indies nearby extends the use of its library resources and has professors willing to give lectures. Good work has been done at Bellairs to put its own library in better shape. From the University's financial perspective, the use of Bellairs in the fall semester is an attractive proposition: it is the off-season when much of the student accommodation (dorms and twin-bedded rooms) sits empty.

In response to questions it was stated that part of the Bellairs property, a 10-meter-wide strip, was leased then sold; while the money has to stay in Barbados, it is part of the McGill investment pool and is invested and serves to sustain the Bellairs research facility. While it was suggested that Bellairs may be a good place for considering use of on-line distance education, Dean Buszard replied that telecommunications have not been deregulated in Barbados, in what is a highly protected economy.

Regarding demand for field-study semesters, Dean Buszard indicated that the Panama field-study semester was over-subscribed every year, while the Bay of Fundy field semester was constantly under-registered. Priority among students accepted to the Barbados Field Study Semester will go to final-year students and graduate students in Urban Planning. Engineering students will be able to fulfill their large project requirement at Bellairs. Professors will fly down for two two-week blocks of teaching and a staff member will be on the ground from the beginning to the end.

The need for the University to review its field-study semesters was underlined. Field-study semesters will be discussed in the strategic planning process which will get underway in summer 2003. If the University chooses to support them as a priority it could then determine to raise funds so that students may participate regardless of their personal financial situation. McGill could even consider setting up an office for field-study semesters. It was felt that a decision whether or not to approve the Barbados

Field Study Semester should not be delayed by the central administration's intention to review field study semesters; furthermore the BFSS would provide additional valuable input into the discussion.

Strong support was expressed for the proposed Barbados Field Study Semester. McGill would be providing a rich experience to students and adding to its own attractiveness, and it was thought that delaying approval of the proposal would be a mistake; the proposal should be approved for its value.

The proposed Barbados Field Study Semester was approved for submission to Senate.

b) B.A.; Minor Concentration in Education for Arts Students

Two issues were raised: a) whether the courses listed had any pre-requisites, and 2) whether Ethnic Studies were consulted. Associate Vice-Principal Crago determined to look into this and it was agreed that **if satisfactory responses to the two questions were obtained, APPC approval should be granted.** (Note: *responses were positive and the proposed "B.A.; Minor Concentration in Education for Arts Students" will be submitted to Senate for approval.*)

13.05 Name change proposal for the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering to Department of Bioresource Engineering (02-APPC-04-63)

Dean Buszard presented the proposal, explaining that the current name for the department was redundant. "Department of Biosystems Engineering" when presented to Senate (November 7, 2001) was found not to be comfortable to some. "Bioresource" is a simple name that covers the department's diversity of activities. In the discussion it was noted, with respect to Attachment 3 showing a survey of new names adopted for Agricultural Engineering departments in North America, that the State University of New Jersey in New Brunswick, N.J. is in fact Rutgers University.

On motion by Professor Hendershot, seconded by Professor Galbraith, the proposed name change was **approved for submission to Senate.**

13.06 Change of degree designation for B.Sc. (Agr. Eng.) to B. Eng. (Bioresource) (02-APPC-04-64)

On motion by Professor Hendershot, seconded by Professor Demopoulos, APPC **approved the change of degree designation for submission to Senate.**

13.07 Exchange agreements

a) Architecture – Politecnico di Milano-Bovisa (02-APPC-04-60)

Associate Vice-Principal De Takacs explained that this proposed agreement was negotiated by the School of Architecture, building on a set of contacts developed over several years. Europe is attempting to generate an educational system where students can switch more easily from one country to another and which allows them to be more easily employable in regions of Europe other than their own. He noted that Article 6 about safety and accident prevention was not annexed as its formulation was not satisfactory and would be taken to Legal Services for advice.

APPC approved the proposed exchange agreement between McGill's School of Architecture and the Facoltà di Architettura Civile of the Politecnico di Milano-Bovisa, this approval being contingent on the legal details regarding safety and accident prevention being satisfactorily settled.

b) Law – Università degli Studi di Torino (02-APPC-04-61)

The proposed student exchange builds on contacts established over ten years ago. Those contacts evolved in 1999 into joint participation in a Canada-Europe Legal Consortium involving seven European and three Canadian universities and funded by HRDC and the European Community for three years. Contacts and exchanges between McGill and Torino having been particularly successful, the two institutions agreed to maintain the connection formally. **The proposed exchange programme between the Faculty of Law at McGill and the Facoltà di Giurisprudenza at the Università degli Studi di Torino was approved** on motion by Professor Galbraith seconded by Vice-Principal Proulx.

c) General Exchange agreement – Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen (02-APPC-04-62)

Associate Vice-Principal De Takacsy stated that, aside from the U21 agreement with the Albert-Ludwigs Universität Freiburg, the proposed general exchange agreement with the University of Tübingen would be the first of that kind to be signed with a German institution. Germany's education system is very different from that of Canada: record keeping for example follows a highly decentralized model. Universität Tübingen nevertheless has a very active student exchange office: in the past twenty years, contacts with universities in the United States have been particularly strengthened. Tübingen has signed agreements with over fifty North-American universities. Annually about 1000 students take part in studies abroad; 150 of those students go to the U.S.

Asked what constitutes a successful student exchange, Professor De Takacsy spoke of a flow of students moving back and forth and returning to their home university happy with their stay abroad, both with respect to their international experience and their academic progress. While the University wishes to encourage McGill students to take advantage of study-abroad programs in order to develop a broader worldview, the number of McGill students who do so is small, and despite the variety of available exchange agreements, Australian universities remain the most popular destinations. There are 2.5 more students coming to McGill than McGill students going abroad. One-way exchanges cannot be considered to be successful. In Europe a much higher percentage of students take advantage of study exchanges; this activity is viewed as a priority and European institutions organize their programs according to that priority. CREPUQ agreements have resulted in large numbers of students coming from France. It is also easier for the University to receive than to send students; it is also easier for students from Japan, for example, to come to McGill than the reverse. Flexibility is advised regarding transfer credits; it should not be necessary in the partner institution course calendar to have to identify exactly the same course as would be offered by McGill.

In conclusion to the discussion it was suggested that international student exchanges should be considered another strategic activity for McGill and that a bigger role should be assigned departments in promoting student exchange agreements; departments should be more pro-active in informing and encouraging students regarding study opportunities abroad.

On motion by Ms Groen, seconded by Professor Hendershot, **the proposed general student exchange with the Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen was approved.** It will be reported to Senate.

13.08 SCTL-APPC Workgroup on On-line Distance Education (Rev. 0.02) (*Revised 02-APPC-04-54*)

This item will be considered at the next meeting on 8th May 2003.

13.09 CSP Report #6 Recommendations (English translation) and stats on Communication, études et productions cinématographiques (*02-APPC-04-59*)

This item will be considered at the next meeting.

13.10 Other business

None. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.