

FACULTY OF ARTS
Minutes of Faculty Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 13, 2020
Via Zoom

Attendance: As per Faculty Appendix book

Documents: A-19-14, A-19-15, A-19-18, A20-01, A20-2, A20-3

Preface

Associate Dean Michael Fronda instructed the floor on how the Faculty Council meeting was to be conducted remotely:

- Please keep yourself muted unless recognized to speak. The Chat function has been disabled.
- Use raised hand feature to request to speak (preferred) or write questions in chat
- While the Dean or others are speaking, I will monitor the screen for questions along with Richard Courtois’s assistance.
- When I am reporting, I will ask someone else to monitor
- Votes on reports of committees (we have two) will be conducted by poll: I will launch once a move to vote has been seconded
- Non-controversial / procedural motions (e.g. to adopt the agenda) will be conducted by unanimous consensus. That is, once seconded, if no one raises an objection we will assume the motion is carried unanimously. To object, raise your hand or write in the chat. If there are objections, we will vote either by “raise hand” function or by launching a poll in-meeting (if possible).
- I will share my screen at points during the meeting to indicate where we are on the agenda and to show reports or other documents as needed. Most times I will not share screen, so that it is easier to monitor the members, look for raised hand, etc.
- Lastly, we will record the meeting (I will start the recording only after making this announcement) ONLY for the purpose of verifying the minutes. The recording will NOT be archived; it will be destroyed once the minutes have been approved at the next meeting.

Order

The Dean welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance. This was the first Council meeting of the 2020-2021 Academic Year. The meeting was called to order at 3:15 pm.

Agenda

101.1 The agenda was motioned to be approved by Associate Dean Michael Fronda, seconded by Luis Alonso-Ovalle, Chair of the Department of Linguistics. The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

Membership of Faculty Council 2020-2021 (Document No. A20-1)

102.1 The Dean welcomed the new Academic Staff Members to McGill, and congratulated them for either starting or furthering their career here at McGill.

New Arts Faculty Staff

Samuele Collu, Department of Anthropology

Hillary Kael, Department of Anthropology

Marianne Tarcov, Department of East Asian Studies

Quiyu Wang, Department of East Asian Studies

Fernando Saltiel, Department of Economics

Edward Dunsworth, Department of History and Classical Studies

Urszula Krupitski-Madej, Department of Jewish Studies
James Crippen , Department of Linguistics
Islas Tania Weinstein, Department of Political Science
Elissa Berwick , Department of Political Science
Gracen Brilmyer, School of Information Studies
Charles Gyan , School of Social Work
Noelani Arista, Director of Indigenous Studies and faculty member of the Department of History and Classical Studies

Announcements

- 103.1 The Dean announced that the faculty, despite the social isolation and lockdowns the pandemic has caused, has been as productive and as active as ever. The monthly Arts Newsletter has details on all sorts of wonderful achievements and accomplishments, but for the sake of brevity the Dean focused on the Faculty of Arts' success with the appointments and prizes awarded by the Royal Society of Canada and extended her congratulations to: Professor David Wright, Department of History and Classical Studies, and in the Faculty of Medicine was made a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Society. Professors Michel Biron, Département des littératures de langue française, de traduction et de création, was awarded the 2020 Lorne Pearce Medal and Allan Greer, Department of History and Classical Studies was awarded the 2020 J. B. Tyrrell Historical Medal.
- 103.2 The Dean announced the unfortunate passing of former Prof. Mario Bunge, Professor Emeritus (Department of Philosophy), and current professors, Prof. Jarrett Rudy (History and Classical Studies) and Prof. Stéfán Sinclair (Department of Anthropology). The Dean asked that the tributes be read by their respective unit chairs:
- 103.3 Professor Hasana Sharp read the tribute for Professor Mario Bunge who died just at the beginning of the pandemic and extended her appreciation for the lowering of the flag in his honour in February:

“Born to German parents in Argentina, Professor Bunge moved to Canada in 1966, and taught philosophy at McGill University. Prior to this, he had been a professor at Argentina’s National University of La Plata and the University of Buenos Aires. Mario Bunge sustained a prolific research program spanning most of the 20th century, the first two decades of the 21st, and a breathtaking swath of different subjects. He published more than a book a year for nearly 60 years, and more than 400 articles in total. A household name in Latin America, Mario Bunge was most widely recognized as a philosopher of science. While his influence as a physicist and philosopher of science is especially remarkable, his writings comprehend all the major fields of philosophy, from semantics to political theory, on which he published a worthy book shortly after retiring from the McGill Department of Philosophy at age 90. His most significant works include his Philosophy of Science in two volumes (1998) and his eight-volume Treatise on Basic Philosophy (1974-1989). Mario read and wrote widely not only within philosophy but also across the natural and social sciences, and strove to integrate the knowledge gleaned from these

disparate fields. Some of us in the department learned about one of his non-intellectual skills at the farm of our colleague Storrs McCall one Thanksgiving shortly before Mario retired. When Storrs' wife Ann brought out a horse for us to admire, Mario mounted, brought the horse to a full gallop around the corral, pulled up, hopped off, and then turned back to convivial dialogue, both philosophical and otherwise. Mario died February 24th, 2020 at age 100." His wife Marka survived him as well as his children

103.4 The Dean thanked Professor Sharp's reading of the tribute and extended her condolences to the Department and the Bunge Family.

103.5 Professor Jason Opal (Chair, Department of History and Classical Studies) read the memorial tribute for Professor Jarrett Rudy. 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 embraced Montreal and Quebec and had a respect for the tolerance and goodness of Quebecers, even when he disagreed with some of them. He was committed to French as Quebec's public language, worked to publish French-language scholarly works in the series *Studies on the History of Quebec* he co-edited, and served on various francophone committees. Jarrett appreciated the complexities of Quebec society and explored them in the classroom, around the seminar table, and in his research and publications. He was hugely influential in his teaching, supervision of graduate students, and cutting-edge research in cultural history. While a historian, he never confined himself to a single disciplinary silo; Jarrett had been Director of Quebec Studies and an editor of the successful interdisciplinary text *Quebec Questions* with Stéphan Gervais and Christopher Kirkey.*

Jarrett drew upon his enormous energy, view of history, and keen sense of social justice to fuel his activism. It is impossible to separate Jarrett's passion for history, Montreal, and Quebec from his progressive politics. He took to the streets to promote equity, sexual diversity, and gender equality, to fight colonialism, racism, and climate change, and to seek peace during international conflicts. He had a striking maturity; he could criticize and demonstrate against discrimination and ethnic nationalism but he never rejected Quebec. Jarrett was keenly involved in local politics, and in the face of anti-Semitism in Outremont demonstrated support publicly by reaching out to Hasidic neighbours and by dancing in the streets with Hasidic men.

Jarrett was an extraordinarily warm, generous, and happy person. We miss him terribly and I miss him terribly."

- 103.6 The Dean thanked Professor Opal for reading the wonderful and touching tribute. The Dean shared with the floor that she had the pleasure of working with Professor Rudy in the collaboration of a book and used his research on tobacco history in her lectures.
- 103.7 Professor Fernanda Macchi (Chair, Department of Literature, Languages and Cultures) read the tribute on behalf of Andrew Piper for Professor Stéfan Sinclair at the request of his wife Stéphanie Posthumus.

“The Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures notes with sadness the death of our colleague, Stéfan Sinclair. Stéfan died in Montreal on August 20 at age 47.

Stéfan arrived at McGill in 2012 with the charge of building programs in digital humanities. By all measures he far exceeded expectations. McGill now has a graduate program in Digital Humanities, is on its way towards developing an undergraduate minor, and thousands of students have benefitted from his teaching and mentorship in applying computational tools to the study of complex questions regarding human culture.

Stéfan's research focused on the development of computational tools for the study of literature and culture that were designed to be accessible by general users. One of his greatest achievements was the creation of Voyant (<http://voyant-tools.org>), a web-based platform for the digital study of texts. What made Voyant so special was the way it aimed to serve users of all abilities and levels. Stéfan did not see digital text analysis as something for experts and academics only, but a way of thinking that could benefit the general public. Voyant is available in a dozen languages and is one of the most widely used tools on the Compute Canada national research infrastructure with tens of thousands of users per month.

*Stéfan's interest in accessibility and openness when it came to computing perfectly captures his generous nature as a colleague, teacher, and student mentor. In addition to supervising numerous students over the years, Stéfan contributed enormously to the development of the digital humanities both in Canada and internationally. He was a true pioneer of the field, serving as President of the Association of Computers and the Humanities, Vice-President of the Canadian Society for Digital Humanities, and as an editor of Digital Humanities Quarterly. His final book was co-authored with Geoffrey Rockwell: *Hermeneutica: Computer-Assisted Interpretation in the Humanities* (MIT Press, 2016), which received the 2017 Canadian Society for Digital Humanities Outstanding Contribution Award.*

Stéfan is survived by his wife, Dr. Stephanie Posthumus, also a professor in the Department, his two daughters, his sister and his parents. His last days passed in peace at the St. Raphael's palliative care centre, where he was able to be with his family. We mourn the loss of a kind, thoughtful, and caring colleague.”

- 103.8 The Dean thanked Professor Macchi, condolences were extended to Stéphanie and her children, and the department. She then extended condolences to everyone for their loss.

Seating of Student Members :

- 104.1 The Dean introduced the undergraduate and graduate student representatives to the floor and welcomed them

Undergraduate Student Members

Catherina Musa
Rachita Batra
Anaïs Mortazavi Zadeh
Madelyn Evans
Chip Smith
Alex Kurassic
Darshan Dernani
Marilyn Loftis
Anyana Nair

Graduate Student Members

Ozanay Bozkaya
Kristi Kouchakji
Eric Wilkinson

Awards Presentations

- 105.1 The Dean explained that the awards were delayed at being presented due to the pandemic and to not cause any further delay are being virtually presented. The Dean congratulated everyone for their achievements and expressed hope at being able to present these awards in person at a later date.
- a. Arts Award for Distinction in Research
 - i. **Dietlind Stolle (Political Science)**
 - b. Arts Insights Dissertation Awards
 - i. For Social Sciences: **Lou Pingeot (Political Science)**
 - ii. For Humanities: **Sunita Nigam (English)**
 - c. H. Noel Fieldhouse Award for Excellence in Teaching
 - i. **Marjorie Rabiau (School of Social Work)**
 - d. Arts Award of Excellence for Admin. & Support Staff
 - i. **Recipient to be determined at a later date.**
 - e. Arts Award for Graduate Student Teaching
 - i. **Hannah Korell (English)**
 - ii. **Colleen Flanagan (Political Science)**
 - iii. **Jessica Fontaine (AHCS)**
 - f. The Rita and Charles Bronfman Award for Excellence in Teaching

 - i. **David Austin (MISC)**

Minutes (A-19-14, A-19-15, A-19-18)

- 106.1 The Minutes of the Faculty Council Meeting of January 21, 2020 (A-19-14) the Minutes of the Faculty Council Meeting of February 25, 2020 (A-19-15) and the Minutes of the Faculty Council Meeting of April 28, 2020 were tabled.

Due to the retirement of Susan Sharpe who was the Administrative Officer and Recording Secretary of the Faculty Council, the Minutes of the meetings of January 21st, February 25th and April 28th had not been ratified accurately.

The Dean asked for a motion and seconder for the minutes of the three past Faculty Council Meetings.

For January 21, 2020:

Mover: Darshan Dernani (UAS Representative)

Secunder: Marilyn Loftis (UAS Representative)

Approved unanimously

For February 25, 2020:

Mover: Chip Smith (UAS Representative)

Secunder: Alex Kurassic (UAS Representative)

Approved unanimously

For April 28, 2020:

Mover: Darshan Dernani (UAS Representative)

Secunder: Ozanay Bozkaya (PGSS Representative)

Approved unanimously

Business Arising from the Minutes

- 107.1 There was no business arising.

Members' Question Period

- 108.1 The Dean asked that if there are any questions that they be moved to the item of the Curriculum Committee Report.

Actions of Senate

- 109.1 Dean Maioni asked if there were any questions for Senators with regard to the last Senate meeting held on September 22nd. No questions were raised. Dean Maioni pointed out that Associate Dean Lucy Lach would be speaking on the feedback received from students in her Associate Dean's Report.

Report of the Dean

- 110.1 Dean Maioni extended a warm welcome to everyone and was happy to see everyone present. The Dean proceeded to give a recap of events since the last Faculty Council Meeting held in April. She ensured everyone that the Arts community (faculty and staff) was working tirelessly and that the McGill community had the information, guidance and tools needed to complete a successful and safe semester.

Overall, she expressed her appreciation for everyone's concerns and their patience during these difficult times and as the Principal reminded everyone in her message recently, let's not forget how fortunate we are overall and appreciate all the sacrifices made. The Dean gave some important points since April.

- Immediate response to the COVID-19 crisis on March 13th was made with the Associate Deans to map out a strategy, and an emergency meeting of all Chairs and Directors was called.
- Throughout the lockdown, there was clear and consistent communication as the bedrock of our response to students, staff, and faculty, and the Dean reinforced her role to "reinforce and reassure" the Arts community about the University's responses based on the dynamic public health situation
- regular contact with U15 Deans in informal weekly group sessions were held
- regular communications was maintained with all parts of the Arts community as the transition was made to remote delivery at the end of the semester, for remote examinations and assessments, and for the preparations of the fall semester

When it came to Student concerns:

- Associate Dean Lucy Lach worked tirelessly with her team to respond to student concerns, deal with disciplinary fall-out of assessment practices, and organize Faculty Engagement to ensure registrations would turn into enrollments for the Fall; she also contributed to the university-wide efforts on behalf of these efforts through work with the Academic Leadership Planning group lead by Chris Buttle.
- Associate Dean Tabitha Sparks was one of the first to signal the alarm bells with regard to vulnerable graduate students and worked closely with the Dean of Graduate Studies in the efforts to respond to this crisis being faced by vulnerable graduate students across the university.

About Remote Teaching Resources:

- Associate Dean Fronda ensured that substantial resources were made available to all units for increased teaching resources, including summer studies, and tech support for the departments needed to prepare for the Fall semester.
- The Dean and her team worked closely with TLS, to ensure support for remote teaching transition, and also organized faculty-specific workshops led by faculty members
- They also worked with the Arts Undergraduate Society to ensure that funds from the Info-Tech fund could support units for teaching tech support and appreciated the AUS for their help.
- The Faculty of Arts' positive budgetary situation allowed for significant funds to be allocated for graduate support in this emergency context (\$200K +)

Support for New Hires

- Associate Dean Warnick ensured that new faculty members were able to transition to McGill despite considerable challenges; and was obliged to take over the day-to-day management of the Academic Affairs Office due to the serious illness of our Academic Affairs officer. Congratulations also to the new hires and their chairs for their patience in making the transition a successful one despite the challenges.

Final Results

- With the help of the university's senior leadership, the APC and the EOC, 2000 students graduated from the Faculty of Arts in the Winter semester. Enrollment surpassed last year's, and there was a smooth transition to the Fall semester
- A shout out to OASIS overall, a total of 9000 students are enrolled and taking classes. The Faculty of Arts has welcomed 2100 new students with a very robust enrollment this fall. All have adapted to remote delivery through a relatively smooth transition. Student Services and specifically, OASIS, our Student Services unit has also adapted to operating remotely, and is providing remote advising services to the students.

Resumption of on-campus activities

- It was a good start with the resumption of some on-campus activities as Arts professors had access to their offices, and students were able to take advantage of some in-person teaching and learning opportunities
- This situation has now changed due to being in the current Red Alert situation until October 28th
- Thanks and appreciation go to Richard Courtois and Andy Catalano who were directing access concerns and appreciation goes out to everyone for their patience.
- Thanks to the administrative staff for their hard and productive work despite technical challenges and the adjustment of working from home.

The Budget Situation:

- The University is still undergoing a hiring freeze for both administrative and academic positions.
- Exceptions were granted by the Provost's office in order to make some selective recruitment possible in priority areas: two endowed chairs are moving forward this semester in Social Sciences; Diamond-Brown Chair in Democratic Governance and humanities, and the Jarislowsky Chair in Human Nature and Technology.
- A leave replacement position was filled with Marianne Casey who comes from the Faculty of Medicine, as Academic Affairs Officer temporarily replacing Andrew Staples who is currently on Medical Leave. Sarah Huzarski who comes from the Faculty of Law also filled the Communications Officer position which had been vacant for some time.
- There is expected to be some government to university "relief" in the Teaching Assistant budgets which the Associate Deans will raise in their upcoming reports and which Associate Dean Sparks will discuss.
- Updates regarding the budget situation are expected to be given in late November.
- McGill has been able to weather the pandemic storm with the university's leadership, government support, and the support for students.

110.2 Dean Maioni then gave her list of priorities for the 2020-2021 academic year:

Strategic Planning Exercise, led by Associate Dean Lucy Lach

- How to best position faculty for the next challenging years, in teaching and research
- How to better support and organize interdisciplinary programs
- Focus on governance and communications

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (EDI)

- Continue to support the Indigenous initiative, new Director of Indigenous Studies
- Support Anti-Black Racism Plan launched on September 30th
- Support the development of a research centre on Diversity
- Ensure that EDI will be an integral part of all the Faculty of Arts' hiring processes
- Pro-active in contributing to efforts to increase diversity in our student body, particularly with respect to our local communities (racial, linguistic, Indigenous)

Fundraising:

- "Case for Support" roadmap, Bicentennial campaign
- Continue to engage Chairs, research leaders, and academic units in fundraising planning, as well as direct engagement with donors and with Alumni
- Contribute to fundraising efforts on behalf of the New Vic Project
- Redirect donor unrestricted funds and DADF into three "Excellence" funds (graduate support, research support, outreach activities) all of which will be tied to strategic priorities in innovative program renewal and research priorities being directed by Angela Crowley and the Development Team.
- Cundill History Prize, which will be announced December 3rd.

Infrastructure

- Leacock Building Project (the building was built in 1964 but has not been renovated since): to ensure that this essential structure can meet future 21st century student, faculty, research, and administrative needs: this will involve consultations, refinement of a UA strategy, and a feasibility study to be launched in January 2021.

Report of the Associate Deans

Academic Administration and Oversight

111.1 Associate Dean Fronda gave the following report:

Due to the Red Alert announced by the government, effective from October 8th to October 28th, all Arts in-person teaching activities scheduled in the Teaching Hubs have been suspended. In terms of the use of office and other Arts space: the current policy is being maintained, which is to say that requests to use offices will be submitted to and approved by Chairs/Directors. Exception is research involving human participants: these are suspended.

The winter term 2021 programs and courses will be delivered primarily remotely with enhanced in-person teaching-learning activities as was announced earlier this month. Planning for in-person courses/course components is currently underway. More information will be provided in due course.

The University has indicated that additional funds will be provided to Faculties for direct teaching support in Winter 2021 (only). This was announced to the Chairs and Directors in the Faculty. The exact allocation is yet to be decided for Arts (and other faculties), however this is very good news.

Faculty Affairs

- 111.2 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick was unavailable to present a report.

Research and Graduate Studies

- 111.3 Associate Dean Sparks indicated that her updates were mostly COVID related, however, unrelated to the COVID updates, a quite dramatic trend is occurring since last year and continuing this year at McGill and in the U15: the rising numbers in MA applications but falling numbers in PhD applications. This trend will need to be monitored to determine whether adjustments are necessary.

Considering COVID, enrolment overall is good in Arts. At the end of summer there was a wave of deferrals and withdrawals which hit some units hard and others not at all. One adjustment had to be made based on the COVID travel restrictions: International students who had Fall TA-ships as part of their funding packages but were unable to travel to Canada could not TA, and funds needed to be redirected to reimburse them in order to meet the totals of their funding packages. Provisional report from the government is indicating that travel for international students should happen for January and be able to take up their TA-ships. Over the summer, significant funds (unanticipated) were allocated to expense student research who were stuck without any support, thanks to MITACS. This was especially important to students who found themselves stuck without a work Visa and often without other resources.

The McCall McBain program is moving along in the early stages of the first round of applications for students set to begin in Fall 2021. They were not been delayed by COVID. The Faculty of Arts is processing approximately 45 applications from students based at McGill and many more from other Canadian universities collectively but numbers are not yet available.

In-person research requests from faculty members and graduate students are continuing to be received and approved. A reminder that if your graduate student needs to conduct in-person research the supervisor has to apply on his or her behalf. New ones will not be approved during this current 28-day quarantine. Applications are welcomed after this period. Most fit with appropriate COVID precautions and have been able to go through. Associate Dean Sparks indicated that she was willing to answer any questions regarding this matter, off or on-line.

Student Affairs

- 111.4 Associate Dean Lach reported on the massive undertaking for student consultation on their experience for this current term with remote learning. No single student was just going to do a survey or attend a town hall, so a number of mechanisms were implemented to provide their input. The items of concern were:

1. what their number one concern was
2. what was going well
3. what would help make the experience better next term

Information was collected through promos held, and departmental focus groups or town halls. Associate Dean Lach thanked the AUS and greatly appreciated their partnership in this undertaking. Their

partnership was immensely important in reaching out to students about what is working well and what is not. Once the data is collated and analyzed it will be shared with the Chairs and Directors and to the instructors. The report will be given to Chris Buddle who sits on the Academic Leadership Planning Group, where other Associate Deans from other faculties are in attendance to ascertain what the next step will be.

The Strategic Plan update has been rebooted. In February consultation was undertaken with faculty, administrative staff. Consultation was about to be undertaken with students on a drafted mission and value statement for the Faculty of Arts as well as strategic priorities. Work is underway on improving these further as well as producing a report based on data that will be produced in two days on the trends, enrolments, staff, faculty and student ratios. More will be learned from the analysis of this data to determine where the pressure points are. This will be undertaken both in relation to teaching and learning, research, governance, administration and community engagement.

With regard to enrolments, there was concern across the university whether students would defer, not come or take a gap year, that the numbers would be down due to the COVID pandemic. Some did. But unprecedented efforts were made such as orientation sessions with departments and program fairs as well as remote events which had never been done before, that succeeded in having 2100 students enrolled in the Faculty of Arts for September. This was an increase of 100 and based on survey results obtained so far 65% of the students are here in Montreal.

Student Affairs has embarked on providing student advising remotely. It was shown that offering advising remotely gave assistance to more students and in much more sophisticated ways. Associate Dean Lach was very happy to report that so far things are on track.

- 111.5 Dean Maioni thanked the associate deans for their reports and their hard work during the pandemic. The Dean thanked Associate Dean Sparks especially for her convincing prose to encourage donors to redirect some of their funding to graduate students in need and expressed additional thanks to Associate Dean Lach and the team at OASIS referring to the Principal's message on finding silver linings – advising remotely is one of them.

Reports of the Committees (A20-2)

112.1 Report of the Nominating Committee

Associate Dean Fronda asked the floor if everyone had reviewed the Report and whether there were any questions. He then moved for the approval of the Nominating Committee Report through a Zoom poll. The poll indicated: 34 approved 0 were against and 12 abstained. The Report was carried and approved.

Report of the Curriculum Committee (A20-3)

- 112.2 The Curriculum Committee resumed regular meetings this Semester under the revised terms of reference. Associate Dean Fronda thanked the Committee for their hard work and for adapting to the remote context so easily. The Curriculum Committee approved a number of new courses, course

revisions and course retirements as indicated in the Report of the Curriculum Committee, as well as some minor revision to the East Asian Studies honours and joint honours programs (as outlined below).

The report also includes the large dossier of the revised program proposal for a new degree Masters of Arts & Science and associated new course proposals. By way of reminder, this proposal was introduced to Council last winter term. The proposed program is a joint effort between Arts, Science and GPS, and is in response to a University initiative to develop interdisciplinary MA programs.

The Curriculum Committee vetted the documents thoroughly; discussion was positive, and the vote was unanimous in favor of approval.

The report contained the following proposals:

- i. Program revisions: B.A. Minor Concentration GIS & Remote Sensing (Geography). M.A. & Sc. – new program proposal;
- ii. DLTC – new course proposal;
- iii. East Asian – Joint Honours and Honours program revisions, new course proposal;
- iv. Linguistics – new course proposals;
- v. Max Bell School of Public Policy – new course proposals.

- 112.3 Associate Dean Fronda introduced Nick Dunn, Academic Program Officer for the Faculty of Arts and motioned for Nick Dunn to have speaking rights. Chip Smith seconded the motion and the motion was moved by consensus. Nick Dunn informed the floor that he was ready to respond to any questions that the floor may have regarding the proposals to be approved in the Curriculum Committee Report submitted (outlined in Document 20-3).

Question period:

- 112.4 Note: PGSS submitted a list of questions which were approved by consensus to address the report of the curriculum committee.

1. Are the reasons behind switching the document formatting to PDF portfolio from the past format of simple PDFs purely technical? Some devices can no longer open/preview the new format.
Answer: *With the retirement of Susan Sharpe, the recording secretary for Arts Council and the Curriculum Committee (among other committees) the Chair of the Curriculum Committee proposed making some changes to facilitate distribution and archiving of documents. The Curriculum Committee must process dozens of documents (separate electronic files) at every meeting, which are often submitted in a variety of formats and chaotically named. Grouping the documents into dossiers (PDF portfolios) offers several advantages: the documents are organized and can more easily be referred to and crosschecked when looking at related forms, there are fewer files to distribute by email, and archiving of documents is also easier. The use of PDF portfolios was “test run” with the curriculum committee, and members unanimously preferred the format. PDF portfolios can be read by Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available for free. There is also a free mobile app version that allows the portfolios to be read on iPad, and a mobile version for Android devices. No significant obstacle to accessibility is anticipated, however individuals who have trouble*

accessing the portfolios should contact the recording secretary of the appropriate committee to obtain files in a different format.

2. The proposed curriculum for the MASC program lists no courses specifically on race, gender, sexuality, disability, class, or other grounds on which data-science technologies have discriminated against individuals and groups in the past. Will addressing discrimination on such grounds be an overall part of the curriculum and built into the entire approach, in particular the prosems, or be treated as distinct units in the courses proposed?

Answer: *It must be kept in mind that this program will likely not be delivered for another two or three years. We appreciate input on potential topics to be addressed in the courses taught in the program, though it is ultimately up to the instructor offering a course to decide what they will teach. The issues you flag are noted, however, and will be referred to the program proposers.*

3. The MASC program proposes an introductory bootcamp that may be “mandated in certain cases.” Will students attending these bootcamps, mandatory or otherwise, be required to pay additional fees? If so, at what rates? Moreover, especially in light of the recent example of difficulties faced due to COVID, what material, financial, and logistical support will be available to such students, if any?

Answer: *Introductory bootcamps are offered in other programs; they may occur during the first week of term, and students are not assessed additional fees. These are put in place specifically to ensure continued success of students. Fees are determined by university policies.*

4. Will all students in this program benefit from scholarships or other support from the McCall McBain Foundation?

Answer: *Some students in the program may be McCall-McBain scholars, however presumably not all students in the program will necessarily be McCall-McBain Scholars.*

5. For students missing prereq courses listed in the MASC curriculum, will there be opportunities to take one of these courses in the term preceding their entry into the program? Furthermore, provided such opportunities are available, can incoming students take such courses or their equivalent in consultation with a MASC advisor in the school closest to their location if no online McGill courses are available?

Answer: *The program description will be publicized (e.g. on the website). It will be assumed that students will ensure that they have the necessary prerequisites (which are not specific McGill courses, but rather refer to acquired knowledge, as shown by equivalent course content on syllabi).*

6. Several consultation documents list some objections to the framework. In light of the comments of the BIOE and PSYC consultations, how will the MASC program and involved departments handle student capacity in specific courses in the framework? If student enrollment in a course is capped for MASC students, how will the program guarantee reasonable accommodation for students that are unable to enroll in capped courses in line with the proposed curriculum? More specifically, will programs that maintain these courses be forced to expand the course capacity to accommodate MASC students, and what impact would this have on the educational value and quality of these courses and programs?

Answer: Such enrolment restrictions are very common, especially in high enrolment programs. Offering units cannot be “forced” to raise caps. This is why interdisciplinary programs usually identify a wide range of complementary courses, to ensure students can complete the program.

7. In light of the comments from BIOL, what alternatives do program directors propose to address issues with courses that are no longer offered regularly by a specific department? Additionally, noting the comments from ANTH, what alternatives do the directors propose if course content changes sufficiently enough that a given course is no longer relevant to the MASC program?

Answer: As with any interdisciplinary program at the grad or undergraduate level, the MASC program advisor and/or program advisory committee will need to monitor the complementary course list, and add and delete courses as appropriate.

8. What is the process of feedback incorporation in relation to the various consultations that the preliminary work has carried out? How are suggestions handled and implemented?

Answer: Approval through the different University committees is the first step. A dossier is then prepared for assessment of academic quality for the Bureau de cooperation interuniversitaire (the first step beyond the university in the provincial approval process. The rich feedback is incorporated into the dossier which provides 40-50 pages for a detailed analysis of the program.

9. Will the instigators of the proposal extend consultations to the student body? More specifically, do they intend to consult rising BASC undergraduate students, for whom the program seems chiefly intended, and other rising undergraduate in the Arts and Science faculties with interdisciplinary interests? If such consultation occurs, how do they plan to incorporate the suggestions and feedback they receive?

Answer: We will have focus groups/surveys with the BASC undergraduates to address the interest in this program, and the need for such a program. This forms a required part of the dossier building.

10. Finally, if members of the Curriculum Committee would like to make the information public, were there any votes against the proposed program during the October vote? What were, if any, points of contention?

Answer: There were no votes against the proposal. There were no points of contention or disagreement.

112.5 Professor Fernanda Macchi informed Associate Dean Fronda that the consultation for the LLC new course – Initiatives of Humanities, was not signed. This form was overlooked and will be returned to Professor Macchi for signing.

112.6 Nick Dunn answered additional questions concerning the course proposals. In summary, Associate Dean Sparks responded to the concerns by informing the floor the programs are being done in good faith. The Provost is making this happen. No departments will be depleted and there is lots of interest in these programs with pages and pages of consultation. So with good faith Associate Dean Sparks is requesting that this important endeavor be continued.

- 112.7 Katherine Lu asked whether the exact vote totals for motions recorded in the Minutes had been recorded. Associate Dean Fronda answered that while the vote totals from the April 2020 meeting had been recorded on Zoom, they were not recorded for the other meetings. The tradition in Arts for many years has been not to record the exact vote totals but only to note whether a motion was carried or not. He verified this checking through Council minutes going back several years. It was decided to follow the same practice for the April 2020 meeting. However, going forward more attention could be paid to the precise votes.
- 112.8 Further concerns were also voiced as to what the working relationship would be like between Arts and Science faculty and whether there is any donor involvement. The Dean pointed out that there is no donor involvement with this proposal - that this is purely an Academic Program.
- 112.9 Associate Dean Fronda reiterated that the proposal was looked at very closely. It was scrutinized and closely vetted with detailed consultation by both Nick Dunn and Tabitha Sparks.
- 112.10 Associate Dean Fronda motioned to approve the proposal. Ozanay Bozkaya seconded the motion. However, a proposal was made to divide the question in two; one motion for the Report and one for the MASc Program proposal.
- 112.11 A motion was made by Ozanay Bozkaya to split the report and to have unanimous consent. Due to an objection, the raising of hands was implemented. Responses received were 45 no and 13 yes. The motion on splitting the report was not carried.
- 112.12 Associate Dean Fronda motioned for a vote to approve the Curriculum Committee Report en bloc with Chip Smith seconding. The poll was launched with the following results: 28 for, 1 against with 9 abstentions. The Curriculum Committee Report was approved.

Report of the Activities of the Arts Undergraduate Society

- 113.1 Anyana Nair reported on behalf of the AUS and mentioned items that were relevant to Council. With the Infotech AUS Peer tutoring program, a lot of emails were received concerning the increased workload. The Arts Employment Fund applications are out. The Laptop Landing program in collaboration with the Faculty has been suspended. Returns are being processed and work is underway in transitioning the operations for 2021. Frosh was successful.
- 113.2 The Dean thanked Anyana for the report and extended her appreciation to the AUS for their work over the summer in getting the Fall Semester ready.

Report of the Arts Graduate Students

- 114.1 Kristi Kouchakji gave the report and mentioned items that were relevant to Council.
- Thompson House is closed until the end of the month: All in-person events organized by PGSS are now cancelled through October 28th inclusively, and PGAs have been instructed to do the same .

- Many committee vacancies are available i.e., for the Faculty Council, Equity Committee, University Affairs Special etc. Therefore if faculty are talking with students who are looking to connect with their peers please direct them to the “Get Involved” section of the PGSS website.
- Students who received travel grants from PGSS in the spring can defer their travel; please direct students in this situation to the PGSS website for details.
- Conference funding applications will only be considered for virtual events, not for actual travel to or attendance at in-person events. The deadline for the next round of funding is December 1st, for events taking place between January 1st and April 30th.
- Orientation, which was largely held online, was a success.
- Upcoming events include a bread baking workshop with Colin Asunsion (runner-up on the Great Canadian Baking show), a series of absolute beginner intro to ballet classes, and a dialogue lecture series featuring distinguished speakers entering in dialogue with McGill grad students on topical issues, all taking place over zoom.
- The Environment Committee reading group will begin meeting at the end of November. Interested parties should email environment.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca for details.

114.2 The Dean thanked Kristi for the report and the PGSA for all the work that has been done, the commitment made to graduate students to keep that part of life alive and kicking.

Other Business

115.1 The Dean expressed her appreciation for everyone’s engagement, and for the best turnout in many months. With no further business, the Dean declared the meeting adjourned.

Adjournment

116.1 The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 pm.