



Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Council held on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. via the Zoom Conferencing Application.

SECTION I – INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

1. Welcoming Remarks

Associate Dean Michael Fronda welcomed everyone to the meeting. Due to an emergency, Interim Dean Mary Hunter did not attend and asked Associate Dean Michael Fronda to chair the meeting on her behalf.

Some absences were announced:

Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs, Professor David Wright was unable to attend due to a Faculty Review Board Meeting that could not be rescheduled.

Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, Professor Tabitha Spark's attendance was delayed.

Associate Dean Michael Fronda announced that quorum was not achieved, and therefore the meeting continued for information only.

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

2. Announcements

Associate Dean Michael Fronda called upon Professor Isabelle Daunais, Chair of the Département de littérature de langue française, de traduction et de création to read the memorial tribute for Professor Emeritus François Ricard. The tribute will also be read at the next Senate Meeting on April 19th and the McGill Flag will be lowered at half-mast on that day.

François RICARD (1947-2022)

François Ricard a été professeur au Département de langue et littérature françaises de 1971 jusqu'à sa retraite, en 2009, année où il a été nommé *Emeritus Distinguished James McGill Professor*. Né en 1947, il est décédé à Montréal le 17 février 2022. Après avoir complété une maîtrise en lettres françaises ici même, à l'Université McGill, en 1968, il avait obtenu un doctorat de 3^e cycle de l'Université d'Aix-Marseille (1971).

Le domaine de spécialisation de François Ricard était la littérature québécoise, plus spécifiquement l'œuvre de la romancière Gabrielle Roy. Il fonde avec la professeure Jane Everett le *Groupe de recherche sur Gabrielle Roy*, qui publie plusieurs textes inédits ou oubliés de la romancière tout en formant un grand nombre d'étudiants et d'étudiantes. La formation d'étudiants était d'ailleurs au cœur de toute la recherche universitaire de François Ricard et il était réputé pour être un mentor inégalable. Au cours de ses 38 années à McGill, il a supervisé plus d'une cinquantaine de mémoires de maîtrise et de thèses de doctorat.

Parallèlement à ses travaux de recherche, François Ricard s'engage très tôt dans la vie littéraire québécoise, d'abord comme chroniqueur dans des revues et à la radio de Radio-Canada, puis comme éditeur, notamment aux Éditions du Boréal, où il crée et dirige, jusqu'à son décès, la collection « Papiers collés », qui accueille quelques-uns des essais les plus importants qui ont été écrits sur le Québec et la société québécoise.

C'est toutefois à titre d'essayiste que la présence de François Ricard au sein de la vie intellectuelle québécoise aura été la plus marquante. Dès le milieu des années 1970, il devient membre du comité de rédaction de l'influente revue littéraire *Liberté*, avant d'en assumer la direction de 1980 à 1986. Cette collaboration lui permet de révéler un rare talent d'observation et d'écriture. En 1985, il publie un premier recueil d'essais, *La littérature contre elle-même*, récompensé par le prix du Gouverneur général. Ce recueil sera suivi par trois autres: *Chroniques d'un temps loufoque* (2005), *Mœurs de province* (2014) et *La littérature malgré tout* (2018).

En 1992, il publie *La Génération lyrique, essai sur la vie et l'œuvre des premiers-nés du baby-boom*, qui s'impose comme l'une des plus brillantes synthèses littéraires, sociales et politiques sur les années 1960-1980. En 1996, il publie *Gabrielle Roy. Une vie*, biographie de la romancière, là encore aussitôt saluée comme une œuvre majeure et comme un modèle du genre. François Ricard, enfin, était internationalement reconnu pour ses travaux sur les romans de Milan Kundera, dont il a édité les œuvres dans la prestigieuse collection « Bibliothèque de la Pléiade » des éditions Gallimard.

La force de l'œuvre de François Ricard tient à son intelligence et son acuité. À ces qualités d'attention et de perspicacité s'en ajoute une autre, non moins importante : une éthique, un sens de la mission et de la valeur dont il n'a jamais dévié tout au long de sa carrière. Celle-ci a été récompensée par de nombreux prix, notamment le prix André-Laurendeau de l'ACFAS (2005), le prix Killam (2009) et le prix Athanase-David du Gouvernement du Québec (2018). Il avait également été fait, en 1997, Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Québec.

Tous ceux qui l'ont connu se souviendront de lui comme d'un homme à l'intelligence vive, profondément attentif et généreux.

Emeritus Distinguished James McGill Professor François Ricard taught in the Department of French Language and Literature from 1971 to 2009. Born in 1947, he passed away on February 17, 2022, in Montreal. After completing a Master's degree in French literature at McGill in 1968, he obtained a doctorate from the University of Aix-Marseille (1971).

François Ricard's field of specialization was Quebec literature, more specifically the work of the novelist Gabrielle Roy. Together with Professor Jane Everett, he founded the *Groupe de recherche sur Gabrielle Roy*, which edited several of the novelist's unpublished or forgotten texts while training a large number of students. Accompanying students in their intellectual journeys was at the heart of François Ricard's academic research and he was known as an unsurpassed mentor. During his 38 years at McGill, he supervised over fifty master's and doctoral theses.

From early in his academic career, François Ricard was also involved in the Quebec literary scene, first as a contributor to literary journals and on Radio-Canada radio, and then as an editor, notably at Éditions du Boréal, where he created and oversaw, up until his death, the "Papiers collés" series, which includes some of the most important essays ever written about Quebec and Quebec society.

However, it is as an essayist that François Ricard's presence in Quebec's intellectual life has been the most significant. In the mid-1970s, he joined the editorial board of the prominent literary journal *Liberté*. In 1980, he became its director, a position he held until 1986. His numerous contributions were key in the honing of his rare talent for observation and writing. In 1985, he published his first collection of essays, *La littérature contre elle-même*, which won the Governor General's Award. It would be followed by three others: *Chroniques d'un temps loufoque* (2005), *Mœurs de province* (2014) and *La littérature malgré tout* (2018).

In 1992, he published *La Génération lyrique, essai sur la vie et l'œuvre des premiers-nés du baby-boom*, which stands out as one of the most brilliant literary, social and political syntheses of the period from 1960 to 1980. In 1996, he published *Gabrielle Roy. Une vie*, a biography of the novelist, which was again immediately hailed as a major work, and a model of its kind. François Ricard was also internationally recognized for his work on the novels of Milan Kundera, which he edited for Gallimard's prestigious "Bibliothèque de la Pléiade" series.

The strength of François Ricard's work lied in its intelligence and acuity. To these qualities of attention and insight can be added another, no less important: an ethic, a sense of mission and value from which he has never deviated. In the course of his career, François Ricard received numerous awards, including ACFAS's André-Laurendeau Prize (2005), the Killam Prize (2009) and the Athanase-David Prize, awarded by the Government of Quebec (2018). He was also made *Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Québec* in 1997.

All those who knew him will remember him as a man of keen intellect, and a deeply caring and generous teacher and colleague.

Associate Dean Michael Fronda thanked Professor Daunais for reading the memorial tribute and accepted the tribute under the assumption that it was unanimously received by the Council. He expressed his condolences on behalf of the Faculty Council members to the friends and family of Professor Emeritus, François Ricard.

Associate Dean Michael Fronda then called upon Professor Elizabeth Elbourne of the Department of History and Classical Studies to read the memorial tribute for Professor Emeritus Myron Echenberg. The tribute will also be read at the next Senate Meeting on April 19th and the McGill Flag will be lowered at half-mast on that day.

(Note: Confirmation was received after the meeting that the tribute would be read at the May 11th Senate Meeting and the flag would be lowered at half-mast on that day).

Myron Echenberg (1940-2022)

Myron Echenberg, who died on January 27, 2022 in Mexico of complications from Covid, was a seminal historian of West Africa and of the social history of medicine.

Myron Echenberg was born in 1940 to Leon and Anne Echenberg in Sherbrooke, Quebec. Québec's Eastern Townships retained lifelong importance to him, as did the French language. In 1959 he began his enduring association with McGill University as a student in History and Political Science. After an MA, also at McGill, he moved to Madison, Wisconsin to become one of the first PhD students in that university's pioneering African history program, initially part of Comparative Tropical History. At the very first departmental get-together for foreign students

Myron met Eva Neisser, who would become his lifelong partner. He returned to McGill in 1969 as assistant professor in the Department of History, initially teaching both African and Latin American history. He played a crucial role in building the presence of African history in Canada and in combatting its frequent marginalization in Canadian universities. A central figure in the early days of the Canadian Association of African Studies, founded in 1970-71, he became its President in 1986. In 1972 he became co-editor of the *Canadian Journal of African Studies* and would retain a life-long association with the journal. Throughout his career he mentored many emerging researchers in African history. It is typical of his concern with mentorship that Myron and Eva endowed the Eva and Myron Echenberg Arts Internship award for a McGill student upon his retirement.

Myron's first book was *Colonial Conscripts: The Tirailleurs Sénégalais in French West Africa, 1857-1960* (Heinemann, 1991). Foregrounding the lived experience of African soldiers and making a seminal contribution to the social history of war, it won the Herskovits award of the Association of African Studies, as that year's best book in African studies. Myron also made major contributions to the social history of medicine. In *Black Death, White Medicine: Bubonic Plague and the Politics of Colonial Health, 1914-1945* (Heinemann, 2001), he explored the devastating interactions of colonialism and disease. In 2007, he published his important comparative study of the social impacts of plague, *Plague Ports: The Global Urban Impact of Bubonic Plague between 1894 and 1901* and in 2011, *Africa in the Time of Cholera: A History of Pandemics from 1917 to the Present*. All of Myron's work on the social history of medicine had much to say about how racism and economic inequality shaped the direction and impact of pandemics: lessons surely pertinent to our current circumstances. Myron's last book *Humboldt's Mexico: In the Footsteps of the Illustrious German Scientific Traveller* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2017) combined historical research with a guided tour of the places the German naturalist Alexander von Humboldt visited in Mexico in the early 1800s, reflecting Myron's deep connection with Mexico. Myron also assisted with a history of the Echenberg family, over sixty of whom emigrated from Ostropol in what is now Ukraine, to Sherbrooke, Quebec: *The Echenbergs of Sherbrooke and Ostropol: A Tale of Two Shetls*

Myron was a very important figure at McGill, where he worked until his retirement as Emeritus Professor in 2008. He chaired the Department of History (now History and Classical Studies) from 1987 to 1990. A brilliant and beloved teacher, he influenced generations of undergraduate and graduate students. Myron contained multitudes: a keen sportsman who completed cross-country ski marathons in ten different countries; an enthusiast of the history of Québec's Jewish community; a lively raconteur. He will be remembered as a mentor, generous colleague and beloved friend. He leaves his wife Eva Neisser Echenberg, their children David and Margo, and the myriad of people whose lives he touched.

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Associate Dean, Michael Fronda thanked Professor Elbourne for reading the memorial tribute and accepted the tribute under the assumption that it was unanimously received by the Council. He expressed his condolences on behalf of the Faculty Council members to the friends and family of Professor Emeritus, Myron Echenberg.

3. Guests and Speaking Rights

Associate Dean Michael Fronda motioned for the Speaking Rights to be extended to Claire Guyatt, a Bachelor of Arts and Science undergraduate students who along with Associate Dean Manuel Balán and Professor Paul Yachnin was invited to attend to assist with presenting and

answering questions on the presentation of the University Working Group on New Models of Academic Delivery.

The motion was moved by Professor Jacob Levy and seconded by Associate Dean Manuel Balán. The move was accepted with unanimous consent. The speaking rights were extended to Claire Guyatt.

4. Approval of the Agenda (A21-33)

Associate Dean, Michael Fronda asked for some minor changes to be made to the agenda to accommodate the absence of Associate Dean David Wright whose report will be presented in his absence and will be combined with the AD Report for Administration and Oversight. As well, the presentation of Associate Dean Tabitha Spark's report would be presented upon her arrival.

The motion was moved by Associate Dean Manuel Balán and seconded by Professor Eugenio Bolongaro. The agenda was amended.

5. Approval of the February 22nd Faculty Council Minutes (A21-34)

As quorum was not established, the minutes could not be approved. Their approval will be deferred to the next Faculty Council Meeting scheduled to be held on April 26th.

6. Business Arising from the February 22nd Minutes

The Council had requested in the previous meeting that Associate Dean Michael Fronda present to the floor further updates on the street repair work being conducted on Dr. Penfield.

The following update was given:

Operations Manager, Andrea Gore has been meeting with the University, the scheduling team and the city. The city has adjusted the work schedule so that it has delayed work through the Exam Period to the end of April. The University has also asked that the work not begin at the beginning of May as it conflicts with the University's plans for the bicentennial celebrations. If the road crew remains on schedule, it is anticipated that the work will take a month but be very noisy. The remaining work on the retaining wall will be less intrusive. The scheduling team is therefore looking for alternative locations for 19 summer courses. With the retirement of Leslie Chalmers at Scheduling, her replacement is meeting with facilities and the University to try to have further discussions with the city. Note that the city will only make concessions for the Final Exam period.

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

SECTION II – REPORTS

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

Due to the Interim Dean's absence, no report was given.

8. Reports of the Associate Dean of Administration and Oversight, Professor Michael Fronda

Associate Dean Michael Fronda reported the following:

There will be an election for Senate Representatives. Four slots are available to represent the Faculty of Arts. More than enough nominations were received for the Senate positions prompting the Faculty to hold an election. A poll will be held, and an announcement will be sent soon as the deadline to submit the names to the Senate Secretary is April 14th.

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

Associate Dean Michael Fronda reported the following on behalf of Associate Dean David Wright:

Kudos was extended to the faculty and kudos, especially to the chairs and directors. There was a very productive Nominating Committee Meeting held where there was an appeal made to Chairs and Directors for names of colleagues suitable for various committees which received a very strong response. There is therefore every confidence that a full slate of nominations will be received to fill all the committees at the next Faculty Council meeting which Associate Dean Fronda encouraged everyone to attend in order for a quorum to be met. The April meeting will have a number of voting items, including the Council validating, verifying or ratifying the nominations from the Nominating Committee for the Standing and Ad Hoc Committees of the Faculty for next year.

There will also be elections for the Nominating Committee. Associate Dean Wright will be sending out a notice shortly. There are 3 or 4 of the 7 members whose terms are up for election. Note that this is the only committee in the Faculty of Arts that is chosen by election.

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

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

Associate Dean Manuel Balán reported the following:

With regards to COVID accommodation forms, there were 150 forms submitted in February and 330 COVID accommodation forms submitted in March. The numbers are not indicative of cases exclusively but a combination of symptoms, cases, and exposure. Associate Dean Balán was pleased to report that all have been answered and responded to, and that instructors have been providing accommodations.

He also wanted to take the opportunity to highlight how the current context of accommodations has been challenging not only for the students and the instructors, but also for staff across the Faculty. Student-facing staff at both Faculty and Departments tend to be the recipients of a lot of the frustration and exhaustion amongst us. As the staff have been working very, very hard, Associate Dean Balán wanted to take this opportunity to go officially on record to recognize them for their work, and to thank them for all the efforts they have made and continue to make during this stressful time.

The final exams are scheduled as planned. The covid accommodation form will be active throughout the final exams. There is good news in that there are far fewer final exams scheduled to be held in person. This indicates that instructors are choosing other types of assessments for their final examinations.

Associate Dean Balán is asking for everybody's help and cooperation to make the final grade

process as smooth as possible. An email will be sent out to remind everyone about the absolute grade submission date (May 9th) and to remind instructors that if their class does not have a final exam to please submit the graduating student grades as soon as possible. This makes it easier for the Undergraduate program advisor, advisors and staff to prepare everything for graduation as the process must be finalized as soon as the final grade is received. Associate Dean Balán is appealing, therefore, to the instructors to submit their final grades as soon as possible.

If there are difficulties meeting this deadline, please communicate with the OASIS team as soon as possible.

Finally, there will be a Q&A Session on Graduation for staffers and instructors who are involved. It will be held on March 31st from 2:00 – 2:45 p.m.

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

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

Associate Dean Tabitha Sparks reported the following:

An announcement was just released referring to a program organized through Canada and run at McGill through the Office of Graduate Studies. There seems to be two categories:

1. Students who would be entering a graduate program, and their processing time (two weeks).
2. Students from Ukraine who are already registered as graduate students. They would come here as a trainee rather than a student taking classes.

It is a fairly comprehensive program. Associate Dean Sparks is asking those who are interested to contact her for more information. She will be ascertaining whether the announcement has been put on the GPS website.

With regard to admissions, based on the latest statistics received from GPS, the applications for our programs in Arts are down quite a bit. As of Friday, however, confirmations were over the target. Note that there is always a drop-off between confirmations and enrollments. These statistics are ahead of where things were last year thanks to the efforts of the Graduate Program Directors who have worked tirelessly in a currently unpredictable market. Associate Dean Sparks expressed her appreciation for their hard work. On a positive note, Arts is the leading faculty for confirmations at this moment in time.

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

12. Report of the Working Group on Governance (A21-35)

Associate Dean Michael Fronda reported the following:

The documents submitted for this meeting, specifically pages 10-17 are a recirculation of the Faculty of Arts Terms of Reference. Two previous draft versions were circulated to counsel for feedback and discussion over the last couple of months, with some small but not very substantive corrections. There were some additional corrections and tweaks made based on the feedback received to the current draft. One more section (Section 3.3 on page 13) still needs to be tweaked. The version submitted for feedback and discussion is more or less the final

version.

If the document is amenable to this Council, after discussion, a notice of motion will be distributed soon after this meeting to give people plenty of time to prepare and to bring this for ratification at the next Faculty of Arts Council meeting. Presumably, the document will be approved and would come into effect once Senate confirms it. Associate Dean Fronda has contacted the Secretariat to determine what the timeline will be. There may also be further recommendations once the new Dean arrives.

Appreciation for their hard work and support goes out to Jane Everett and Brian Cowan and the students for their positive feedback.

The floor was opened for questions and comments.

There were comments regarding the adoption of Robert's Rules. It was pointed out that although Robert's Rules has been the status quo it has been rarely used constructively and therefore should not be used at all as its adoption would diminish the openness of this meeting.

PGSS Representatives Kristi Kouchakji and Rine Vieth spoke in favor of retaining Robert's Rules (RRO). They pointed out that although RRO can be challenging to master, they become easier to use with familiarity. PGSS has an in-house expert on Robert's Rules and offers training to their new reps at the beginning of the governance year. PGSS is happy to coordinate a training session for those who are interested in familiarizing themselves with Robert's Rules. Creating a one or two-page cheat sheet would be very helpful. The Rules have been very helpful in a positive way where Robert's Rules allows the participants their rights to speak respected and has also been effective in PGSS meetings when discussing sensitive topics. Based on experience, at McGill, Robert's Rules seems to be the rule framework that best helps the meeting be equitable for everyone. Elizabeth Elbourne also spoke in favour of RRO.

Associate Dean Fronda thanked members for the comments and feedback about RRO. He agreed that whichever procedural order is adopted, the Council Secretary will need to be well-versed in the rules, in running an orderly meeting, and in making sure accurate minutes are taken and distributed in a timely fashion. He reminded the Council that the proposed procedures include a review process: should RRO prove ineffective, they could be replaced with a subsequent review and revision to the Council terms.

13. Report of the Working Group on New Models of Academic Delivery (A21-36)

Associate Dean Michael Fronda introduced Associate Dean Manuel Balán to the floor to present the Faculty Council a report on the University Working Group on New Models of Academic Delivery.

Associate Dean Manuel Balán thanked Associate Dean Michael Fronda and introduced Professor Paul Yachnin and Claire Guyatt as colleagues who along with him have worked to create information on what the Working Group consists of and its mandate.

A PowerPoint presentation was given outlining the current trends related to academic programs and their delivery. The purpose of the working group is to issue recommendations for the future of academic program delivery and design, in consultation with the McGill community. Associate Dean Balán gave the composition of the group and explained its mandate. At the end of this process, a report is to be drafted to give priorities and develop pathways for

implementation.

The floor was opened for questions and comments.

Comments were expressed concerning the needs of disabled students and instructors. It was hoped that consultation would extend to community members with disabilities and that disabled students should have a voice and membership in the working group. Some of the points raised in the comments included how to create a framework that centers on disability; what is that framework of knowledge and how to implement accessible remote learning. There were also concerns about program delivery and requests for more resources to be made available for students, in terms of TA hours. There were concerns raised regarding the autonomy of academic units and questions about whether this was a top-down initiative from upper administration.

Professor Darin Barney asked the following questions:

1. Where is the impetus coming from? Did it come from units? Did it come from faculties, or did it originate somewhere else?
2. How was the Working Group membership established and according to what criteria?
3. What is the role of the Working Group in the implementation of the proposed changes?
4. What is a more direct manner that might be used for reviewing existing programs and existing priorities beyond the regular cyclical review process and other peer review processes that we engage in based on our shared governance model?

Associate Dean Balán responded to the questions and appreciated all the feedback given to date and urged the members to not hesitate to send more comments and feedback either to him, Professor Yachnin or to Claire Guyatt.

Professor Paul Yachnin concluded the discussion saying that it's very important to understand that the working group is an opportunity at the end of this pandemic to think again about what we're doing and how we're doing it. Professor Yachnin shared with the Council that he joined because he is very interested in how pathways can be created for interdisciplinary teaching and research.

14. Report of the Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS), Adin Chan (A21-37)

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

The floor was opened for questions and comments.

Associate Dean Michael Fronda asked Adin Chan as to when his official duties as AUS President would end. Adin Chan responded by saying that his term will end on April 30th.

Associate Dean Michael Fronda thanked Adin Chan for presenting the report and that he was looking forward to seeing him at the next Faculty Council meeting on April 26th.

15. Report of the PGSS (A21-38)

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

Associate Dean Michael Fronda thanked Kristi Kouchakji for presenting the report and asked if she will still be with the Faculty Council for at least another Council meeting as well as Rine

Vieth and the other PGSS representatives. Kristi replied that the representatives are on different term dates but at least one representative will be attending.

16. Other Business.

There was no other business to discuss.

17. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Associate Dean Michael Fronda thanked everyone for attending and reminded everyone to attend next month's meeting where a quorum would be needed.

Associate Dean Michael Fronda motioned for the meeting to be adjourned. The motion to adjourn was moved by Professor Brian Trehearne and seconded by Associate Dean Manuel Balán.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

END

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