



Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Council held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. via the Zoom Conferencing Application.

SECTION I – INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

1. Welcoming Remarks

The Interim Dean and Chair, Dr. Mary Hunter, welcomed everyone back to campus and addressed the challenges of returning to campus during a pandemic. For those looking for accommodations, there are three main ways: HR are overseeing accommodations with Instructors. The Interim Dean is working closely with the Provost regarding those with vulnerable dependents. Associate Dean Manuel Balán oversees accommodations with the students through the OSD and the Dean of Students.

In the Faculty of Arts, there have been around 7-10 instructors who have asked for accommodations. Those asking for accommodations for vulnerable dependents and partners has been around 5. The Chair encouraged members to reach out if there are any questions or concerns or feel that anyone (instructors or students) is not being helped through the 3 modes of accommodation.

The Dean's office offered additional funding to departments/schools/institutes for more RLAs (Remote Learning Assistance) and tech funding to assist instructors with the recording of their classes. The assistance will remain open on a rolling basis.

The Chair thanked everyone again for their help and patience last semester and especially for this semester during these turbulent times.

Quorum was achieved. The meeting was called to order at 3:07 pm.

2. Announcements

The Chair called upon Professor Jacob Levy, Chair of the Department of Political Science to the floor to read the memorial tribute for Professor Emeritus Michael Brecher who passed away on January 16th.

Michael Brecher

March 14, 1925 - January 16, 2022

It is with great sadness that we announce that Michael Brecher, BA class of 1946, R.B. Angus Professor of Political Science, Emeritus, Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, passed away peacefully in his sleep on January 16, 2022, at his home in Montreal, at 96 years of age. He had retired from McGill and taken emeritus status only in 2021, after an astonishing 69 years on the University's faculty, which is apparently the longest such service in the University's history.

As a scholar of international relations, Michael Brecher was a unique intellectual force. He began his doctoral study on India's foreign policy and Kashmir in 1951, just three years after India's independence and a decade before most of North American political science began to make serious efforts toward the study of India or indeed most of the newly independent states of the world. Both his book on Kashmir and his subsequent political biography of Nehru were among the earliest and most influential such works in political science. And he went on to help found the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute in 1968, promoting scholarly exchange between the two countries.

Later in his career he turned to the study of Israel and international relations of the Middle East, and to the general problem of international crises and conflicts. Through this extraordinary decades-long career, he combined intellectual virtues in a distinctive way, becoming a specialist in two very different regions, and remaining committed to studying individual decisionmakers, discrete historical moments of crisis, and particular countries as well as the broader theories of war and conflict. In 1975 he founded the International Crisis Behaviour Project, which continues today to promote the study of international crises in part by collecting and providing the most comprehensive data about them.

He authored, coauthored, and edited 30 books throughout his career, including a three-volume retrospective of his "Intellectual Odyssey" and reflections on the state of his fields of greatest interest published by Palgrave Macmillan 2016-18. His many scholarly contributions were widely honored, including with Rockefeller, Guggenheim, and Killam Fellowships, McGill's Fieldhouse Prize for Excellence in Research and Award for High Distinction in Research, the Lifetime Achievement Award, American Political Science Association's section on Conflict Processes, the presidency of the International Studies Association, and Quebec's Leon-Gerin Prize for the Human Sciences.

Michael was a native Montrealer who graduated from and then, after receiving his Ph.D. from Yale, returned as faculty to McGill's then-unified Department of Economics and Political Science. When he came back the department as a professor he joined his brother Irving as a colleague and indeed for some years as an officemate. When the department split into two, Michael became a founding member of Political Science and Irving of Economics, and they remained avid conversation partners in the decades to come. In the new Department of Political Science, Michael was a critical figure in the crisis of 1968, and a fierce defender of academic freedom when it was under threat.

Michael was a committed teacher, mentor, and advisor to students, many of whom went on to distinguished academic careers themselves, and many of whom collaborated with him on work in one or another of the research agendas he did so much to define.

Early in his early work in Israel he met Eva Danon. They were to be married for 54 years until her passing in 2004. He is survived by his three daughters: Leora Brecher, Diana Brecher and Seegla Brecher, and their husbands Steven Finestone, Eric Robbins and Yossi Dayan. He is also survived by his two grandsons, Adam Finestone and Kobi Finestone, and Kobi's fiancée Emily Millar.

We convey our profound condolences to his family and our deep gratitude for his decades of contributions and service to the discipline, to the department, and to McGill.

The McGill flag will be lowered to half-staff in his memory on February 16.

The Chair thanked Professor Levy for giving the Memorial tribute and commented on its thoughtfulness.

3. Guests and Speaking Rights

No requests were received to speak and no requests to speak were made at the meeting.

4. Approval of the Agenda (A21-22)

The Chair moved for the Agenda to be approved. Francisco Ruge-Murcia motioned and Daniel Béland seconded the motion. The motion was carried and the Agenda was approved unanimously.

5. Approval of the October 26th Minutes (A21-16) and the November 23rd Minutes (A21-23)

The Chair moved for the Minutes of the October 26th Faculty Council to be approved. Daniel Béland and Trevor Ponech seconded the motion. The motion was carried and the Minutes of October 26th Faculty Council Meeting was approved unanimously.

The Chair moved for the Minutes of the November 23rd Faculty Council to be approved. Rine Vieth and Eugenio Bolongaro seconded the motion. The motion was carried and the Minutes of November 23rd Faculty Council Meeting was approved unanimously.

6. Business Arising from the October 26th and November 23rd Minutes

There was no business arising.

7. Question submitted in advance.

The Chair introduced PGSS Representative Rine Vieth who presented the following question to the floor on behalf of the PGSS:

”Given the School of Social Work's decision to shift to remote teaching, and subsequent backtracking due to administrative pressure: how is the Faculty of Arts supporting our colleagues in the School of Social Work and their decision to shift to a particular model for W22 that meets the School of Social Work's pedagogical and safety needs?”

The Chair thanked the PGSS representative for asking this question. Faculty members and instructors in the School of Social Work are supported with the same accommodations as other departments and units in the Faculty of Arts. The Chair verified with the Director of the School of Social Work that students who are unable to attend are offered remote options.

SECTION II – REPORTS

8. Report of the Interim Dean – Dr. Mary Hunter

The Chair was happy to announce that in addition to the Communications Officer who began this past summer, a new communications associate has been hired.

The floor was opened for any questions or comments. There were none.

9. Report of the Associate Dean of Administration and Oversight, Professor Michael Fronda

The Associate Dean announced the coming retirement of Savy Marino, Operations Manager for the Faculty of Arts, on Friday January 28th. The Associate Dean commended Ms. Marino for her many years of service, noting that her invaluable knowledge and experience in operations and space management has been invaluable for the functioning of the Faculty. The Associate Dean also announced that Andrea Gore has been hired as Operations Manager.

The Associate Dean solicited questions pertaining to his portfolio.

B. Trehearne raised a concern regarding loud jack-hammering related to street repairs on Dr. Penfield that disturbed his 8:30 class, and asked if the University has made or can make an arrangement with the city to schedule street-work so as not to interrupt classes and as to whether there are any special arrangements as to when this type of construction can be done or not done.

Associate Dean Fronda confirmed that no special arrangements have been made. In general, the city does not schedule street work around classes, though sometimes arrangements can be made to minimize interruption of final exams. The work on Dr. Penfield was to have been completed over winter break and during the first weeks in January when courses were delivered remotely. Unfortunately, delays have resulted in street work during in-person classes.

Associate Dean Fronda assured B. Trehearne that Andrea Gore, the new Faculty of Arts Operations Manager, will try to find further information.

10. Report of the Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, Professor Tabitha Sparks

The Associate Dean began her report by expressing sincere appreciation to Professor José Jouve-Martin who took on the many diverse and unpredictable tasks in this role as Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies while she was on leave for the past six months (from June to December) and how easy Professor Jouve-Martin made it for her to transition back to handling this portfolio.

Part of this transition is a long list of awards presented to Faculty members in the Faculty of Arts. Congratulations to all the awardees. A more complete description will be included in the next Arts newsletter.

Michel Biron:

Professor Biron has been awarded the **2021 Prix Acfas André-Laurendeau** for his knowledge, quality of research and expertise throughout the academic community. The gala will be held on March 16, 2022.

Delphine Collin-Vézina:

Professor Delphine Collin-Vézina was awarded the following for her international conference/symposium: <https://tourismexpress.com/nouvelles/trois-scientifiques-remportent-un-prix-de-10-000-chacun-pour-l-organisation-de-congres-internationaux-a-montreal> .

Prize name: *Soutien à l'organisation de congrès internationaux du Club des Ambassadeurs du Palais des congrès de Montréal et des Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ).*

Name of the symposium : Symposium canadien 2022 sur le trauma chez les enfants et les adolescents

Jessica Coon and Janine Metallic:

Professors Jessica Coon and Janine Metallic were this year's finalists for the Connection Impact Award.

Isabelle Daunais:

Professor Daunais was shortlisted for the Governor General Award in the Literary category: "Catégorie essais" for *La vie au long cours. Essai sur le temps du roman (Boréal, 2021)*.

Silvia Goncalves:

Professor Silvia Goncalves has just been named **Fellow of the Journal of Econometrics**, a prestigious award in the field of econometrics that is awarded after achieving four article publications in the Journal, with co-authored ones counting as a fraction based on the number of co-authors. In addition, each year that Professor Goncalves's served as an associate editor since 2019 counted as half a paper. The initial announcement with the first round of fellows appeared in Vol. 41 (No.2) 1989 and the names are published in annually in one of the issues of the journal.

Hillary Kael:

Professor Hillary Kael has been awarded **the 2021 Schaff Prize from the American Society of Church History**, a leading organization in the history of Christianity in North America since 1888. It's their top prize given to the best book on the history of Christianity by a North American scholar. The book is entitled *Christian Globalism at Home: Child Sponsorship in the United States* (Princeton 2020) <https://churchhistory.org/asch-awards/asch-prizes-2021/> . The awards ceremony is scheduled to be held in New Orleans this month.

Lorenz Lüthi:

Prof. Lorenz Lüthi received the **Humboldt Research Award** "in recognition of his accomplishments in research and teaching". This prize is awarded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation to senior researchers who have had a significant impact on their discipline and beyond. Prof. Lüthi's work focuses on the history of post-1945 international relations, particularly in the socialist world and in the emerging decolonized world. His first, prize-winning book *The Sino-Soviet Split* was published by Princeton University Press in 2008. His most recent book, *Cold Wars: Asia, the Middle East, Europe* was published with Cambridge University in March 2020. Based on archival research on four continents, this book provides a new interpretation of the Cold War from the perspective of smaller and middle powers in three major world regions and addresses the long-term political, economic, intellectual and religious developments that continue to shape the world to this day.

Amélie Quesnel-Vallée

Professor Amélie Quesnel-Vallée was awarded \$148K as part of a \$1.3 million grant funded by CIHR to investigate impacts of vaccine hesitancy, health-care shortages, work-life imbalance for children, youth, and families in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Her project title is *Le conflit travail-famille comme déterminant social généré de la santé mentale des parents et des enfants suivant la pandémie COVID-19*. https://reporter.mcgill.ca/1-3-million-to-understand-and-alleviate-impacts-of-the-pandemic-on-children-youth-and-families/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=wn_Dec14_ENG&utm_source=whatsnewstaff&utm_term=%242-million-boost-for-varsity-b .

Judith Szapor

Professor Judith Szapor was awarded a fellowship at the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. for next term.

Associate Dean Sparks has been focused on the annual allocation of graduate funding to the Arts Units. The package was received from GPS in December and the funds have now been distributed. We are in decent shape this year. Efforts to restructure the funding structure has resulted in positive results: \$400K more in recruitment funding. However, Canadian PhD student recruitment is continuing to decline whereas the MA Thesis and Non-Thesis programmes are growing and are both at full capacity in most units.

The floor was opened for questions and comments. There were none.

The meeting was placed on transcription mode for those who are having difficulty following the meeting via video.

11. Report of the Associate Dean of Student Affairs, Professor Manuel Balán

The Associate Dean reported the following:

OASIS and Advising

- Since the beginning of January there were over at the front office, 1,000 on-line advising appointments and over 2,000 emails.
- OASIS will be offering limited in-person advising as of February 7th – at the counter by appointment only.
- The following COVID Accommodation forms were received in Arts – 100 requests so far in January – a mix of students who can't arrive and those who are in Montreal.
- As a comparison, 200 requests were received in December and 46 in November.
- We have a new Academic Study Away Work Group in Arts. The Group started meeting on January 24th.

Submission of Final Grades: Appreciation was extended to all those who submitted their final grades for classes on time. The Chairs and Directors have been reminded of how important it is to adhere to the deadline. Reminders are underway to insist on the urgency to submit the grades in April-May.

Please note that the late submission of grades can prevent students from graduating, from receiving their scholarships, from getting paid, and from being able to register. It can affect their immigration status, not to mention that staffers have to enter them manually. These can all occur when grades are submitted past the deadline.

Deferred exams: exam season last December was quite busy and intense, and resulted in about 1,000 deferred exams between Science and Arts (a bit more than half are from Arts). This number is on par with pre-covid times (2019), with the very important caveat with up to 1000 deferrals were received with 1/3 of the total final exams that were offered in previous years. This means that March break will be very busy with the deferral of exams.

Many instructors are choosing to not conduct in-person final exams. That was already the case last term. There is a possibility that this downward trend will continue this term.

The Committee on Student Affairs has been very busy this year. A new policy has been passed for dealing with e-flagging requests. This week the approval of a new readmission policy will be discussed, another policy on exceeding credits is being worked on as well as the discussion of the supplemental exams policy and S/U grades.

Accommodations for students:

- Short term accommodation Form (COVID related) which is available on the COVID website.
- A new protocol to provide accommodations for students with chronic illnesses with implications related to COVID-19. This is managed through the Office of the Dean of Students and OSD. Students can go through the Minerva form or directly to OSD.

The University and recently the Faculty of Arts are providing additional support for instructors to help them set up their classes in a way that supports students who might need to be absent. Support means that the Faculty and the University are working with instructors to set this up, and support means also that funds have been made available to purchase tech equipment (microphones, cameras, etc.) to facilitate recording lectures, even those that are in-person in classrooms without recording systems. Instructors are being asked to put measures in place to avoid a situation where a student who misses class on account of illness falls behind. This can include live Zooming in the classroom or recording, but it can also include other measures (e.g., some Faculty's are hiring student note-takers for their units and instructors).

Lecture recordings are ultimately up to instructors There is also an initiative to support online synchronous participation (not hybrid, but an approximation), which provides in-person classes the possibility to have students participate remotely if there are incidental absences: not the same experience as being in the classroom, but something that can help with some absences here and there.

As is always the case, the University will uphold its commitment to student-centered learning and to ensuring that students are reasonably accommodated on account of illness or disability.

The floor was opened for questions and comments. There were none.

12. Report of the Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs, Professor David Wright.

The Associate Dean had nothing specific to report. Due to the confidential nature of the portfolio, it is not possible to give an in-depth report but is happy to take questions. The Associate Dean took this time to extend his thanks and appreciation to the Chairs and Directors for their ongoing support and collegiality.

The floor was opened for questions and comments. There were none.

13. Nominating Committee Report, Associate Dean David Wright (A21-17)

Associate Dean David Wright informed the members that approval is needed for updating the policy that was passed in 1971. The revision also aligns with the wider process of governance review in the Faculty of Arts, which includes revisions to several committee mandates and the ongoing work of the Governance Working Group. The revised Terms of Reference are included in the report of the Nominating Committee (A21-17).

Associate Dean David Wright continued by thanking Professor Fronda for the update and referred to p. 19 of the document outlining membership recommendation.

The floor was opened for questions and comments. There were none.

Professor Wright then moved for the Nominating Committee Report to be approved. Eugenio Bolongaro seconded the Motion.

The Motion was put to a vote. The voting results were: 53 in favour, 0 against and 2 abstentions.

14. Governance Group Working Report – Associate Dean David Wright and Associate Dean Michael Fronda (A21-24)

Associate Dean Fronda introduced a completed draft of revised Terms of Reference for the Arts Faculty Council (A21-24). He provided background on the Working Group and its activities over the past year and briefly summarized the document. He indicated the goal to bring a final draft of revised Terms of Reference to Council for approval by the end of the academic year.

Associate Dean Wright added that the Working Group had put considerable effort into the draft. He encouraged the Council members to read the document if they had not done so already, and to provide feedback to the Working Group.

The floor was opened for questions and comments. There were none.

15. Curriculum Committee Report of November 23rd, Associate Dean Michael Fronda (A21-19)

Associate Dean Fronda introduced the Curriculum Committee Report originally submitted to Council on November 23, 2021.

Associate Dean Fronda moved for approval of the Report. Professor Daniel Béland seconded the motion. The floor was opened for questions and comments. There were none.

The Motion was put to a vote. The motion carried and the report was approved: 46 in favour, 1 against and 3 abstentions.

16. Curriculum Committee Report, Associate Dean Michael Fronda (A21-25)

Associate Dean Fronda introduced the Curriculum Committee Report of January 15, 2022, which included typical submissions, a large dossier pertaining to the proposed Faculty Program BA Population and Global Health, a large dossier pertaining to the transfer of McGill Writing Centre courses from School of Continuing Studies to the Faculty of Arts.

Associate Dean Fronda moved for approval of the report. Professor Daniel Béland seconded the motion.

The floor was opened for questions and comments.

R. Vieth asked if the Department of Anthropology would offer more graduate courses to support the recently revised MA programs in Anthropology. The Associate Dean called on Professor Peter Johansen to provide more background on the Anthropology program. Prof. Johansen confirmed that the department plans to develop and offer more graduate courses.

Prof. F. Amodio and Associate Dean M. Balàn asked about the resources implications to the Faculty of adding a new program in Population and Global Health Program, given the Faculty's limited resources, for example, in the area of advising. Associate Dean Fronda pointed out that the Curriculum Committee vetted the program multiple times, including close attention to the proposed budget. This is a joint program with the Faculty of Medicine and most of the resource burden will fall on the Faculty of Medicine who are very satisfied with the final result. Professor Lucy Lach commented that the proposal to give the program two co-directors was arrived at based on past experience with inter-faculty programs, which benefit from leadership from both faculties.

R. Vieth asked for an update on Curriculum Committee's mandate to develop recommendations for remote teaching guidelines, per the motion passed at the November 23, 2021 Council. Associate Dean Fronda confirmed that the motion and mandate were discussed briefly at both the December and January meetings of the Curriculum, which were very busy meetings due to the backlog of course and program proposals requiring approval. The mandate will be a focus of the Curriculum Committee throughout the winter term. For the present, the Faculty of Arts is adhering to guidelines on remote teaching for Winter 2022 approved in Senate.

The Motion was put to a vote. The motion carried: 37 in favour, 3 against and 4 abstentions.

The Curriculum Committee Report was approved.

17. Report of the Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS), Christina Rajkumar (A21-26)

A member of the AUS Executive presented the following report:

Activities

- SNAX is back January 31st coffee
- Arts Undergraduate Improvement Fund is coming up!
- Work Your BA virtual
- Note-taking given in Coursepack Project

Advocacy

- A lot of questions received regarding In-Person Exams
- N-95 masks available for Arts students
- Survey About Winter 2022
- A town hall meeting was held last week to answer questions and concerns about in-person learning.

The Chair thanked Christina Rajkumar for presenting the report and expressed her appreciation

to all the Executive for their help.

18. Report of the PGSS (A21-27)

PGSS representative Rine Vieth presented the following report:

Announcements:

1. Thomson House is currently closed. The PGSS staff and executive are available via email.
2. The PGSS 2022-2023 General Election is coming up! 6 executive positions are available. Interested candidates must collect 50 signatures of PGSS members by the end of the nomination period on February 9, 2022 at 12:00pm.
 - a. The election timeline, nomination form and further information are available here: <https://pgss.mcgill.ca/en/elections>.
3. PGSS has suspended in-person social events and excursions for the time being. A number of virtual events are planned for January and February:
 - a. Book Club on February 8: <https://pgss.mcgill.ca/en/event/1046>.
 - b. Virtual Trivia Nights on January 27, February 10 and February 24: <https://pgss.mcgill.ca/en/event/1014>.
 - c. Language Cafe on January 21, January 28, February 4 and February 11: <https://pgss.mcgill.ca/en/event/1020>.
4. Graduate students looking to get more involved with PGSS or the University are encouraged to apply to be part of a committee. The application form and a list of committee vacancies are available on this page: <https://pgss.mcgill.ca/en/get-involved>.
5. The next deadline for the PGSS Travel Award program is March 15, 2022. Events taking place between May 1, 2022 and June 30, 2022 are eligible. Students can apply for up to \$1000 in funding.
 - a. For more information please visit: <https://pgss.mcgill.ca/en/pgss-travel-grants>.
6. Post-Graduate Student Associations (PGSAs) and student groups may apply for funding for events through the PGSS grants program. Applications are due on the 15th of each month. Groups may apply for up to \$1200 in funding.
 - a. For more information about the PGSS grants program please visit: <https://pgss.mcgill.ca/en/pgss-grants>.
8. N95 Masks have been ordered. For any graduate students that would like to receive them please see Kristi Kouchakji.

Updates:

1. Winter 2022 Leisure courses will begin on January 17. Available courses include French Levels 1-5 and Spanish Levels 2 and 4. All courses are being delivered virtually via Zoom.

2. The Internal Affairs Committee has organized a number of virtual events and information sessions for new students as part of Winter Orientation, including: health insurance information sessions with Student Care and International Student Services, a Know Your Rights information session with the Legal Information Clinic and trivia nights and language cafes.

The floor was opened for questions and comments. There were none.

19. Other Business.

Graduate Student Eric Wilkinson asked to return to the discussion raised earlier during the Report of the Curriculum Committee, concerning the motion to mandate the Curriculum Committee to recommend to Council guidelines for remote teaching. He asked what guidelines were adopted from the Senate Ad-hoc Committee, and why these were adopted by Arts without approval in Council, and whether this contradicted the motion affirming Arts autonomy with respect to the delivery of its programs and courses.

The Chair pointed out that the Ad-hoc Committee recommendations were discussed with chairs and directors between the Senate and the Holidays. Associate Dean Manuel Balán reported that the guidelines were for the future and that much planning for the Winter semester took place in the summer and early in the fall.

The Chair thanked everyone for their comments and offered to review documentation to determine what process was followed.

20. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chair fared everyone well and reminded the members to please contact her if there are any questions.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

END

The complete documents, including presentations at the Faculty Council, are kept as part of the official minutes.

