

Minutes of the meeting of the **Academic Policy Committee** held on Thursday, October 26th, 2023, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. in room 301 of the James Administration Building.

**Present:** C. Manfredi (Chair), K. Baybayon, C. Buddle (Vice-Chair), A. Finkelstein (delegate), M. Fronda, A. Hundemer, K. Joseph, B. Low, C. Lyons (delegate), J. Nalbantoglu, M. Manikis, N. Pastana Mankovitz, S. Phillips, D. Thomas, D. Titone, C. Weil, V. Wright, E. Zimmermann, K. Tiitson (secretary)

**Regrets:** L. Bornstein, I. Cossette, J-P Ferguson, F. Labeau, V. Parey, M. Vennat, L. Winer

**Guests:** J. Degans, L. Holmgren

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The meeting was chaired by Prof. Christopher Manfredi, Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic), Chair of APC. With the approval of the Chair, Prof. Christopher Buddle, Associate Provost (Teaching and Academic Planning), Vice-Chair of APC, presided over items listed in the business arising section.

**1. Agenda**

Members in attendance approved the agenda.

**2. Minutes**

Members in attendance approved the notes for the meeting of May 4th, 2023, and September 28th, 2023.

**3. Business arising**

**i. Office of the Provost and Vice Principal (Academic)**

• **Implementation of the Policy on Academic Freedom**

Discussion on the implementation of the Policy on Academic Freedom continued from the September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Prof. Buddle provided an overview of the Policy and explained that APC had been tasked with nominating five (5) members for the Subcommittee on Academic Freedom (SAF) and thanked all nominees. All positions have been filled except for the student representative position. Prof. Buddle advised that any interested student representative should contact the APC Secretary for further information.

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, members of the Senate Nominating Committee electronically approved the proposed SAF membership. The membership will be submitted to Senate for final approval on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

All official information concerning the SAF, including the relevant forms in French and English will be added to the APC website. A resource account will also be set to receive complaints.

**ii. Subcommittee on Courses and Teaching Programs**

- The SCTP report #12 on the meeting of May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, was presented for information only. APC had no comments.

**iii. Subcommittee on Teaching and Learning**

**Recommendations from STL on the use of generative AI**

- Prof. Holmgren, a member of the STL working group highlighted the working group's focus on the ethical implications of generative AI and stressed the importance of ensuring that AI is used for learning and teaching purposes. During the discussion, some primary concerns were raised:
  - The importance of instructor autonomy: APC discussed the need to nuance the reference to instructor autonomy which can lead to varying interpretations. APC resolved to recommend that Senate pursue the discussion.
  - The importance of equitable access: APC agreed to recommend that Senate slightly amend the document to address accessibility in a more explicit manner. APC underlined the pivotal role of pedagogical support in ensuring success in this area. Continuous education for all stakeholders was emphasized, given the evolving nature of the field and its potential impact on the evolution of units and faculties.
  - Plagiarism: APC had concerns about plagiarism particularly in relation to citing AI sources and heard that this component falls under the Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures, which is overseen by the Dean of Students. APC heard that the use of non-cited AI sources would constitute plagiarism, but that the determination of the appropriateness of citing such sources should be at the discretion of the instructors.
- The Chair of APC indicated that discussion on generative AI would be continued at Senate, and stated that if approved, the proposed recommendations would be made more visible within and outside of the McGill community.

*APC endorsed the proposed principles but recommended that Senate consider amending them to clarify instructor autonomy and more explicitly refer to equitable access to generative AI tools. This will be reported in APC's 521<sup>st</sup> report to Senate, for its meeting of November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.*

**iv. Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies**

- APC reviewed and approved the revised composition of the Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS) and its membership for academic year 2023-2024.

**v. Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences**

- APC discussed a proposal from the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences to rename the Division of Experimental Surgery to the Division of Surgical and Interventional Sciences, and the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery to the Division of Cardiac Surgery and Division of Thoracic Surgery.

*APC approved the proposed revisions. These will be reported to Senate for information in APC's 521<sup>st</sup> report to Senate, for its meeting of November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.*

**vi. Office of the Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning), Office of International Education**

- Student Exchange Partnership Proposals
  - Between the Luiss Guido Carli University (Italy),
  - Between the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (Peru)
  - Between the University of Porto (Portugal)

*APC approved the University-wide student exchange agreements. These will be reported to Senate for information in APC's 521<sup>st</sup> report to Senate, for its meeting of November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.*

**4. New business**

**i. Annual Reports**

- The annual reports for the following subcommittees were reviewed:
  - Subcommittee on Courses and Teaching Programs – SCTP
  - Council on Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies – CGPS
  - Research and Advisory Council – RAC
  - Subcommittee on Teaching and Learning – STL

APC had no comments.

- **APC Annual Report – annual report 2022-2023**

APC reviewed and approved its annual report to Senate. The report will be submitted to Senate in APC's 521<sup>st</sup> report, for its meeting of November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**ii. Subcommittee on Courses and Teaching Programs**

- SCTP report #1 on the meeting of September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023.  
The SCTP report #1 was presented for information only. APC had no comments.
- SCPT composition and membership for the 2023/2024 academic year  
APC had no comments, the membership for 2023/2024 was approved.

**iii. Office of the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation)**

- Prof. Debra Titone, Associate Vice-Principal (Research) presented the proposed Policy on Research Entities and its related procedures that are intended to succeed the current Policy on Research Centres, which was called for revisions as it was last reviewed in 2013. The purpose of the new Policy is to highlight the evolving need for an oversight of research entities and core facilities across the University. It aims to establish University-wide principles that provide clear guidelines on the operation and review of all research entities, along with the development and implementation of Faculty-based guidelines and directives for all facilities. While the Policy strived to clarify the nomenclature and naming processes for research entities, APC emphasized that promoters must be clear about the activities of the proposed research entities (research and/or teaching) at the time of approval.

*APC approved the proposed Policy on Research Entities. This will be reported to Senate for approval in APC's 521<sup>st</sup> report to Senate, for its meeting of November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.*

*The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m.*