



Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Council held on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. in the Vogel Council Room (Leacock Rm. 232).

SECTION I – INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

1. Welcoming Remarks

The Interim Dean, Professor David Wright, Chair of Faculty Council, welcomed everyone back to the beginning of another academic year. The Chair provided background to his brief tenure as Interim Dean, explaining that he was assisting with the transition from Interim Dean Mary Hunter to the incoming Dean, Professor Lisa Shapiro, who will begin her tenure on October 1, 2022.

The Chair went through the schedule of the 2022-2023 meetings, pointing out that half of the meetings will be in person and the other half will be on Zoom, in order to accommodate faculty members with school-aged children.

Professor Wright conveyed his concern regarding attendance at Faculty Council meetings, as witnessed by the current meeting, for which the quorum of 50 members had not been attained. As a result of the lack of quorum, the Chair therefore declared that the meeting would be for information only. Considering there are almost 400 faculty members, Professor Wright felt that there is no reason why a quorum could not be obtained. He urged Chairs and Directors to encourage their faculty to attend at least once per term.

A Land Acknowledgement was then given.

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m.

2. Announcements

The Chair introduced Shaun Maxwell, a guest attending in honour of his late father, Professor Emeritus Michael Perceval-Maxwell. Professor Wright then introduced Professor Catherine Desbarats, Chair of the Department of History and Classical Studies, to the floor to read the Memorial Tribute for Professor Emeritus Michael Perceval-Maxwell. The full tribute is included at the end of the minutes.

Professor Wright thanked Professor Desbarats and, on behalf of the Faculty, extended his condolences to Shaun Maxwell, Elsbeth Heaman, and their family.

The Chair then introduced Professor Daniel Béland, Director of the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada, to the floor to announce and read the citation for Shannon Sampert, the recipient of the Rita and Charles Bronfman Award for Excellence in Teaching Prize. The citation is included at the end of the Minutes.

The Chair thanked Professor Béland for reading the citation and on behalf of the Faculty of Arts extended his congratulations to Shannon Sampert.

Professor Wright then asked Chairs to introduce their new faculty members to the Faculty Council, returning to a longstanding Faculty of Arts tradition.

Professor Lisa Stephenson, Chair of the Anthropology Department presented Alyssa Bader to the Faculty Council. Alyssa is a bio-archaeologist who received her Ph.D. at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign campus and went on to do a post-doc at the University of Colorado - Boulder. Professor Bader is an Alaskan native and an enrolled member of the Ketchikan Indian community. Her research is community-driven and seeks to assess the physical embodiments of inequality as well as biological resilience.

Professor Catherine Desbarats, Chair of the Department of History and Classical Studies introduced Melissa Shaw to the Faculty and Council. Melissa received her PhD from Queen's University. Her dissertation won the major dissertation prize at Queen's University, and it received honourable mention at the Canadian Historical Association for its dissertation prize that is across all fields. Professor Shaw is an historian of Black Canada and Black North America from the 1700s to the 1940s, who examines everyday acts of resistance that black Canadians employed during this period.

Professor Daniel Béland, Director of the McGill Institute for the Studies of Canada presented Dr. Jodey Nurse to the Faculty and Council. Jodey Nurse arrived from the University of Waterloo, where she was a Research Professor in the Department of History. Her research examines agricultural and food policies in the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries within the Canadian and international contexts in order to offer insight into contemporary debates. Dr. Nurse will be teaching an introductory course on Canadian Studies, a 400-level seminar on Public Affairs in Canada, and several other courses that overlap with her area of research expertise.

Professor Wright welcomed the new faculty members and wished them well. He also pointed out that more Chairs will be able to introduce new faculty members in the October meeting. He informed Council that there are 15 faculty members in total who have joined the Faculty of Arts.

3. Guests and Speaking Rights

The Chair announced that Shaun Maxwell was welcomed as a guest officially and confirmed that no speaking rights were requested.

4. Approval of the Agenda

As there was no quorum, the approval of the agenda was deferred to the next Faculty Council Meeting on October 21st.

5. Approval of the April 26th Minutes

As there was no quorum, the approval of the minutes was deferred to the next Faculty Council meeting on October 21st.

6. Approval of the May 24th Minutes

As there was no quorum, the approval of the minutes was deferred to the next Faculty Council meeting on October 21st.

7. Business Arising from the April 26th or May 24th Minutes

There was no business arising.

SECTION II – REPORTS

8. Report of the Interim Dean – Dr. David Wright

Professor Wright expressed his gratitude and pleasure to be serving as Interim Dean. He thanked and recognized the excellent effort of his predecessor, Professor Mary Hunter, who was Interim Dean during the previous academic year.

Professor Wright explained that, during this short period, he would be fulfilling the function both of Interim Dean of Arts and Associate Dean, Faculty Affairs. When the new incoming Dean, Lisa Shapiro, begins her tenure on October 1st, he will return to carry out his tenure as Associate Dean, Faculty Affairs for the remainder of the academic year.

Interim Dean Wright announced that it is an exciting time for the Faculty of Arts in tenure-track hiring. The Faculty of Arts has approximately 15 licenses in play and is currently undergoing no fewer than 12 searches (three being postponed to the next academic year).

Regarding future Faculty of Arts Council meetings, he observed that there were many exciting items on the agenda, including a forthcoming proposal for a new Institute for Indigenous Research and Knowledge (IIRK). The IIRK has been mentioned in different university documents and commitments, and the understanding is that it will be “anchored” in the Faculty of Arts, but include faculty members from diverse disciplines and other faculties.

The Chair acknowledged that, although the Public Health restrictions regarding COVID have eased considerably, and McGill is back to a full in-person teaching environment, the Dean’s office is doing its best to respond to people’s needs for a safe teaching environment within the context of the University’s commitment to in-person teaching.

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

9. Report of the Associate Dean Academic, Professor Michael Fronda

The portfolio of the Associate Dean comprises two main areas of responsibility with a few related duties. The first area centers on oversight of Academic Programs. In the role, the AD Academic chairs the Curriculum Committee, which broadly oversees all degrees, program concentrations and courses in administered and delivered by the Faculty of Arts, as well making recommendations on academic policies. The AD Academic. On behalf of the Dean, is given general management of the annual TA allocations to departments, Course Lecturer allocations, and Summer course programming. The portfolio also includes serving as the primary contact for questions or concerns about the Library. In this role, the AD Academic chairs the Humanities

and Social Sciences Library Advisory Committee (HSSLAC) and is therefore also ex officio a member of the Senate Library Committee. Lastly, the AD Academic is tasked with overseeing interfaculty partnerships and international partnerships especially as they pertain to programs.

The second area of responsibility is allocation, management and oversight of space within the Faculty of Arts, including all student, academic and administrative spaces as well as (in conjunction with the AD Research) research spaces. The AD Academic is tasked with implementation of the Faculty of Arts space policy, and is the Faculty lead (in collaboration with the Dean) on major capital projects such as the Wilson Hall renovation and the Rimer-Leacock project. In this role, the AD Academic is in regular contact with Campus Planning and Development, Facilities, and Teaching and Learning Services. The AD Academic oversees the Faculty of Arts Computer lab and related computing and technology services.

For further information please see the link: [Associate Deans | Faculty of Arts - McGill University](#)

A brief report for Council today. The HSSLAC will be focused on the ramifications of the Fiat Lux project to renovate the McLennan Library, in particular working on solutions to mitigate the effects of the recently announced process to transfer of the bulk of the physical holdings to remote storage (which process, it was announced, will result in the stacks being completely closed for six to eight months). In the past, HSSLAC has proven an effective forum for articulating Arts' needs to the Library leadership. In addition, a meeting has been scheduled with the new dean of libraries to discuss the situation. Associate Dean Fronda is confident a better solution can be found.

This is the first Arts Council under the new Terms of Reference approved last year in Council and Senate. The terms are available online. Also posted, per request from members, are a couple of “cheat sheets” that summarize the basics of Roberts Rules of Order. Associate Dean Fronda explained that he is trying to gather Faculty of Arts policies approved in Council in order to post them on the website for easier reference, at least those policies going back to c. 2000 for which there is access to digital records.

For further information on the new Terms of Reference and summary of basics for Robert's Rules, please see the following links: [Microsoft Word - Faculty of Arts Council ToR Approved by Senate 11 May 2022.docx \(mcgill.ca\)](#); [Microsoft Word - ROBERTS RULES CHEAT SHEET.doc \(mcgill.ca\)](#); [Robert's Rules of Order \(mcgill.ca\)](#)

The floor was opened for questions and comments.

PGSS Representative, Rine Vieth reminded Associate Dean Fronda to not forget the space needs of the graduate students.

Associate Dean Fronda acknowledged the reminder and made note of it.

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

Associate Dean Sparks welcomed everyone and expressed her pleasure the return to meeting in person.

Associate Dean Sparks then went on to explain her portfolio which consists of a combination of graduate student oversight, funding, and fellowship competitions, faculty awards and prizes including named chairs and Canada Research Chairs, and faculty research grants and Arts-based research centres.

There was no formal report to present but informed the Council members of some updates:

1. The past month has involved reviewing and signing off on a lot of Faculty grants as well as helping to manage grant applications for PhD students. These grant applications are now required for eligible students, which is tied to an increase in funding for enrolment and student support.

Note that this is an initiative that is two years old – rolled out by GPS – and so far it appears to be working for Arts which is the only Faculty in the University that is over the target for PhD enrollment this fall, and we are encouraged to keep growing where it is possible and sensible.

2. MA Thesis and Non-Thesis programs are somewhat low, but nothing dramatic enough to look like a trend.
3. The University is still navigating covid-related fallout, which is ongoing and has had a lot of unpredictable effects on graduate programs and enrollments.
4. The Associate Dean has been visiting some units to talk about graduate funding and enrollment/recruitment strategies and encouraged the Chairs and Directors to let her know if a visit to their unit would be helpful.

For further information please see the link: [Associate Deans | Faculty of Arts - McGill University](#)

The floor was opened for any questions or comments.

PGSS Representative Rine Vieth inquired as to further details related to what PGSS has been hearing from Arts graduate students about units saying PGSS funding should be considered as a replacement for McGill GREAT funding; Vieth pointed out PGSS funding comes out of PGSS fees and is given out proportional to enrolment, and other Faculties have larger graduate enrolment than Arts.

Associate Dean Sparks responded that she has no information on this matter.

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

Associate Dean Manuel Balán welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Associate Dean explained to the faculty members details of his portfolio:

- The Associate Dean of Student Affairs handles all issues affecting undergraduate students in the Faculty of Arts and directs the work of the Office of Advising on Student Information Services (OASIS)
- Outside of Arts, participates in multiple other university and faculty committees, workshops, task forces, sub-committees, and councils.
- Works closely with Enrolment Services regarding student enrolment issues, student recruitment and the Office of the Dean of Students for disciplinary matters within the Faculty (both academic and non-academic).

In terms of the incoming class, there are 1,936 new Bachelor of Arts students, 51 new Bachelor of Social Work students and 15 new Bachelor of Theology students. These are new admits who accepted their offers, confirmed registration, paid tuition and are now taking

courses. Also readmitted (a process that takes place at the Faculty level) were a total of 190 students (303 readmission requests were received) and 139 faculty transfers were accepted out of 309 requests received.

The Associate Dean pointed out that there is a growing trend of inter-faculty transfers of students coming from the Faculty of Science completing programs offered by Science under the Bachelor of Arts degree as there is a significant tuition difference for international students.

The Associate Dean further informed the council members that there are over 170 different undergraduate programs (majors, minors and honours) offered in the Faculty of Arts with over 1500 courses taught per term, by over 400 instructors. The Faculty of Arts currently has a total of 8,322 students enrolled.

Recruitment for the next academic year has already begun. An in-person Open House will be held on Sunday October 23rd. Nellie Voudouris is overseeing this event and will be contacting the units.

Orientation for new faculty was held yesterday and a Power Point presentation was sent around to instructors and Chairs/Directors.

For further information, please see the link: [Associate Deans | Faculty of Arts - McGill University](#)

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

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

Interim Dean and Associate Dean (Faculty Affairs) David Wright informed the members that there is no formal report. He pointed out that in general, the Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs can be summarized as “HR Academic” – that is, being responsible, on behalf of the Dean, for coordinating and overseeing the major milestones of academic life, from recruitment to retirement.

The specific responsibilities of this portfolio include: recruitment, chairing the Faculty Review Committee (that vets reappointments and assesses applications for promotion to Full Professor), participating in the University Tenure Committee, approving nil-salary appointments (adjunct professors, visiting professors), as well as being the point person on retirement and leaves. The portfolio also involves monitoring and advising on the university regulations to ensure that proper protocols are being followed in the Faculty.

For further information, please see the link: [Associate Deans | Faculty of Arts - McGill University](#)

The floor was opened for questions and comments.

Prof. Jason Carmichael asked if he could be directed to the right office, as his department is recruiting for a tenure-track professor in Sociology and require a Dean’s representative.

Professor Wright acknowledged the email was received and asked Professor Carmichael to send him a couple of suggestions.

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

No report was presented. A report will be presented at the next meeting in October.

14. Report of the Curriculum Committee, Professor Michael Fronda

Associate Dean Michael Fronda informed the Council that there were no items for approval. A few carryover approval items from last spring will be introduced for approval at the October Council meeting.

A general update on the work of the committee: The Curriculum Committee is one of two very large Faculty committees (the other is the Committee on Student Affairs). It is generally a very busy committee, as we process dozens of course and program proposals each year. In addition to vetting proposals, the Committee is tasked this year with a number of additional tasks.

The Committee is reviewing the Bachelor of Arts degree requirements, mainly the so-called “multitrack” system that requires most BA students to complete two programs (a major and minor, or two majors), and also the so-called Freshman Program. Also, working closely with the Associate Dean, Student Affairs and the Committee on Student Affairs, the Curriculum Committee will review some specific policies, e.g. the policy on online courses (currently Arts students are limited to 6 credits of online courses that may be used for elective credit only). Lastly, the Curriculum Committee is in the final stages of preparing a policy on remote/online teaching, in fulfilment of Council’s mandate last fall. The Committee has been working on the recommendations for a number of months, and Associate Dean Fronda is hopeful that the Committee will be able to submit recommendations to Council in October.

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

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

AUS President, Ghania Javed extended her greetings to the Council members informing them that this will be her last year and she will be graduating in the Spring and explained her role as to oversee the Office of the Arts Undergraduate Society.

The AUS Report was presented as submitted.

In addition, the AUS President pointed out that the merchandise available is also for the Faculty. A reminder that SNAX is closed due to renovations that need to be done.

One complaint that when they contact their department advisors that they do not receive the proper information and asks the Chairs and Directors to make sure that the proper information given.

The floor was opened for questions and comments.

Professor Lisa Overholtzer asked if there was any way to determine when SNAX would re-open.

The AUS President received an update every day but explained that they have no specific date as it is based on when the repairs and renovations are completed by the University (installing a sink being one of them). But hopes to have more information in October.

The AUS President asked the members if they feel comfortable to be included in her Instagram story.

The Chair thanked Ghania Javed for her report.

16. Report of the PGSS

The Report of the PGSS was presented as submitted by PGSS Representative, Rine Vieth who is a doctoral graduate student in the Department of Anthropology.

In addition, PGSS Representative Rine Vieth reminded the Council Members about the new policy at Thompson House which was announced at the May 24th Council Meeting and is given 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.

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

17. Other Business

PGSS submitted the following question to Council:

Given the state of the ongoing pandemic (with INSPQ estimating as many as 225,000 cases/week in Québec), as well as in the interest of equitable access and maintaining quorum, could we additionally have Zoom links for any scheduled in-person AFC meetings this academic year?

The Chair agreed that it is a good idea to consider hybrid meetings; however, doing so would be contingent upon technological issues as well as clarifying governance matters such as speakers' rights, quorum, and voting during 'hybrid' meetings.

PGSS Representative, Rine Vieth pointed out that the PGSS would be happy to assist with any technological matters that need to be resolved in order for hybrid meetings to take place.

The Chair acknowledged the offer and was noted in the minutes.

18. Adjournment

There being no other business to discuss, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

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

**Michael Perceval-Maxwell
1933-2022**

Michael Perceval-Maxwell was a distinguished historian who gave much of his time, energy, and humanity to McGill University, where he studied, taught, and served. He died on May 21 after a lengthy illness. He has frequently been described as a quiet revolutionary—whether as scholar or as administrator. Born in Northern Ireland to an Anglo-Irish landowning family, he came to Canada in the early

1950s to study farming at Macdonald College, as part of a Canadian Pacific settlement scheme. He worked at farms across the country, even as a cowboy corralling cattle from horseback. In Montreal, he worked at Canada Packer's stockyards. At night, he studied for a BA at Sir George Williams. There, he was encouraged to pursue a budding interest in history. He went on to do an MA and then a PhD in history at McGill, where he taught from 1963 until his retirement in 2001. He would become a major historian of early modern Ireland. His 1973 work on Scottish migration to Ulster was reissued as recently as 2021. *The Outbreak of the Irish Rebellion* (Dublin, 1994) remains the indispensable, frequently-cited work on the topic. In his many articles and in his landmark books, he saw the entanglement of Irish, English, and Scottish history in ways that few scholars of his generation could do.

Between 1972 and 1975, Michael chaired the Department of History. He then served twice as Dean of the Faculty of Arts (1981-86 and 89-92). In the late 1990s, he served as executive director of the Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law, yet another sign of just how skilled he was at navigating complex situations with effective tact. He had a strong sense of justice and discretion—just what was needed to handle sometimes fractious academics with radically different views of the world. He was conscious of gender and status dynamics in a still very male and anglophile institution, making the place more welcoming for women. He valued real consultation above speedier short cuts guaranteed to keep things as they had been.

Michael Maxwell was deeply interested in the generations that followed him. British History colleagues remember being warmly welcomed: shown the Library collections, and taken to lunch at the Taj on Stanley, a favourite haunt. He was curious about their pursuits and wished that they might thrive on their own terms. He lit fires in his graduate students, steering them to completion with the perfect mix of compassion, firm direction, and humour. He took his undergraduate teaching just as seriously, and students flocked to his big survey classes. With Professor Robert Tittler of Concordia, he co-founded the Montreal British History Seminar, which recently celebrated its 25th anniversary, and which remains a vibrant forum for academic exchange, mentoring, and sociability.

Our deepest sympathies go to Michael Maxwell's family. We join them in remembering a steadfast "friend, a great listener, a generous, kind, witty and elegant person."

Citation for Shannon Sampert for the Rita and Charles Bronfman Award for Excellence in Teaching at the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada

We have awarded The Charles Bronfman and Rita Mayo Award for Excellence in Teaching to Shannon Sampert. Shannon taught for the first time at the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada in the Winter of 2021 and created a new capstone course for our Canadian Studies programs that serves well as a model and inspiration in the future. She also taught for MISC during the Winter of 2022, when she was an Eakin Visiting Fellow. The word “innovative” has been overused at times, but it applies well in this case. The students found the courses and material tremendously stimulating and this year they responded with an 80% response rate on the course evaluation.

We believe that Shannon Sampert embodies the excellence to which the title of this Award refers, and we are very happy to make her the recipient of this award for 2021-2022. Professor Béland further shared with the committee members that Shannon Sampert is a former journalist and a retired university professor and is now back in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Professor Béland salutes her work and her dedication to Canadian Studies and teaching.