



Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Council held on Tuesday, May 24, 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 and pointed out that this was the last meeting of the academic year. The Chair welcomed new members to the Faculty Council, Dr. Yvonne Hung, Director of the McGill Writing Centre and her colleagues Professors Dr. Mehdi Babaei and Professor Ross Sundberg.

In addition, a warm welcome was extended to the graduate students who have been awarded graduate prizes and to the new AUS Executive.

Quorum was not achieved. The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m.

2. Announcements

The Chair invited Professor Tabitha Sparks, Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies to read the citations and present virtually the following graduate awards.

Associate Dean Sparks thanked everyone for attending saying that it would have been nice to do this in person to properly celebrate all of those who were awarded.

For the 2022 Dissertation Award in Humanities, there was a tie. The award goes to both Michael Gollner from the School of Religious Studies and Felix Fuchs from the Department of English.

School of Religious Studies

Michael Gollner's thesis, *The Descent of Scripture: A History of the Kāmikāgama* offers a critical reception history for a major Hindu scripture that remains central to Śaivasiddhānta (Pronounced: **Shave-a sin-tanda**), the dominant religious community in South India focused on the worship of the god Śiva. It is the first sustained study of the textual history and evolution of such a text. Based on extensive philological and historical research on Sanskrit and Tamil primary sources he offers a compelling account of this text and the complex processes by which such texts become scripturalized. Michael is currently an Instructor in the School of Religious Studies.

100 words

Department of English

Felix Fuchs' thesis, *Novel Fictions: Realism in the Age of Neoliberal Globalization*, focuses on novels, reportage, and ethnographies by iconic contemporary South Asian anglophone authors. He contends that realism is a means through which historical processes are represented in light of their social significance and shows how these authors deploy the realist aesthetic not only to

depict the experience of neoliberal globalisation in South Asia, but also to articulate a critique of the violent ways it restructures lives and life worlds. Felix currently teaches in the Departments of English and Continuing Education at Vanier and Dawson Colleges.

For the 2022 Dissertation Award in Social Sciences, the award goes to Katherine Strand from the Department of Anthropology.

Department of Anthropology

Katherine Strand's thesis, *How to Make the Desert Bloom: An Ethnographic and Historical Account of Dryland Agriculture Within Palliser's Triangle*, is an ethnographic and historical exploration of industrial dryland grain farming in southwestern Saskatchewan. Her letter of nomination describes it as a phenomenal investigation on the historical interaction between agricultural science, public policy, state making, and local practices in the Palliser's Triangle, and as a work that has opened a new window on how to understand the formation and transformation of the socioecological systems of the prairies. Katherine is currently an Individualized Study Tutor in Anthropology at Athabasca University.

Associate Dean Sparks invited the council members to join her in congratulating Michael Gollner, Felix Fuchs and Katherine Strand and added that not only did they write award-winning dissertations, but they did so in the window of the pandemic working under extraordinary circumstances. In addition, it is also a testament to these dissertations that the majority of the judges for the prize this year have requested to serve on the committee again. Associate Dean Sparks extended her appreciation to the judges as she is often in the role of filling the committees and this does not usually happen.

The Teaching Assistantship Prizes have been awarded to Aqsa Ijaz from the Institute of Islamic Studies, Jeffrey McCrossin, from the School of Social Work and Sophie Schoenberg from the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures.

Aqsa Ijaz has been a course lecturer for 4 years, teaching Urdu-Hindi at every level, from Introductory to Advanced. She provides strategies for her students to grasp the rules of grammar, learn to use the present tense, and frequently-used vocabulary for specific topics. She cements these basics via various mnemonic devices and then focuses on strengthening students' phonetic training, complemented by rigorous conversation sessions which are mandatory for every student. The result is that students are able to engage in full-fledged conversations within their first few weeks of studying the language.

Jeffrey McCrossin is a course lecturer for a required undergraduate practice class in social work. He has expanded the options available for the experiential exercises to ensure that a variety of contemporary issues can be addressed and has made significant contributions to the readings selected for the course, adding a higher representation of readings and video clips each of which focuses on different ways of knowing, being, and doing social work. In all his teaching, he creates an exciting and vibrant dynamic that combines didactic methods of teaching with experiential and reflective elements that support student engagement and learning.

Sophie-Marie Schönberg has taught German language courses, and 200 and 300 level literature courses in LLC. She is also part of the Student Learning and Development Team at Teaching and Learning Services. In the German literature course, Sophie rose to the challenge of leading students in a meaningful discussion of complex literary texts in a foreign language they are still actively working to master. In all her teaching, Sophie cultivates an atmosphere of collaboration

in the classroom, seamlessly weaving in suggestions and input from the students so that the discussions both accomplish her learning outcomes and center around students' interests.

In addition, please congratulate these faculty members for having been awarded the following:

To Professor Wendell Nii Laryea Adjetej for having been awarded the 2022 H. Noel Fieldhouse Award for Distinguished Teaching

An historian of the United States and of the African diaspora, and recently appointed as a William Dawson Scholar, Professor Adjetej is an indispensable contributor to McGill's undergraduate and graduate programs, shedding timely light on African-North American experiences.

Together, the substance of his teaching, his teaching style, and his own background, create a powerful alchemy that touches students profoundly and contributes to a real shift in their intellectual lives.

Whether in a large class, or in a smaller seminar, by learning about slavery and race formation through diasporic and transnational lenses, students consistently emerge from his courses with a different sense of their own place in the world.

Professor Adjetej's teaching philosophy and practice also embody important values to which the University is committed: Genuinely Transformative Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

Congratulations, Wendell.

To Karyn Moffatt from the School of Information Studies for the 2022 Arts Distinction in Research Award

Karyn Moffatt specializes in Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) with a focus on rendering technology and tool interfaces more accessible and usable for under-represented disadvantaged user groups such as the elderly and those with aphasia. Her work helps to connect a more diverse set of users to ever-evolving tools that have become essential to our everyday lives.

One of few researchers in addressing this very important niche, she has made substantial contributions to information science demonstrating value of HCI applied to mobile devices such as smartphones.

Currently, she is engaged in five funded research projects that together total over \$1.3m. She is the principal investigator on three of these.

Her research partnerships include other academic institutions but also partner organizations outside academia such as the Alzheimer's Society and public libraries. Her research findings have been incorporated by many commercial technology vendors including IBM and Apple.

Professor Moffatt serves as an outstanding role model who continues to inspire and support women researchers in "nontraditional" STEM fields.

Congratulations Karyn.

As well, we have two winners from Arts in the Principal's Prize for Public Engagement through Media. The prize for established academics went to Professor Daniel Béland, a James McGill Professor in recognition of his extensive presence in local national and international media. The committee praised his extensive knowledge and thorough and accessible delivery, and the Change-Maker Award went to Professor Cindy Blackstock in the School of Social Work on behalf of her exposure of the inequities faced by indigenous children, and her ground-breaking work on reconciliation and indigenous welfare.

3. Guests and Speaking Rights

The Chair asked the Council members whether there was any objection for Speaking Rights to be extended to Kristi Kouchakji. This was due to no quorum at the last PGSS meeting causing the renewal of her term as PGSS representative to not be voted upon.

There were no objections. Acceptance was unanimous.

4. Approval of the Agenda

The Chair motioned for the agenda to be approved. Professor Nico Trocmé moved. Professor Luis Alonso-Ovalle seconded the motion.

The agenda was unanimously approved.

5. Approval of the April 26th Minutes

As there was no quorum, the approval of the minutes will be deferred to the next Faculty Council meeting in September.

6. Business Arising

PGSS Representative Rine Vieth wanted to remind everyone about the Roberts Rules primer that was recommended. It should probably be done at least before the start of the Fall semester.

The Chair acknowledged and noted the reminder.

SECTION II – REPORTS

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

Interim Dean Hunter informed the council members that the next three weeks will be a busy time ahead due to five different convocation events that will be held, beginning with the installation of the new Chancellor.

She reached out to the faculty members to register to participate at the Postponed Convocation events as faculty attendance on the platform is low. Registration is still open.

The dates for the 2022-2023 Faculty Council meetings are being finalized and a notice will be sent soon to everyone so that everyone will be able to plan for the next academic year.

Note that the council meetings will continue to be held on Tuesdays from 3:00 – 5:00.

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

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

Associate Dean Michael Fronda announced to the members that the Arts Faculty Council Terms of Reference was approved by the Senate last week and will be in effect as of August 1st. Today's meeting is the last meeting under the current rules. A pdf version of the Terms of Reference has been uploaded onto the Arts website. A brief guide to Robert's Rules of Order will be added before the beginning of Fall term. The Faculty of Arts website will be overhauled by the Communications team over the summer.

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

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

Associate Dean Tabitha Sparks announced that no formal report will be presented but is happy to answer any questions.

PGSS Representative Rine Vieth inquired as to whether the guidelines of the Graduate Research Enhancement and Travel Awards (GREAT) be made clearer? This is a particular issue for disabled students who make plans in terms of applying for grants. Specifically, they have heard that the GREAT Awards have shifted sort of quietly to a first come first served basis. A particular concern, as it puts marginalized students at a disadvantage.

Associate Dean Tabitha Sparks explained that an email was sent a couple of days ago, indicating that this summer an exceptional GREAT contest was held with very few funds. A deadline was not placed in the announcement because the GREAT awards in the winter were under-subscribed and had to continue being advertised. In the end Arts Research and Graduate Studies were overrun with applications. They were able to fund 15 students that otherwise would not have received any money at all, despite not being able to fund them at the full amount.

Going forward, a deadline will be indicated. Also, in the email that was sent after the contest ended, a travel award was promoted and is still available. It is being advertised on the GPS website. The award is still open. Please check your emails.

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

Associate Dean Manuel Balán reported that the graduation files have been processed. He reminded Chairs and Directors who have not submitted their approvals to do so as soon as possible, as all graduation files will be going through Senate on May 25th. Convocation ceremonies for the Faculty of Arts are taking part on May 30th, 31st. There will also be the postponed celebration ceremonies on Wednesday June 8th. Faculty are still needed to

participate on the platform, so please sign up.

Efforts on Orientation for the September incoming class are already underway.

Associate Dean Balán also wanted to update Council members on the work of the Committee on Student Affairs, a committee that works on an array of different student-related policies, doing their best to ensure transparency and fairness to all students. The main mandate of the Committee are the undergraduate students. There were a number of policies that were discussed and approved by the committee this past academic year. As these are internal policies, they were previously left to the discretion of the Associate Dean but in an effort to make the information transparent to students and fair to all, the Committee's passed set of policies at the committee level, can now be found in more detail on the OASIS website:

- E-Flag. Policy and Procedures to Exclude Credits and Grades from CGPA calculation.
- Readmission
- Exceeding Credits
- K, KE grades (in progress)
- An Appeals process was created.
- The disciplinary process has been clarified
- A working group has also been established for Study Away.

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

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

Associate Dean David Wright informed the members that there is no formal report. He pointed out that in general, the Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs works with the Chairs and Directors to problem-solve matters regarding recruitment, tenure, promotions, and reappointments and chairs the Faculty Review Committee. He extended his appreciation to the academic affairs staff, Marianne Casey and Jessica Chung Wing for all their hard work.

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

12. Report of the Nominating Committee, Associate Dean David Wright

Associate Dean Wright informed the Council that there was no formal report. The attempt to populate the committees is still in process. It will take until September to get everyone on board.

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

13. Report of the Curriculum Committee, Professor Michael Fronda

Associate Dean Michael Fronda informed the Council that there was no formal report of the Committee; the agenda item was included by mistake. He took the opportunity to thank all the committee members for their hard work over this past year.

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

14. Report of the Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS), Ghania Javed, President

The AUS Report was presented as submitted.

AUS President, Ghania Javed reported that the Executive is currently in transition and introduced the Executive members to the Faculty Council:

Ghania Javed- President

Charlotte Gurung- VP Finance

Britney Vu- VP Communications

Annie Costello- Vice President of Social Affairs (VP Social)

Nick Rieck- Vice President of Academic Affairs (VP Academic)

Shannon Vezina- Vice President of Internal Affairs (VP Internal)

Aye Cham Myayh- External

David Mickelson- Arts Representative to Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU)

Matthew O'Boyle- Arts Representative to Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU)

Angelica Voutsinas- Arts Representative to Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU)

Sam Baron- Arts Senator

Coco Jie Wang- Arts Senator

They are currently planning FROSH. The budget for this event was approved last week. The Executive is currently familiarizing themselves with the files and cleaning up the office.

The Chair thanked Ghania Javed for her report and pointed out that she and Associate Dean Manuel Balán could be available for any help, if needed.

15. Report of the PGSS

The Report of the PGSS was presented as submitted by Kristi Kouchakji. Kristi Kouchakji was given speaking rights.

Kristi Kouchakji wanted to take this opportunity to point out that due to an incident that occurred at Thompson House recently, a new policy has been implemented. Further clarification on this new policy is below:

If guests at an event become abusive towards Thompson House staff--including verbal abuse--then not only will the entire party be asked to leave, but Thompson House staff additionally reserve the right to refuse future event bookings for that group or any associated group. "Any associated group" that might be impacted would include all other groups within the academic unit, and the period of time that groups would be restricted would be determined at Thompson House's staff's discretion.

Kristi Kouchakji explained that it was very disheartening to discover that the disruption was caused by a faculty member, however, there will be no exceptions made to this new policy.

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

16. Other Business

The Chair asked if there was any other business to discuss. She confirmed that this would be her last meeting as Chair and Interim Dean and expressed her gratitude and appreciation to the Associate Deans and the Chairs and Directors for their support, guidance, and assistance over the past year.

17. Adjournment

There being no other business to discuss, the Chair motioned for the meeting to be adjourned. PGSS Representative Rine Vieth moved and Associate Dean Manuel Balán seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

END

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

