



## Minutes

Tuesday, January 17, 2023 A22-20

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Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Council held on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 3:00pm via the Zoom conferencing application.

### SECTION I – INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

#### 1. Welcoming Remarks

The Dean and Chair, Professor Lisa Shapiro, started the meeting by welcoming all members and wishing them a happy new year. She reminded everyone to use the “raised hand” feature on Zoom if they wish to speak. The land acknowledgement was then given.

Quorum was achieved and the meeting was called to order at 3:05pm.

#### 2. Announcements

The Chair started by introducing the new Administrative Assistant to the Dean, Sandra Lauzon. She then asked the Chairs and Directors who were ready to present their new faculty to the Council members.

Professor Catherine Desbarats, Chair of the Department of History and Classical Studies, presented: **Pedro Monaville**. Dr. Monaville, a historian of Africa, comes to us from NYU Abu Dabi, where he has been an assistant Professor since 2015. He received his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan, where his dissertation won the Arthur Fondiler Award for best dissertation in the Department of History. He has published widely on the history of Congolese student politics and his book, titled *Students of the World: Global 1968 and the Long Politics of Independence in the Congo*, has recently been published with Duke University Press. His current research on the Mobutu period in Congo/Zaire includes a book project on the evolution of the Catholic Church and an edited volume and special journal edition on the life and works of Congolese intellectuals. His extensive teaching experience includes courses on Modern African History, Humanitarianism and Africa, the Global Sixties, Love in Africa, Africa in the World, and Black Internationalism.

Professor Jacob Levy, Chair of the Department of Political Science, presented:

**Amy Janzwood**. Amy Janzwood is an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science and the Bieler School of the Environment. She holds a Ph.D. in Political Science and Environmental Studies from the University of Toronto and a Master of Arts in Global Governance from the Balsillie School of International Affairs. Her research explores the comparative politics of energy and the environment, including the contested politics of fossil fuel production and the policy pathways available for movement toward more sustainable energy systems. Her research has been published or is forthcoming in the Canadian Journal of Political Science, Energy Research & Social Science, Global

Environmental Politics, and Review of International Political Economy. Her book *Mega Pipelines, Mega Resistance* is under contract with UBC Press. She is on the Steering Committee of the Women & Inclusivity in Sustainable Energy Research network and a member of the Climate Social Science Network.

**Tari Ajadi.** Assistant Professor Ajadi, a specialist in Canadian politics, Black politics, social movements, and public policy, is a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at Dalhousie University. He holds an MA from Dalhousie and a BA from Quest University, and comes to us most immediately from a predoc fellowship in Black Studies at Queens. His research compares how Black activists in mid-sized cities in Nova Scotia and Ontario strategize to prompt change in policing and in health policy. He focuses specifically on the ways that these activists use and sometimes reject coalition-building across difference to exploit the political and discursive opportunities that arise in municipal and provincial governing institutions. His research has been published in *International Journal* and in *Healthy Populations Journal*. Professor Ajadi is a co-founder of the Nova Scotia Policing Policy Working Group, a member of the Board of Directors of the Health Association of African Canadians, as well as a Board Member of the East Coast Prison Justice Society.

Prof Jeehee Hong, Chair of the Department of East Asian Studies, presented:

**Jodie Beck.** Trained as a scholar of Japanese literature, Dr. Jodie Beck received her Ph.D. in East Asian Studies at McGill, in 2015. Her early experience as an EFL instructor (English as a Foreign Language) in Japan and Korea helped her navigate various ways to engage not only in the local languages, but more broadly in how to help English-speakers learn Japanese effectively. Her several publications of translated literature, from Japanese to English, also derived from such an endeavor. Prior to the current appointment, Dr. Beck taught all levels of Japanese language courses at McGill for five years as a Course Lecturer, during which she demonstrated her excellence as a teacher and a colleague.

### 3. Guests and Speaking Rights

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

### 4. Approval of the Agenda (Document A22-15)

The Chair moved for the Agenda of January 17<sup>th</sup> to be approved. The approval was seconded by Michael Fronda and Marianne Stenbaek. The Agenda was approved as submitted.

### 5. Approval of the November 15<sup>th</sup> Minutes (Document A22-16)

The Chair moved for the Minutes of November 15<sup>th</sup> to be approved. PGSS Representative Rine Vieth noted that the Minutes showed the tracked changes and the Chair stated that we will make sure this is not an issue moving forward. The approval was seconded by Daniel Béland. The motion was accepted unanimously.

## **6. Business Arising from the November 15<sup>th</sup> Minutes**

Following Alain Farah's nomination announced during the November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Chair was pleased to announce : « L'ouvrage de Alain Farah, "Mille secrets mille dangers" qui était finaliste pour le Prix de Gouverneur Général de 2022 a gagné le Prix dans la catégorie Roman. » She congratulated Professor Farah.

## **SECTION II – REPORTS**

### **7. Report of the Dean – Professor Lisa Shapiro**

Dean Shapiro shared that the New Principal, Deep Saini, a plant physiologist, will start in April 2023. She is preparing a briefing note for him about the Faculty of Arts.

Senate Discussion on Academic Excellence: The Dean encouraged members of Council to read the relevant pages of the Senate's Minutes from the November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. The discussion was animated, and there was broad based agreement that we need to reflect on and articulate the standards of excellence. There was a recognition that teaching is an integral part of academic excellence, that external evaluators play a critical role in assessing quality of research, and that in some contexts and disciplines non-academics can be important external assessors. There was an interesting discussion about how the university needs both to insist upon quality of academic work and to create space for more unconventional approaches.

The Dean noted that we are entering the Budget period, and that she was preparing a response to the Provost's Integrated Planning Exercise. This will be the beginning of a planning process in Arts that will have as its next step a Chairs and Directors retreat that we hope to schedule in April.

The Dean's Office is starting Budget Consultations with Units (and with the Provost's office).

The Dean drew attention to a recent Federal Act that prohibits the purchase of property by non-Canadians and permanent residents. This may pose challenges for recruitment of new faculty.

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

### **Report of the Associate Dean of Administration and Oversight, Professor Michael Fronda**

Associate Dean Michael Fronda did not have a report.

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

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

Associate Dean Tabitha Sparks confirmed that the funding allocations for units were delivered in December.

She also noted that GPS had compiled data on time limitation and completion rates.

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

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

Associate Dean David Wright spoke briefly about the unusual number of retirements and departures from the Faculty of Arts over the course of the last year.

Professor Wright also updated Faculty members about the ongoing discussions, both within the Faculty of Arts and at the University more generally, about enhancing French-language acquisition of academic staff. He informed colleagues that the School of Continuing Studies (SCS) would be holding an intensive course in the month of May, the details of which would be circulated soon. He also stated that he was in conversation with Marion Vergues, Director of the *Centre d'enseignement du français* about piloting a complementary year-round program tailored to new faculty in the Faculty of Arts.

Professor Desbarats asked for clarification about the May SCS course, and Dean Shapiro responded that a proposal has been circulated, but structure has not been finalized.

PGSS representative Rine Vieth added that the graduate students' *francisation* program has shifted entirely online, in case that was of interest to anyone.

Professor Wright informed colleagues that merit assessment would begin soon, and a memo and form will be going out to Chairs and Directors by the end of the month.

Finally, Professor Wright reminded colleagues of the University regulation that all faculty (not otherwise on leave) must be present, in Montreal and on campus, during the regular academic year. He reiterated that his colleagues, the Associate Deans Administration and Student Affairs, had devised a policy on remote teaching in response to unexpected circumstances. These were not intended, however, to facilitate pre-planned remote teaching.

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

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

Associate Dean Manuel Balán reminded Faculty members about the importance to submit grades on time. Some grades from the Fall semester have not yet been submitted, and the delay has potential negative consequences for students, as automated academic standing calculations may be affected and generate course registration troubles, and potentially immigration status issues for international students.

Associate Dean Balán provided information on the University's approach to ChatGPT and other AI tools that generate text. There are three main tasks being addressed by a University Workgroup on this. First, evaluating potential revisions to the Code of student conduct, to ensure that the improper use of these tools is covered by articles on plagiarism and/or cheating. Second, developing guidance and a framework for instructors to review their assessments, attempting to minimize the potential impact of ChatGPT and other similar tools. For instance, take home exams including conceptual questions may not be the best idea at the moment. Third, a more long-term discussion on the development of writing skills, and the broader implications for how students learn and instructors teach. Writing is central to many disciplines within the Faculty of Arts, and the Faculty is proposing to create a small group to assess impact on the Faculty.

Dean Shapiro asked the room if their departments are having internal discussion about that issue. Professor Elizabeth Elbourne was wondering if there are tools that can be used to detect the use of ChatGPT. Associate Dean Balán confirmed that we are not currently encouraging the use of such tools, as they generate many false positives and false negatives.

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

## **8. Report of the Curriculum Committee**

Associate Dean Michael Fronda presented the Curriculum Committee Report (Document A22-17). He moved that the motion to accept the Report of the Curriculum Committee (Document No. A22-17) be approved *in toto*. PGSS Representative Rine Vieth seconded the motion.

There were no questions or comments.

Curriculum Committee Report (Document No. A22-17) was put to a vote. 71 people approved and 1 abstained. The report was approved.

## **9. Reports of Student Societies**

- **AUS President, Ghania Javed**, presented the AUS Report (Document A22-18) as submitted.

In addition, the AUS President pointed out that the merchandise available is also for the faculty and encouraged everyone to come grab a coffee and AUS tote bags.

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

The Chair thanked Ghania Javed for her report.

- **PGSS Representative, Rine Vieth**, reported on the AGM in the Fall and stated that there were two particular themes: financial support for student success through transition, and make sure students have access to all the resources they need.

PGSS Representative Rine Vieth also updated Faculty members about various events organized by the students' society, ranging from trivia to snow tubing. They reminded everyone that there are PGSS exclusive discounts to various events for PGSS members.

They then encouraged Faculty members to talk to their grad students re: involvement with PGSS (Faculty Council, Athletics, etc.)

A discussion on the closure of OSVRSE followed. Associate Dean Balán stated that the Office of the Dean of Students increased staffing and that Dean Beech had invited everyone to reach out to him with questions. PGSS Representative Rine Vieth noted that students weren't notified of the office's closure when it happened and objected to the lack of transparency. They added that there is a different privacy regime between the Office of the Dean of Students and OSVRSE. Associate Dean Balán informed everyone that OSVRSE had now reopened.

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

The Chair thanked Rine Vieth for their report.

## **10. Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **11. Adjournment**

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

The Chair acknowledged the healthy quorum and encouraged everyone to keep attending.

The meeting adjourned at 4:09pm.