

FACULTY OF ARTS
Minutes of Faculty Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 28, 2020
Via Zoom

Attendance: As per Faculty Appendix book

Documents: A-19-1 and A-19-14 to A-19-17

Order

The Dean welcomed thanked all in attendance for attending this meeting in a semester like no other. The meeting was called to order at 3:07 pm.

Agenda

501.1 It was agreed to move the members question period to end of the meeting after the report of student organizations.

Announcements

502.1 The Dean announced that Prof. M. Bradley (Political Science, ISID) on the Principal's Prize for Outstanding Emerging Researchers, Olivier Jacques (PhD candidate in Political Science under the supervision of Prof. D. Stolle) was named Skelton-Clark Postdoctoral Fellow at Princeton, Prof. Z. Vang (Sociology) was named a William Dawson Scholar, Prof. C. Ross (Art History and Communications Studies) was named Distinguished James McGill Professor.

502.2 The Dean announced the recent passing of Prof. J. Rudy (History and Classical Studies. She read the following tribute submitted by Prof. J. Opal (Chair, History and Classical Studies):

"Professor Jarrett Rudy passed away on April 4, 2020, two weeks after undergoing quintuple bypass surgery.

*An Ontario native, he made the city of Montreal and the history of Quebec his home. After completing his Ph.D. at McGill in 2001, he joined the Department of History and Classical Studies in 2004 as an assistant professor. He received tenure in 2010 and served as Director of Quebec Studies as well as Undergraduate Program Director. His first book *The Freedom to Smoke: Tobacco Consumption and Identity (2005)* is a socio-cultural history of smoking in Montreal; he was close to completing a major book on the history of time-telling in Quebec.*

Jarrett was an extraordinarily warm, generous, and happy person. He was in his element sharing ideas with the Montreal History Group or sharing laughs with friends at L'Amor a Boire brewery, which recently released a beer in his honor. We miss him terribly."

502.3 The Dean reminded the Council that the Council Meeting in March had been cancelled due to the two-week closure of the University because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent focus on preparing the Faculty to complete the term via remote delivery.

Minutes (A-19-14, A-19-15)

503.1 The Minutes of the Faculty Council Meeting of January 21, 2020 (A-19-14) and the Minutes of the the Faculty Council Meeting of February 25, 2020 (A-19-15) were tabled.

Business Arising from the Minutes

504.1 There was no business arising.

Actions of Senate

505.1 Dean Maioni asked if there were any questions for Senators. No questions were raised.

Report of the Dean

506.1 The Dean noted that the closure of the University on March 13, 2020 was unprecedented and presented a very challenging situation for everyone at the University. She commended the entire Arts community for reacting in a responsible manner, working together, being flexible and showing great generosity in stressful times. She thanked them for saving the integrity of programs, the functioning of the Faculty, and the semester for thousands of students.

506.2 The Dean reported that she was meeting with other deans and two groups set up by the University: the Academic Planning Group (led by Associate Provosts Buddle and Campbell) and the Emergency Response Centre (led by Deputy Provost Lebeau), and she was meeting first daily and then weekly with Chairs and Directors, to ensure a constant and reliable flow of information.

506.3 The Dean announced that Summer session would be completely remote, while the status of Fall remained open, that the University was planning next steps, and that the Principal had announced commitment to the continuity or program delivery and the general mission of the University.

Report of the Associate Deans

Academic Administration and Oversight

507.1 Associate Dean Fronda stated that he had no report.

Faculty Affairs

507.2 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick reported that the current crisis has produced delays at every level. priority would be given to processing appointments, reappointments, and renewals. Promotions would be a lower priority. He thanked Preeya Bissoonauth for her work in Arts Human Resources, and he thanked all administrators in the departments and ASCs, and Richard Courtois (director of administration).

Research and Graduate Studies

507.3 Associate Dean Sparks announced three Teaching Assistant award winners (Jessica Fontaine, Art History and Communication Studies; Hannah Korrel, English; and Colleen Flanagan, Political Science), and two dissertation award winners (Lou Pingeot, Political Science, supervised by Prof. V. Pouliot; Sunita Nigam, English, supervised by Prof. E. Hurley). She commented that there were many strong candidates for all awards, and that she looked forward to being able to congratulate the winners in person.

Student Affairs

- 507.4 Associate Dean Lach reported that she was working with Associate Deans on enrolment and student engagement, and that she was planning to work with groups at both the faculty and department level to prepare for remote teaching in fall if necessary. She announced that the Faculty would provide guidance and support to departments and was currently looking into existing capacity for fall courses as well as needs (equipment, software, etc). She announced that Teaching and Learning Services would deploy individuals to work specifically with each faculty. She announced that a virtual fair for prospective Arts students would be conducted remotely on May 15, 2020.
- 507.5 Dean Maioni thanked the associate deans for their reports and their hard work during the pandemic. She expressed additional thanks to the team at OASIS.

Report of the Curriculum Committees (A-19-16)

- 508.1 Associate Dean Fronda presented the report of the curriculum committee (outlined in document A-19-16) and he **moved** for approval of the report en bloc. The motion was seconded by Profs. Lüthi and Opal. Vote was conducted using the poll function on Zoom. The **motion carried**.
- 508.2 The report contained the following proposals:
Program revisions: MIST; Non-Thesis – Course Work/MIST; Non-Thesis – Project (School of Information Studies).
Program revisions: Ph.D. in Sociology/Ph.D. in Sociology, Population Dynamics/Ph.D. in Sociology, Gender and Women’s Studies – New course: SOCI 705 (Sociology).
Program revisions: B.A. Honours in Political Science/B.A. Joint Honours Component in Political Science/B.A. Major Concentration in Political Science/B.A. Minor Concentration in Political Science /B.A.&Sc Joint Honours Component in Political Science/B.A.&Sc Major Concentration in Political Science/B.A.&Sc Minor Concentration in Political Science
Program revisions: B.A. Minor Concentration GIS & Remote Sensing (Geography).
Program revisions: B.A. Minor Concentration in Canadian Studies/B.A.&Sc. Minor Concentration in Canadian Studies, (MISC).
Program revisions: Major Concentration in IDS/Honours in IDS/Joint Honours Component in IDS/Minor Concentration in IDS, (ISID).
Program revisions: Summary Page/MA in History (Thesis)/MA in History, Development Studies (Thesis)/MA in History, Gender and Women’s Studies (Thesis) - Program retirements: MA in History, Development Studies (Non-Thesis)/MA In History, European Studies (Non-Thesis)/MA in History, Gender and Women’s Studies (Non-Thesis)/MA in History (Non-Thesis)/MA in History, European Studies (Thesis).
New course: HIST 601 - Course revisions: HIST 696/HIST 697/HIST 698, (History and Classical Studies).

Report of the Nominating Committees (A-19-17)

- 509.1 Dean Maioni asked Associate Dean Fronda to present the report of the nominating committee. Associate Dean Fronda explained report , which included a recommendation to revise the terms of reference for the Humanities and Social Sciences Library Advisory Committee (as detailed in A-19-17). After a brief discussion, the Associate Dean **moved** approval of the report, Prof. D. Desrosiers seconded. The **motion carried**.

Report of the Activities of the Arts Undergraduate Society

510.1 The report had been sent electronically. No further update or report was given.

Report of the Arts Graduate Students

511.1 The report had been sent electronically. No further update or report was given.

Members' Question Period

- 512.1 Dean and Associate Deans answered several questions submitted in advance of the meeting, as well as follow-up questions.
- 512.2 The Dean responded to a question about the increase in summer course caps without a corresponding increase in instructor pay or staff. She responded that the Faculty was trying to respond to extraordinary student demand for summer courses during the pandemic, and that the Faculty was making additional funds available to support larger summer courses. The Dean responded to a question about whether instructors with underlying conditions or at-risk family members would be required to teach on-campus in the fall. She responded that the faculty would not make such demands unless the public health situation allowed for it. The Dean responded to a question about concerns over broadband connections for instructors and students for remote teaching especially if the University would teach remotely in Fall and/or Winter term. The Dean agreed that this was a concern. She indicated that there was still much uncertainty about the fall term and winter terms.
- 512.3 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick responded to a question concerning complaints about professors asking graduate students to continue their academic work during the closure. The Associate Dean urged any students with complaints to come to him with them. He indicated that he had been dealing with complaints of this nature since the University went to remote delivery, and most were simply matters of miscommunication and easily resolved, The process is confidential.
- 512.4 Associate Dean Sparks responded to several questions related to financial vulnerability of graduate students during the shutdown and subsequent move to remote delivery. She reported that she had worked continually with GPDS to ask grad students to self-identify as vulnerable (e.g. living alone, have health problems) to set up financial or other support. Regarding additional funding for students, this is based largely on enrolments. The Faculty does not set policies on time extensions; such decisions are made by GPS. Students with external grants who need additional funds because their program was disrupted must ask the external funding agency; the Faculty cannot supplement those programs.
- 512.5 Associate Dean Fronda responded to several questions pertaining to the decision to increase summer course caps and to support those cap increases by providing funding for graders. The Associate Dean responded that the decision to raise caps was made in response to extraordinary student demand in extraordinary circumstances. It was more cost effective to increase caps and pay for graders than to open multiple sections of courses and hire additional instructors. It was also easier to find graders for courses already on the books than to try to find additional course lecturers at short notice. The decision to raise caps and provide extra funding for graders pertained to summer only and had no bearing on the fall

term. The funding for graders in the summer was provided by the Dean extraordinarily and did not come out of the next year's teaching support budget. No department asked for TAs but received graders instead. In fact, departments only rarely hire TAs in the summer since generally the Faculty does not allocate funding for any teaching support in the summer; that is, departments are generally given funding to hire course lecturers only, but are not given additional funding for TAs or graders. Thus the funding for graders this summer was a supplement—no TAs were replaced by graders. Departments determine the rate of pay for graders. Lastly, he responded that the Faculty does not generate any revenue for increased course caps in the summer.

512.6 The Dean responded to several questions related to the impact on the Faculty of various measures taken by the Provost. She indicated that the Provost anticipated as much as a \$30M short fall, which the measures were aimed to address: limit on new hires, new program development mostly limited, merit raises frozen until fall. She indicated that it is unclear yet the full impact of the pandemic and of these measures on the University or the Faculty. When asked about the pay increases of senior administration, she reiterated that these salaries were frozen.

Other Business

513.1 The Dean again thanked all in attendance and announced the planning of a series of town hall meetings to discuss preparations for the fall.

Adjournment

514.1 The meeting was adjourned at 4:17pm.