

**FACULTY OF ARTS
Minutes of Meeting
April 12, 2016
Robert Vogel Council Room**

Attendance: As per Faculty Appendix Book.

Documents: A-15-18 to A-15-22

Order

Interim Dean Meadwell welcomed everyone to the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

Agenda

601.1 Professor Trehearne (English) **moved** approval of the agenda, seconded by Professor van den Berg (Sociology). **Carried.**

Announcements

602.1 There were no announcements.

Minutes of Faculty of March 8, 2016

A-15-18

603.1 Mr. Gilling moved approval of the minutes, seconded by Professor Everett (Langue et littérature françaises). **Carried.**

Business Arising from the Minutes

604.1 There was no business arising.

Members' Question Period

605.1 No questions were submitted.

Award Presentations

606.1 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick (Chair, Arts Faculty Prizes and Awards Committee) said that several awards would be announced. The Associate Dean said that the importance of making awards to colleagues was to honour them in their accomplishments and careers. He pointed out that it takes a lot of time and effort to determine the winners and that this year there were twelve committee members that contributed to this work.

Arts Award for Distinction in Research

606.2 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick announced that the winner this year for Humanities was **Professor Ronald Niezen of the Department of Anthropology.**

606.3 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick read the following citation:

"I am delighted to announce that Professor Ron Niezen from the Department of Anthropology is this year's recipient of the Faculty of Arts Award for Distinction in Research for Humanities.

After receiving his Ph.D. from Cambridge, he spent nine years at Harvard, before coming to McGill in 2005. He is currently a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in the Comparative Study of Indigenous Rights and Identity, and holds the Katherine A. Pearson Chair in Civil Society and Public Policy, located jointly in the Faculties of Arts and Law.

Professor Niezen's research has covered such varied topics as the rise of an Islamic reform movement in West Africa, the origins and growth of the global indigenous movement, and aboriginal youth suicide in Canada's Northern reserve communities. He has published seven books, including the 2013 Truth and Indignation: Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Indian Residential Schools.

One of the unifying themes of Prof. Niezen's research is his focus on communication, how broad systems of understanding are constructed, particularly in the evolving relationships between indigenous peoples and dominant societies. Here he follows a line of renowned Canadian scholars of communication processes, including the great philosopher of communication theory and public intellectual, Marshall McLuhan. For instance, he has shown how oppressed peoples from around the world are competing for public attention in ways that link human rights with creative uses of new media, creating global differences that stem from their differential capacities to appeal to remote, unknown publics.

To merely refer to Professor Niezen's work interdisciplinary is a colossal understatement. Throughout his career, Professor Niezen has moved between disciplines with ease, consistently showing how permeable are their boundaries. Ultimately, Professor Niezen is a scholar of the culture of human rights, committed to revealing and bettering the conditions of deprivation and abuse suffered by indigenous populations worldwide by connecting the interests of smaller communities to an international scale of power and influence.

Please join me in congratulating Ron."

Faculty applauded.

606.4 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick announced that the winner this year for Social Sciences was **Professor Russell Davidson of the Department of Economics.** The Associate Dean conveyed the regrets of Professor Davidson.

606.5 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick read the following citation:

“It is with great pleasure that I announce Professor Russell Davidson from the Department of Economics as the 2016 recipient of the Faculty of Arts Award for Distinction in Research for Social Sciences.

One of the world’s leading econometricians, Professor Davidson came to economics following a career in theoretical physics, where he had over 20 refereed publications. He arrived at McGill in 2002 after 26 years at Queens. He is a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Economics, a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and is one of only 11 Canadian Fellows of the Econometric Society, a highly selective international society that includes both econometricians and quantitative economists.

Professor Davidson’s co-authored 1993 book Estimation and Inference in Econometrics remains THE seminal graduate textbook in the field and accounts for nearly a third of his stunning citation total of over 17,500. The rate and quality of his publications continues to be extraordinary – 15 papers in leading international journals in the last seven years – particularly given the complexity of his work.

Professor Davidson is widely recognized as a leader in the development of bootstrapping, a statistical tool that involves computer simulations and data resampling to test given hypotheses and to obtain estimates based on statistical data. Bootstrapping methods, which provide the foundation for the ability to more accurately evaluate the degree of conformity of observed data with existing hypotheses, have had a profound impact on statistical inference in both econometrics and statistics.

Professor Davidson has extended the use of the bootstrap method to a wide variety of econometric applications, including income distributions problems, inequality and poverty measurements. As a result, his work has had and continues to have a significant practical influence on public policy decisions over a broad range of issues. He continues to work on increasing the efficiency and ease of application of these methods.

Congratulations, Russell.”

Faculty applauded.

H. Noel Fieldhouse Award for Excellence in Teaching

606.6 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick announced that the winner this year was **Professor Daniel Heller of the Department of Jewish Studies**. The Associate Dean read the following citation:

“Professor Heller’s record as a teacher is exceptional in every respect.

In the short two and a half years he has been at McGill he has completely redesigned four core courses for the department, courses which he had never taught before. They cover a wide range of topics, from Jewish History 1000-2000 to the History of Zionism to the Soviet-Jewish Experience to the Holocaust. They now consistently

attract so many students that the enrollment caps have been raised, and in one case doubled to 200.

Dan recognizes the sensitive nature of much of the material he teaches and the fact that students are often emotionally connected to one side or the other. Through the combination of primary sources and historical scholarship he presents a range of perspectives and methodological approaches which enable students to critically examine the ways in which history is interpreted. He creates an environment in the classroom in which students feel free to discuss the issues. He encourages them to speak up and challenge existing interpretations. And they do. As one student wrote: "His course allowed me to grasp the necessary historical background to wrestle with one of the most complex issues in contemporary political discourse." He is also generous with his time outside class for students who wish to engage with him further on the issues.

Dan's course evaluations amount to a veritable panegyric: Best professor I've had so far. He's engaging, passionate, knowledgeable, enthusiastic, very funny, and fair. He . . . always provides clear and thoughtful explanations to difficult questions.

For Dan Heller, teaching is neither simply the job he does nor the profession he chose: it is his vocation.

Congratulations, Dan."

Faculty applauded.

Arts Awards for Graduate Student Teaching

606.7 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick said that the Arts Committee on Graduate Studies was proud to announce this year's recipients of the Arts Graduate Student Teaching Awards. The following citations were read:

Milaine Alarie is a PhD student in Sociology.

606.8 *"She has been the TA for 3 different courses, including Family & Modern Society, Gender & Development, and Sociology of Human Sexuality.*

She has also been the Course Lecturer for both Sociology of Gender and Crime. Milaine's understands the importance of creating a welcoming, more personalized experience for U0 and U1 students who are new to university life. She learns each student's name and a bit about each of them personally. She has also advised and mentored several students, one of whom went on to win a prestigious scholarship.

Milaine's students say that her conferences are exceptional. She creates a great atmosphere in which are cooperative and motivated to work. One student writes that she owes her academic confidence to Milaine. Others describe her as "engaging and approachable," and her lectures as "captivating."

Milaine brings an infectious, positive energy to her teaching—even to the very early, 8:30 a.m. Crime course up the hill in Steward Biology Building.

Daniel Goodhue is a PhD student in Linguistics.

606.9 *“Daniel has served as TA for 3 different courses, Introduction to Linguistics, Introduction to Semantics and Introduction to the Study of Language, in each of which he ran weekly conferences of 25-30 students each.*

Dan’s is known for his ability to explain difficult concepts clearly. He has found that tricky balance between meeting the needs of the students who don’t like linguistics without losing the interest of those who do. In the newly revamped Introduction to the Study of Language, Dan served as both a sounding board to the instructors and a mentor to the more junior TA, which contributed to the success of the course.

His professors describe him as intellectually mature, curious, independent, and reliable, and an exceptionally talented teacher.

Dan’s students comment on his ability to foster in them a passion for linguistics and his willingness to help struggling students. “If I could give him a grade,” one student wrote, “I would give him an A.””

Kathrin Spiller is a PhD student in Languages, Literatures, and Cultures.

606.10 *“Kathrin has taught all levels of German language, both in intensive and regular-semester formats, and in Fall 2015 she was the Course Lecturer for the first-year literature seminar, Images of Otherness, for which she designed her own syllabus.*

One of Kathrin’s students writes: “She is a fantastic instructor and a brilliant mind. Her topics and materials pushed [us] to challenging ideas and prompted relevant, important discussions.” Another student wrote that Kathrin “is able to use the small-group class environment in an effective and useful way. She engages all of us with really well-crafted discussion questions.”

In her courses, Kathrin uses interactive applications for creating storyboards and virtual puppet shows through which the students can summarize the material, present their interpretation of a particular literary text, or create their own stories. This, they say, helps them practice their writing and speaking skills in an enjoyable way.

Kathrin has also been one of the leading organizers of McGill’s German language immersion weekend at the Gault Estate for the past three years.”

Please join me in congratulating Milaine, Dan and Kathrin as the 2016 recipients of the Arts Graduate Student Teaching Awards

Faculty applauded.

Arts Insight Dissertation Award

606.11 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick announced that the winner this year for Social Sciences was **Dr. Jose Ignacio Nazif-Munoz, Department of Sociology** and read the following citation:

“Dr. José Ignacio Nazif-Muñoz’s dissertation is entitled “Inequity on the roads: the interplay of global forces on road safety policy diffusion and traffic fatalities and injuries”. The thesis explores how the global diffusion of road safety policy has affected traffic injuries and mortality rates through a mixed-methods analysis combining cross-national statistics with an in-depth case study of Chile.

This thesis is immensely important. It offers convincing evidence that road safety policies have had important effects. Dr. Nazif- Muñoz provides extremely important policy insights that, if implemented, could help to save thousands of lives world-wide.

The new database Dr. Nazif- Muñoz developed is composed of novel indicators, which enabled him to identify how the international legal policy instruments were associated with the global diffusion of a number of road safety policies, including child safety restraints and daytime running lights, and how the effectiveness of road transport policies within individual countries relates to the adoption of global policy initiatives.

His thesis is variously described as “a rare mix of cutting edge academic research and applied policy analysis”, “splendid in every way”, and “a jewel, simply a marvel of sociological analysis.”

Dr. Nazif- Muñoz is currently assessing multiple job opportunities, including a SSHRC postdoctoral fellowship at the Faculty of Health at York University, a postdoctoral fellowship at McGill’s Institute of Health and Social Policy, and a job offer from the University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center.

We are very pleased to honour José Ignacio Nazif-Muñoz with the Arts Dissertation Award for best dissertation of 2015 in the Social Sciences.”

606.12 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick announced that the winner this year for Humanities was **Dr. Claudia Bouliane, Département de langue et littérature françaises**. Professor J. Everett (Langue et littérature françaises) read the following citation:

« L’adolescent dans la foule. Un chronotype romanesque de l’entre-deux-guerre »

« La thèse de Claudia Bouliane porte sur l’adolescent tel qu’il se donne à lire dans le roman français de l’entre-deux-guerres. Elle propose une démarche novatrice, convoquant sociocritique et « microlectures » de scènes de foule, démarche qui « pourrait faire école et se transposer à d’autres motifs romanesques ». Cette double approche permet d’embrasser une forme de totalité dans l’ordre des représentations, à la manière de ce que font les historiens dans l’étude d’un « événement total ». L’auteure fait voir l’enchevêtrement des discours et des savoirs de tous ordres et les différentes manières dont ils peuvent s’inscrire dans les œuvres littéraires. Celles-ci peuvent porter en elles non seulement l’expression des tensions sociales, mais poser un diagnostic sur le contemporain; à une époque comme la nôtre, où l’adolescence est en expansion, grugeant peu à peu aussi bien l’enfance en

amont que l'âge adulte en aval, cette étude des discours et des représentations de l'adolescent est essentielle pour comprendre l'origine et le développement ultérieur de cette catégorie sociale critique. En plus de souligner la grande érudition de Claudia Bouliane, « tant sur le plan littéraire que dans le domaine de l'histoire politique, de la psychologie de l'adolescent, de la sociologie des foules et même de l'histoire de l'urbanisme », les examinateurs ont loué les qualités stylistiques de sa thèse.

Claudia Bouliane est actuellement stagiaire postdoctorale à l'Université du Québec à Montréal.

C'est avec plaisir que nous décernons à Claudia Bouliane le « Arts Dissertation Award » pour la meilleure thèse en sciences humaines pour 2015. »

Faculty applauded. The Associate Dean also thanked Dr. Kathleen Holden (Dean's Office) and Dr. Sarah Kaderabek (Dean's Office) for their assistance with the work of the awards committee. Faculty applauded.

Arts Award of Excellence for Administrative and Support Staff

- 606.13 Interim Dean Meadwell conveyed the regrets of Professor J. Burman (Chair, Arts Award of Excellence for Administrative and Support Staff Committee) and announced, on the Chair's behalf, that the winner this year was **Ms. Connie Di Giuseppe of the Administrative Service Centre 2**. Interim Dean Meadwell then read the following citation:

“This award was created to recognize truly outstanding performance and contributions to the Department, Faculty, and University. The recipient of this year's award is Connie Di Giuseppe.

Ms. Di Giuseppe has worked at McGill since 1988. She has held multiple positions across the university, eventually landing in the Department of Anthropology, where she was a high-level manager for four years before the transition to Administrative Service Centres. She is currently a manager in ASC 2, comprised of Anthropology, Sociology, Jewish Studies, and History.

Ms. Di Giuseppe was described by her group of nominators - consisting of all Chairs in her ASC, as well as fellow admin staff and an Associate Dean - as "the soul of our administrative unit". She combines knowledge drawn from experience with true leadership qualities. She is described as an excellent mentor and motivator - to clerical staff but also to peer managers - who is not afraid to speak her mind. Connie is valued for her innovative approach to problem-solving, her equanimity and good humour, her impressive productivity, and her willingness to take risks.

We chose Ms. Di Giuseppe for this year's award on the basis of three main attributes: her leadership qualities, her ability to mobilize her knowledge of university structures to effect change, and her generosity toward academic and administrative colleagues. Ms. Di Giuseppe is in many ways a mentor to other administrative staff, and she is proactive and innovative in her approach to their

shared workplace. She has made an extraordinary contribution to forging a single, effective unit out of four separate departments, beginning with the participating in the planning stages. She has shown an impressive capacity to critically evaluate and effectively change and streamline procedures for her administrative units. Her colleagues value her for her ability to combine good humour with blunt and forthright advice, and her willingness to go the extra mile on behalf of the unit. As her nominators put it, "She has instilled in (our ASC) not only an expectation of efficiency but also a spirit of good will and congeniality, the key to the success of any organization!"

The awards committee received several impressive nominations, which showed how many of our Managers in Arts are exceeding our already high expectations. Nonetheless, we were unanimous in our choice of Connie Di Giuseppe as recipient of the 2015 Faculty of Arts Award of Excellence for Administrative and Support Staff."

Faculty applauded.

606.14 Interim Dean Meadwell congratulated all the winners and also thanked all the committee members that worked so diligently to determine the winners.

Report on the Actions of Senate - Senate meeting of March 23, 2016

607.1 Interim Dean Meadwell noted that the report for the Senate meeting held on March 23rd was available on web. Members did not have any questions regarding the report. The report can be found at: <http://www.mcgill.ca/arts/facultystaff/facultymeetings/faculty-meetings-restricted>

Detailed minutes of Senate meetings can be found at: <http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/senate-2015-2016>.

607.2 The Interim Dean thanked Senator Galaty (Anthropology) for the report.

Report of the Dean

608.1 There was no report.

Report of the Associate Deans

609.1 There were no reports.

Report of the Curriculum Committee

A-15-19

610.1 Associate Dean Lane-Mercier **moved** approval of the Report of the Curriculum Committee 'en bloc', seconded by Professor Beck (History and Classical Studies).

The report contained the following proposals:

GEOGRAPHY

Proposed new program:

B.A. Minor Concentration in Health Geography	CC-15-142
Proposed program revisions:	
B.A. Major Concentration in Geography (Urban Systems)	CC-142A
B.A. Minor Concentration in Geography (Urban Systems)	CC-142B

For Information:**Faculty of Education**

B.A. Education (Education in Global Contexts); Major in Education in Global Contexts	CC-15-147
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610.2 The motion **carried**.

Report of the Classical Studies Advisory Committee**A-15-20**

611.1 Professor B. Trehearne (English) **moved** approval of the annual report, seconded by Mr. Gilling. **Carried**.

Report of the History and Philosophy of Science Program Committee**A-15-21**

612.1 Professor Schlimm (Philosophy) **moved** approval of the annual report, seconded by Professor J. Everett (Langue et littérature françaises). **Carried**.

Report of the Nominating Committee**A-15-22**

613.1 Professor Trehearne (English) **moved** approval of the Report of the Nominating Committee “en bloc” as outlined in document A-15-22, seconded by Professor Quaroni (Languages, Literatures, and Cultures).

613.2 Interim Dean Meadwell pointed out the following corrections to the report:

- Page 2, Committee on Research membership

The membership for 2016-17 was withdrawn from the report. Interim Dean Meadwell reported that the committee membership for this committee will be reconfigured over the summer and will be brought back to Faculty in the fall.

- Page 2, Curriculum Committee membership

Interim Dean Meadwell reported that Professor M. Fronda (History and Classical Studies) was mistakenly replaced as a member and, as a result, the nomination of Professor E. Heaman (History and Classical Studies) must be withdrawn.

613.3 The motion **carried, as amended**.

Report of the Activities of the Arts Undergraduate Society

614.1 Mr. Gilling, on behalf of AUS executives, thanked the Interim Dean and Associate Deans for all the support and help they provided over the year. Mr. Gilling hoped that the level of cooperation that was reached with the Dean and Associate Deans will continue with the new executives next year.

A detailed report can be found at:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/arts/facultystaff/facultymeetings/faculty-and-chairs-meetings-restricted>

614.2 Interim Dean Meadwell thanked Mr. Gilling for the kind words.

Report of the Graduate Students

615.1 Mr. Dial reported on the following items:

- Time Limitation Policy is undergoing changes. Two year deadline in which to complete the dissertation is being eliminated. Candidates submitting post-PhD7 will only have to pay tuition and fees for the semester in which they submit.

- Ongoing work with Dean Nalbantoglu at Graduate Postdoctoral Studies to better track the funding of individual students.

615.2 Interim Dean Meadwell thanked Mr. Dial for the report.

Other Business

616.1 There was no other business.

Adjournment

617.1 The meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.