



Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Council held on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. via the Zoom Conferencing Application.

SECTION I – INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

Welcoming Remarks

The Interim Dean and Chair, Dr. Mary Hunter, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Chair informed the members that items to be approved and voted on would be deferred until a quorum was achieved. The meeting continued as it was outlined in the Meeting Agenda.

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm.

1. Announcements

The Chair called upon Professor Francisco Ruge-Murcia, Chair of the Department of Economics to the floor to read the memorial tribute for Professor Ngo Van Long who passed away on January 15th.

Ngo Van Long, Professor, Department of Economics

We are very sad to share the news that our dear friend and colleague Professor Ngo Van Long passed away from acute myeloid leukemia on January 15th, 2022. He passed away peacefully in Montreal surrounded by the love of his family: his spouse Kim, his son Bach, his daughter Chi and her partner Eric and his granddaughter Bambou.

Professor Long was born in Vietnam in 1948 and moved to Australia to pursue his higher education. He started his academic career at the Australian National University, joined McGill in 1989 as a Full Professor and since 2003 was a James McGill Professor. He made significant and lasting contributions in several areas in economic theory, including natural resource economics, environmental economic theory, industrial organization, game theory and dynamic games. From the start of his career, he attacked some of the most pressing societal issues related to the scarcity of resources and environmental policies, their impact on economic development and growth, both in a national and international context. His work contributed to the development of the theoretical tools to deal with intertemporal constraints in economic theory arising from resource scarcity. He pioneered the extensions of dynamic economic theory to cover strategic interactions and game theory. A nonexclusive list of the societal challenges that his research agenda addressed includes the sustainability of resource use, the transitioning to clean energy sources, sustainability of climate agreements, intergenerational equity, transmission of social norms and fostering cooperation. He has served on the editorial boards of 16 scientific journals including the most influential in his areas of interest. He published 8 books and more than 190 articles in the top general journals in the discipline such as *Econometrica*, the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, the *Journal of Economic Theory*.

Professor Long will be remembered as a most humble, gentle, kind, and generous colleague. More than 80 scholars from all around the globe had the privilege to have him as a co-author, and to many he was an exceptional and inspiring mentor. He would never point to a mistake made by his co-author or by a speaker in a seminar, but rather ask if a given approach is sound, or ask for clarification. Since his doubts would inevitably end-up being founded, one can't help but assume he knew all along that he was right.

Long will be missed by us all.

The Chair thanked Professor Ruge-Murcia for giving the Memorial tribute.

2. Guests and Speaking Rights

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

3. Approval of the Agenda (A21-28)

The approval of the Agenda took place after quorum was achieved and the Curriculum Report was approved.

The Chair motioned for the Agenda to be approved. Michael Fronda moved and Brian Trehearne seconded the motion. The motion was carried and the Agenda was approved unanimously.

4. Approval of the January 25th Faculty Council Minutes (A21-29)

The approval of the Minutes took place after quorum was achieved and the Curriculum Report was approved.

Once quorum was achieved, the Chair motioned for the Minutes of the January 25th Faculty Council to be approved. Shelley Clark moved and Daniel Béland seconded the motion. The motion was carried and the Minutes of the January 25th Faculty Council Meeting was approved unanimously.

5. Business Arising from the January 25th Minutes

The Chair asked Associate Dean Michael Fronda to present to the floor updates on the street repair work being conducted on Dr. Penfield.

Associate Dean Fronda gave the members further information in follow up to the issue raised at the last meeting by Prof. B. Trehearne regarding the jack-hammering that caused the disruption of the class he was teaching.

He confirmed that the University has no negotiating power during the school year with the City of Montreal regarding street repairs. The current street repair work was to have taken four weeks but is not expected to be completed before February 25th. There will also be another phase of construction (destruction of a retaining wall) that will be undertaken between May and July of this year and will be disruptive. Street repair work will also resume in November but is not to be as disruptive.

Concerns were raised by two PGSS representatives as to the proposed street work repairs scheduled for May as there will be 200 level courses scheduled to be taught by first time graduate student instructors in the Arts and Leacock Building at that time. Suggestions were given as to whether the classrooms can be moved to another building away from the construction noise or whether to advise the Course Lecturers to be on the radar for this possible disruption.

Associate Dean Fronda informed the PGSS representatives that there is a recommendation that class scheduling in Arts, Ferrier, and Leacock be avoided in the summer. He will be following up with the University further regarding this matter and indicated that an update will be given in the next Business Arising at the next meeting.

The Chair acknowledged the concerns from the PGSS representatives and reiterated that Associate Dean Fronda will be following up on the matter.

SECTION II – REPORTS

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

The Chair reported the following:

The Interim Dean expressed her appreciation to all those who were involved with Black History Month. There were some outstanding speakers invited. She was also greatly appreciative of the faculty members in Arts who gave their time to give lectures on Black History at McGill and outside the academic community.

For the second year in a row, the Provost Office has given the Faculty of Arts \$25,000.00 towards anti-black racism initiatives. The Interim Dean has set some of these funds aside for the Arts Internship Office to provide internships for undergraduates working in this area. The Interim Dean has also set aside funds towards the Dean of Arts Development Fund for initiatives such as Black Studies, Indigenous Initiatives and any other initiatives and encourages applications. The next deadline is February 28th.

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 reported the following:

The University is planning to loosen restrictions for events and extra-curricular activities as of February 28th, following as per the pre-COVID protocols.

More information is to come.

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

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

The Associate Dean reported that they are in the middle of application and admissions season. It is going very well so far. The GPDs and GPCs are working hard. Associate Dean Sparks was

pleased to report that the rate of confirmation is higher than last year.

There are four upcoming Awards with a deadline of Friday, March 11th. They are the following:

Distinction in Research Award – Senior Scholar Category – one nomination per department is allowed.

Fieldhouse Award for Distinguished Teaching – nominations must be from a fellow faculty member and a student of the nominees, past or present.

Dissertation Awards – one for the Humanities fields and one for Social Sciences Awards for dissertations granted in 2021.

Teaching Assistant Awards – a reminder that anyone can nominate a TA or Course Lecturer. Nominations are low for this category and therefore should not be overlooked.

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

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

The Associate Dean reported the following:

With regards to COVID accommodation forms, there were 160 forms submitted in January. For the month of February, as of February 21st there have been 100 forms submitted, a slight decrease from last month.

The deadlines for graduation are very tight – exams will be held until the end of April and all graduation files need to be completed by May 18th. Associate Dean Balán reminded everyone that their cooperation in submitting the grades on time will be greatly appreciated.

As a member of the Working Group on New Models of Academic Delivery, the work is proceeding according to schedule. After the Winter break, a process of consultations will begin through Faculty Council and through the Departments to obtain feedback.

The floor was opened for questions and comments.

PGSS Representative Rine Vieth expressed appreciation for the hard work being done on this initiative and encourages consultations with the disabled instructors, teaching staff and students as their feedback is valuable.

Professor J. Levy announced that quorum was achieved if things need to be called for votes. The Chair asked as to whether the items tabled in the Agenda can be presented out of order. No objection to this move was given. The Chair then asked for Associate Dean Fronda to present the Curriculum Committee Report. Once the Curriculum Committee report was approved, the Chair proceeded with the motions of approving the Agenda and Minutes.

Associate Dean Wright's report was followed directly afterwards.

12. Curriculum Committee Report, Associate Dean Michael Fronda (A21-30)

Associate Dean Fronda introduced the Curriculum Committee Report to the members. The report consists of recommendations for minor course revisions and new courses.

Associate Dean Fronda motioned for the approval of the Report. Prof. Jacob Levy 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: 42 in favour, 0 against and 4 abstentions.

The Chair then informed the floor that the items for approval (Agenda and Minutes) were to be promptly moved and seconded.

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

The Associate Dean did not have anything to report but was happy to answer questions.

The floor was opened for questions and comments but none were received.

14. Report of the Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS), Adin Chan (A21-31)

AUS President Adin Chan presented the AUS report to the members as it was submitted.

The floor was opened for questions and comments.

A comment was made that there seemed to be a shortage of coffee available. The AUS President was asked to notify the Interim Dean should there be any issues with the supply of coffee. The AUS President responded by saying that a new water pipe in the SNAX facility needs to be installed – something that he would be investigating into further.

The Chair thanked Adin Chan for presenting the report.

15. Report of the PGSS (A21-32)

PGSS representative Kristi Kouchakji presented the PGSS report to the members as submitted.

N95 masks are now available. Up to 3,000 of these masks have been distributed. They have them in sizes from kids to adults and advised faculty to let their students know. These masks are available for everyone.

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

The Chair thanked Kristi Kouchakji for presenting the report.

16. Other Business.

PGSS Representative Kristi Kouchakji raised the matter of hearing reports from SIS that instructors are being really good on accommodations for on-line lectures whether they be through recordings or through Zoom but that there are struggles with getting accommodations for in-person assessments.

The Chair pointed out to the PGSS representative that this matter should be discussed outside the Faculty Council venue and suggested that an on-line meeting be set up. The SIS Chair, Professor Kimiz Dalkir, invited Kristi Kouchakji to contact her to discuss this matter in more detail.

Associate Dean David Wright reminded the members to read and give feedback on the governance document, Terms of Reference for the Faculty Arts Council, that he and Associate Dean Fronda have been working on. The document was circulated at the January 25th meeting. Plans are to have the document finalized for approval by the end of the academic year in time for the last Faculty Council meeting in May.

A query was made as to whether the drafted Terms of Reference could be shared with graduate students. Associate Dean Wright will make the document available.

17. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the Chair wished everyone a good week and adjourned the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:39 p.m.

END

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