



Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Council held on Tuesday, November 15th, 2022 via the Zoom Conferencing Application.

## SECTION I – INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

### 1. Welcoming Remarks

Associate Dean David Wright welcomed everyone to the Faculty Council Meeting and explained that Dean Shapiro had been called away due to unforeseen circumstances. She has asked him to Chair the meeting on her behalf.

The Acting Chair reminded members that the Faculty Council meetings will be held via Zoom during the Winter months of January, February and March 2023. In person Faculty Council meetings will resume in April 2023.

Quorum was confirmed and the meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

### 2. Announcements

The Acting Chair asked the Chair of East Asian Studies and the Director of the French Language Center whether they were ready to present their new faculty members to the Council members.

Professor Jeehee Hong replied that she will be ready to present Professor Jodi Beck at the January Faculty Council meeting.

Professor Marion Vergues presented Julie Sénat :

#### **Julie Sénat**

Julie Sénat a enseigné le français langue seconde dans différents départements universitaires au Canada (Université de Montréal et Université McGill) et aux États-Unis (Université of Michigan et Middlebury College Language Schools). Elle a obtenu un baccalauréat et une maîtrise en littératures anglophones à l'Université Paris Cité et une maîtrise en didactique des langues à l'Université du Québec à Montréal. Ses domaines de recherche portent sur l'enseignement de la littérature et le rôle des émotions en classe de langues secondes. Elle a rejoint le Centre d'enseignement du français comme chargée de cours à l'automne 2021 et occupe la fonction de Faculty Lecturer depuis l'automne 2022.

### 3. Guests and Speaking Rights

There were no guests attending the meeting and no speaking rights were requested.

**4. Approval of the Agenda (Document A22-10)**

The Chair moved for the Agenda (Document No. A22-10) of November 15th to be approved and asked whether there were any changes to be made.

The approval of the agenda was seconded by Michael Fronda. The motion was accepted unanimously. The Agenda was approved as submitted.

**5. Approval of the October 18th Minutes (Document No. A22-11)**

The Chair moved for the October 18th Minutes (Document A22-11) to be approved with no corrections or amendments.

The motion was seconded by Tabitha Sparks and Yvonne Hung. The minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.

**6. Business Arising from the October 18th Minutes**

Acting Chair David Wright updated the members on the item that was discussed regarding the *Mon Français* initiative. Discussions are ongoing with stakeholders. He indicated that there will be an announcement of new events within the next few days.

**SECTION II – REPORTS**

**8. Report of the Dean – Professor Lisa Shapiro**

**The Dean’s report was read by the Acting Dean, Professor David Wright:**

I regret that I cannot join you today at Faculty Council. I need to be out of town for an unexpected family funeral. I am grateful to David Wright for stepping in to be Acting Dean (once again) and to chair this meeting.

1. What the Dean has been up to.

In the past month, I have:

- attended a number of University and Faculty events associated with Homecoming and Convocation. I continue to meet with Chairs and Directors to begin to learn about units in the Faculty. I look forward to beginning to meet more of you (though at a less frenetic pace!) by visiting units.
- I have also continued to meet key people in University offices, including the Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and the Director Global Engagement.
- I’ve learned more about the implementation of the Strategy to Address Anti-Black Racism (which we might refer to by the acronym SAABR (pronounced Sabre).
- I will soon also be meeting with managers as a group. There will be a return of the annual holiday party for staff in early December. Hopefully, the return of events like this will help in restoring a sense of community that was challenged during the pandemic, though that will require work over the long term.

2. I have also been continuing to try to understand the role Faculty Council plays in the governance structure at McGill more fully.
  - a. One function of Faculty Council is to ensure that members are apprised of and play a role in the business of the Faculty, and that these matters are not simply left to committees. Thus, following today's agenda, Associate Deans will each share reports on their portfolios, then table motions on the Faculty business aligned with those portfolios, which will be voted on here.
  - b. Council also serves to alert members about discussions happening at the University level that may impact Faculty business. These matters will be contained in the Dean's and Associate Deans' reports
  - c. The Joint meeting of the Senate and Board of Governors was focused on how to improve the opportunities for Experiential Learning. I want to recognize the efforts of the Arts Internship Office at coordinating internships, research opportunities through ARIA, and mentorship opportunities for students. They will clearly play an important role in whatever initiatives emerge from the discussion.
  - d. Senate on Wednesday includes an open discussion topic: How do we think about and define Academic Excellence (D22-14) for Academic Staff? The focus questions include a consideration of how excellence is evaluated. I will be interested in this discussion and will report on it at the next Faculty Council meeting in January.
  - e. Council can also function to foster a sense of community. And hopefully, there is more to the Faculty of Arts than simply the business of the Faculty. I thus would like to report on key events and achievements. I suggest that these be added to the agenda as a last item at future Council meetings. This meeting, I will ask that the following highlights noted in the Faculty Newsletter be shared, but I also invite you to share your (or your colleagues' or students') news and upcoming events with us in advance of Council meetings in the future.
3. Items of interest that I have gleaned from the Newsletter include:
  - i. A student podcast: Arts After Hours – produced by students for students
  - ii. The production of "Pomona" by the Dept of English Drama and Theatre Program, and directed by Prof. Sean Carney has performances 23-25, and 30 November, and 1-2 December. The play was written in 2014 by Alistair McDowall.
  - iii. Kudos, also gleaned from the Newsletter and McGill news.
  - iv. Félicitations à Alain Farah, professeur agrégé dans le Département des littératures de langue française, de traduction et de création. Son deuxième roman, «Mille secrets mille dangers», est finaliste pour le Prix du Gouverneur Général 2022, dans la catégorie « Romans ».
  - v. Congratulations to the MISC for putting on a very successful annual conference with a focus this year on questions concerning immigration. Congratulations too on the gift of \$5M from Charles Bronfman that will fund a series of Conversations about matters of public interest and controversy regarding Canada and Canada's position in the world.
  - vi. Congratulations to Professor Jacob Levy, Chair of Political Science for being named a Distinguished Fellow of the Institute for Humane Studies in recognition of his scholarship on liberalism, pluralism and democracy.

- vii. Congratulations to Professor of English Fiona Ritchie for securing a Visiting Fellowship at Jesus College, Oxford

Again, I encourage you to send along any information about upcoming events or noteworthy achievements to [dean.arts@mcgill.ca](mailto:dean.arts@mcgill.ca) . The Newsletter does not cover all that is happening in the Faculty.

4. Other:
  - a. You will have received an email that this year's Centraide campaign has started. I simply remind you of that. Please consider giving to either Centraide or another charity of your choice.
  - b. I also remind you that the competition for the Principal's Prize for Public Engagement through Media is now open. Information is available through the Newsletter and [here](#).

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

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

Associate Dean Michael Fronda updated the council members on the following:

1. Academic programs. The Associate Dean reminded members to follow the published guidelines for submitting to Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee, and to take note of relevant deadlines, in order to avoid unnecessary delays in the approval process.
2. Library matters. The Associate Dean reported that there have been no substantive updates on the Fiat Lux Project (McLennan Library renovation) since last Council. The Humanities and Social Sciences Library advisory committee did not meet since Council in October. A meeting of the HSSLAC is scheduled in the coming weeks. The Senate Committee on Libraries, on which the associate dean is a member and which is chaired by the Dean of Libraries, did meet. The committee was given a presentation on the robotic retrieval system planned for the remote storage facility. The committee also was shown a conceptual plan of the renovated library space. The associate dean reported that Faculty of Arts' concerns about the renovation were voiced. The Dean of Libraries expressed commitment to working with all stakeholders to minimize the impact of the renovation and to ensure that their needs are met in the renovated Library.
3. Space and infrastructure. The Associate Dean reported that there are no significant updates since last Council to the major capital projects relevant to the Faculty of Arts (Wilson Hall renovation, relocation of the Linguistics Department, Leacock Building-Rimer Building renovation). Associate Dean Fronda is in regular communication with the Campus Planning and Development Office and has requested information on the status for all projects. He will report to Council when he receives substantive information.

Associate Dean Fronda also reported that Ms. Andrea Gore has resigned as Operations Manager for the Faculty of Arts to take another position within the University. The associate dean commended Ms. Gore on her excellent performance as Operations Manager and thanked her for her service to the Faculty. The position will be posted soon and will likely be filled in two or three months. In the meantime, Faculty of Arts operations will be reduced to critical functions only.

The floor was opened for questions and comments.

AUS President, Ghania Javed, asked whether there would be any designated spaces for students to study while the McLennan Library is closed. Associate Dean Fronda mentioned that the topic came up at the Social Sciences Library Committee Meeting and he brought up the subject with the Dean of Libraries and with the Assistant Provost of Teaching and Academic Programs, Chris Buddle. The university is looking into several solutions.

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

Associate Dean Sparks is currently fielding enquiries concerning the open calls for Canadian Research Chairs and internal chairs (James McGill Professorships and William Dawson Chairs). Self-nominations are being accepted and applications with a two-page research proposal are due on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Also, a few seats are available to serve on committees that evaluate awards at Convocation and in the late Spring. Colleagues who are interested should contact Associate Dean Sparks ([tabitha.sparks@mcgill.ca](mailto:tabitha.sparks@mcgill.ca)).

SLATE is the new application engine. It replaces uApply. Much more efficient and better consolidated. If faculty need to have access to SLATE, you need to fill out a form on the Enrollment site. It will take a few days.

The floor was opened for any questions or comments.

Professor Couture inquired as to whether faculty have access to SLATE and does everyone have to apply for access to it. Associate Dean Sparks replied that yes. In most units, not everyone would have access, it would be the committee who has access. As security for this application is very stringent, interested faculty will need to give their Faculty, their ID number as well as the name of their manager.

Professor Desbarats asked what about submitting letters of reference. Associate Dean Sparks assumed that it would not be an issue as letters of reference are usually submitted by outside users.

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

Associate Dean Manuel Balán updated the Council on OASIS.

1. Final Exams. Upcoming Final Exam session will proceed as usual. No changes to mode of assessment, as per the Assessment Policy. The exceptions to this are truly exceptional. There is currently no mask mandate. Should this change, there are contingency plans in place to accommodate and provide masks to all.
2. Open House. It was a very successful Open House with 10,939 students participating. Guests were mostly from Canada with 1,000 from the USA and other countries. Thanks and appreciation go out to all those who participated and especially to Nelly Voudouris for the effort she gave at making the event a great success. Attendance was higher than Pre-COVID numbers.

OASIS. OASIS has been functioning without its manager, Mylissa Falkner, for over a month. She did wonders in managing OASIS over the past few years and has moved on to work at ASC2, one of the Faculty of Arts Administrative Service Centers. Mylissa Falkner will make a wonderful asset to the ASC2 team: ASC2's gain is OASIS's loss. Also, OASIS has had four faculty advisors throughout the academic year so far. There was a fifth until the summer. We have also experienced staff leaves and absences due to illness making it a challenge for OASIS, as it has been throughout the University, to meet the demands and keep up with the workload that comes with it.

However:

1. OASIS is in the process of replacing the office manager, which should be confirmed very soon. As well, two new faculty advisor positions will be posted in the coming weeks.
2. A huge shoutout to all the staff at OASIS. Their hard work is greatly appreciated and gratifying despite the struggles and significant short-staffing.

Associate Dean Balán then proceeded to share the PowerPoint Presentation on NEWMAD – its updates and next steps. Note that the PowerPoint presentation will be shared with the Chairs and Directors and will be appended to the final draft of the Minutes.

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

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

Professor Wright mentioned that the Faculty Review Committee will be meeting next week to review 15 Tenure track re-appointment and CAS renewal dossiers.

Associate Dean Wright indicated that the Dean's office is currently assisting with the integration of the McGill Writing Centre and the French Language Centre into the Faculty of Arts.

He also mentioned that there are a number of tenure-track searches underway: 12 new positions and 3 repeat searches.

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

## **13. Report of the Nominating Committee, Associate Dean David Wright (Document No. A22-08.1 and Document No. A22-08.2)**

As Chair of the Nominating Committee, Associate Dean David Wright introduced Part 1 of the Report of the Committee (A22-08.1), recommending the dissolution of the Max Bell School of Public Policy Finance Advisory Committee and moved for its approval. Daniel Béland and Michael Fronda seconded the Motion.

The floor was opened to questions.

Associate Dean Wright explained the justification for having this committee dissolved. The Advisory Committee was initially formed to oversee the School's first term. As the School has now

been in operation for over 5 years, and is a fully functioning and successful unit, this committee is no longer necessary.

The floor was opened to questions. There were none.

The question was called; motion was carried.

Associate Dean Wright also added that the Nominating Committee has decided to revisit the general protocols on advising the Dean on the selection of a new Chair/Director and will submit the draft to the Faculty Council for approval before the end of this academic year.

**14. Report of the Curriculum Committee, Professor Michael Fronda (Document No. A22-12.1 and Document No. A22-12.2)**

The Chair called on the Chair of the Curriculum Committee (Associate Dean Michael Fronda) to give the report of the Curriculum.

The Associate Dean introduced Part 1 of the Report of the Committee (A22-12.1), recommending course and program proposals, and moved for its approval. Rine Vieth and Jacob Levy seconded the motion.

The floor was opened to questions. There were no questions. The question was called; motion was carried.

Associate Dean Fronda introduced Part 2 of the Report of the Committee (A22-12.2), recommending a Faculty of Arts Policy on Remote Teaching, noting that the current version of the Policy is substantively the same as the version presented for discussion at the last Council, with only a few corrections to typographical errors. The Associate Dean moved its approval. Francisco Ruge-Murcia and Daniel Béland seconded the following motion:

The floor was opened to questions.

PGSS Representative Rine Vieth opposed the motion, citing the following concerns: that the motion passed in Arts Council in October 2021 (A21-9a-b) mandating Committee to devise and recommend such a policy to Council should be included in the Policy; that disabled students were not explicitly consulted, even though disabled access was raised in the discussion before the mandate was approved in 2021; that the policy in its present form does not adequately address lecture recording by instructors and may be seen as limiting an instructor's choice to record lectures; that the policy in its present form does not allow for remote teaching/learning as an accommodation for chronically sick or disabled instructors or students and does not therefore improve accessibility.

Associate Dean Fronda acknowledged that the original mandate could have been included with the current documents and agreed to append it. He confirmed that the current policy does not limit an instructor's ability to record lectures, provided those lecture recordings are not used to replace in-person teaching/contact hours. The Associate Dean agreed that disabled students were not consulted as a priority group, since curriculum committee was not specifically mandated to do so. Indeed, no specific group of students or instructors were consulted. Rather, the policy was developed using the normal consultation mechanisms. It was discussed in several meetings of the Curriculum Committee (a large committee with student representation); it was discussed in the Committee on Student Affairs (which

includes representatives from every department and student members); it was distributed to the entire Faculty and presented as a discussion item in Council. Comments and suggestions were made by colleagues and students at different stages of the process. The policy, he argued, reflects the consensus of those discussions and incorporates many of the suggestions received. Regarding accommodation, Associate Dean Fronda reminded members that the policy is built on pedagogical and program-related principles and is not designed to address questions of accommodations. Accommodation of both students and instructors is handled by other policies and offices at the University.

Associate Dean Manuel Balán added that he had brought this matter up to the Committee of Student Affairs, where the document had been well received.

Professor Melisa Shaw stated that she was not present for the discussion in Council in October 2021, and she would be uncomfortable voting on this policy if in fact it was expected that disabled stakeholders would be consulted.

The Associate Dean read from the minutes of Council on October 26, 2021 (A21-16), confirming that no explicit reference was made consulting any specific group in the Faculty.

The Chair called the question. The motion carried.

Associate Dean Fronda reminded the Council that the Policy would come into effect on January 1, 2023 pending approval of Senate. He said that he would follow up with the Secretariat to verify if the policy requires Senate's approval.

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

AUS President, Ghania Javed presented the AUS report as submitted.

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

The Chair thanked Ghania Javed for her report.

#### **16. Report of the PGSS, Rine Vieth, PGSS Representative**

PGSS Representative Rine Vieth presented the PGSS report as submitted.

One point to add: PGSS is working on statements regarding the UVic Project due to lack of consultation with Indigenous students.

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

The Acting Chair thanked Rine Vieth for presenting the PGSS report.

#### **17. Other Business**

The Acting Chair announced the appointment of McGill University's new Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor H. Deep Saini. He will be beginning his tenure on April 1, 2023.



**18. Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, the Acting Chair moved for the meeting to be adjourned. Tabitha Sparks and Daniel Béland seconded the motion. All were in favour.

The Acting Chair thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

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

