

**FACULTY OF ARTS  
Minutes of Meeting  
January 26, 2016  
Robert Vogel Council Room**

**Attendance:** As per Faculty Appendix Book.

**Documents:** A-15-1 Revised (2)      A-15-10      A-15-11      A-15-12

**Order**

Interim Dean Meadwell welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**Resolution on the death of Emeritus Professor Valentin Boss**

401.1 Professor Wright (Department of History and Classical Studies) presented the following resolution:

“It with great sadness that I rise today to announce the passing of Valentin Boss, Professor Emeritus of Russian History at McGill University. Professor Boss died on November 29, 2015, after a long battle with Cancer.

Valentin Boss was born in Nazi Germany, and escaped with his mother eastward into Soviet Russia, where he lived as a young boy during the war years before travelling to Britain with his mother near the end of the war. For those of you unfamiliar with the early years of his life, I urge you to read the obituary of his life available on line. His story is remarkable.

Valentin was thereafter raised in Scotland and England where he won an entrance Scholarship to Cambridge, undoubtedly where he acquired his Oxbridge accent. Perhaps unsurprisingly, given his background, he was drawn to Russian History, and he began to specialize in Czarist Russia, particularly the seventeenth century. He came to Canada in 1954 and then entered Harvard to complete his PhD in Russian History in 1964.

After teaching in several locations, Professor Boss joined McGill’s Department of History in 1974, where he taught Russian and Soviet history for 38 years. Here, I must acknowledge that I was one of his students when I arrived at McGill in 1984. I took all of his courses. Boss was a charismatic personality and a mesmerizing lecturer. But his academic contribution over four decades was not just to the Department of History. His courses were indispensable to the Department of Slavonic and East European Studies and, later, to the minor in Russian Studies. He also, perhaps less well known, self-identified as an historian of science, and his research interests involved the study of Newton and Milton.

On behalf of the Department of History and Classical Studies, I would like to extend my condolences to Militsa and his wider family. His legacy continues in the Valentin Boss bursary for graduate students in History.”

- 401.2 Interim Dean Meadwell noted that the resolution was unanimously accepted and that the Faculty would forward a copy of the resolution to the family.

**Presentation – Provost Christopher Manfredi**

- 402.1 Interim Dean Meadwell welcome Provost Manfredi to the meeting.

- 402.2 Provost Manfredi began by saying that he was happy to be attending the meeting and that he would very much like to hear any comments or concerns that Arts colleagues might have and that he would update colleagues on matters that were developing in his office. The following updates were provided:

Budget

- Efforts were being made to make the deficit as small as possible and to identify academic interests that would help with advancing the University.
- Tracking of expectations for the current FY2016 as noted in the University Budget Book was progressing reasonably well. The Budget Book lays out a five year budgetary projection. An unexpected negative variance this year was the added cost of spending more funds on library acquisitions due to the drop in the Canadian dollar. There was a positive variance when a valuable plot of land was sold, the revenue produced from the sale will be tracked this year.
- The budget for FY17 was being prepared. More details will be available in March.
- The province has been indicating that there could be some flexibility regarding tuition fees.
- A deficit budget may be presented to the Board of Governors.

Academic

- One project that has been moving forward was the creation of a School of Public Policy which would be partially funded by an external private foundation.
- Because of his keen interest in Indigenous Studies, which began when he was Dean of Arts and saw the work that the School of Social Work was doing in this area, the Provost decided that another project would be to launch a Provost’s Task Force on Indigenous Studies and Aboriginal Education. This will be an opportunity for McGill to be the leader in this area. More details will emerge as the Task Force begins its work.

- 402.3 Interim Dean Meadwell said that the next part of the Provost’s presentation would entail a question and answer period.

- 402.4 The Provost replied to questions with the following responses:

- The flexibility in tuitions fees would most likely apply to international students and regulated programs. There has not been much information provided yet.
- The payout for endowment funds is set on a particular rate and is based on a three-year rolling average therefore any decrease in the value of an endowment this year

won't affect the payout for next year. However, there will be an affect at some point in time. The focus should be more on the decrease of the Canadian dollar as this will have an increase in expenditures for such items as library acquisitions, the recruitment of academic staff and retention could possible become an issue.

- Regarding the bond rollout, the Provost responded by saying that the Board of Governors last spring approved a plan that would allow McGill to borrow up to \$400 million over the next four years to address the deferred maintenance issues which amount to \$1.3 billion. This means that three percent of the total operating budget will be affected and, as a result, some tough decisions will have to be taken. One of the ways to deal with this loan was to anticipate a reduction in administrative and support staff but, at this point in time, it seems that this method may not be sustainable and may need to be reconsidered. However, the deferred maintenance work must be dealt with as students need accessibility to buildings that are safe.
- In response to a comment that the current cuts to administrative and support staff have proven unworkable, the Provost replied that the plan to reduce in this area as noted in the Budget Book FY16 was an area that will be reconsidered because the plan as it stands is not sustainable.
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### Agenda

- 402.1 Professor Watson **moved** approval of the agenda, seconded by Professor van den Berg.  
**Carried.**

### Announcements

- 403.1 Interim Dean Meadwell announced that Professor Andrew Potter has been appointed to the position of Director of the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada for a three-year term effective August 1, 2016. Interim Dean Meadwell thanked Professor William Straw for the excellent leadership he has provided as Director for the past five years.

### Seating of Student Members

**A-15-1 Revised (2)**

- 404.1 The Interim Dean welcomed the graduate student members to the meeting and thanked them for the time and effort they will be devoting to the Faculty. The revised list of student representatives on Faculty committees for 2015-2016 was accepted.

### Minutes of Faculty of November 24, 2015

**A-15-10**

- 405.1 Mr. Sobat **moved** approval of the minutes, seconded by Mr. Greenspon. **Carried.**

**Business Arising from the Minutes**

406.1 There was no business arising.

**Members' Question Period**

407.1 No questions were submitted.

**Motion: Creation of the School of Public Policy****A-15-11**

408.1 Interim Dean Meadwell said that ???

**Report on the Actions of Senate - Senate meetings of November 18, 2015, December 2, 2015, and January 20, 2016**

409.1 Interim Dean Meadwell noted that the report for the Senate meeting held on December 2<sup>nd</sup> was not yet available. Members did have any questions regarding the reports for the meetings held on November 18<sup>th</sup> and January 20<sup>th</sup>. These reports 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>.

409.2 The Interim Dean thanked the Senators for the reports.

**Report of the Dean**

310.1 Interim Dean Meadwell provided updates on the following:

- The proposal for the integration of the Faculty of Religious Studies into the Faculty of Arts as a school was moving up the approval path with the hopes that it would be before the Board of Governors by the end of this term and that all the approval steps would be completed by May 1, 2016.
- The first administrative step in the creation of the School of Public Policy will be a motion before this body. The process begins with a motion put forward to the Faculty because the School will be located in Arts. A motion to this effect will be submitted to the January 26<sup>th</sup> Faculty meeting. It was expected that the Curriculum Committee would also have a recommendation to present at the January 26<sup>th</sup> Faculty meeting with regard to the proposal for a Master of Public Policy.
- The review of the Arts Service Centres continues. The survey of administrative staff (Ms and Cs) has concluded. The final item being worked through, in terms of feedback, was student feedback. Some discussion has taken place with the Arts Undergraduate Society. More details about the review will be brought forth once the review process has been completed.

310.2 This concluded the Interim Dean's report.

### Report of the Associate Deans

#### Academic Administration and Oversight

311.1 Associate Dean Lane-Mercier reported on the following:

- ~~This was a snap shot of the course offerings for Winter 2016 with low enrolments (10 students or less enrolled as of November 10<sup>th</sup>):~~
  - ~~A total of 550 courses are listed for Winter 2016 and of these, 154 courses currently have ten students or less—this represents 28% of the total offerings.~~
  - ~~Of the 154 courses with ten or less students, 22 have already been cancelled and 19 have been temporarily closed.~~
  - ~~This means that currently there were a total of 115 active courses with ten students or less—this represents 20% of the total courses listed.~~
  - ~~Of the 115 active courses, 55 had an enrolment of five students or less—this represents 10% of the total offerings.~~

~~The Associate Dean asked that departmental Chairs/Directors consult their course offerings in order to determine if any actions need to be taken with regards to courses with less than ten students enrolled and, specifically, those with five or less students.~~

- ~~On a more upbeat note, meetings have taken place with all the departmental Chairs/Directors as well as Chairs of Interdisciplinary programs concerning minor concentrations with low enrolments. The conclusion was that everyone agreed that most of the low enrolment minor concentrations (with ten or less students over the last five years) should either be retired or completely rethought, revised, and updated over the next couple of years in an attempt to attract more students. This should prove to be a very useful endeavor.~~

~~In response to a question on what strategies were being used to try to make students more aware of minor concentrations, Associate Dean Lane-Mercier said that web pages have been examined, Directors of low enrolment minor concentrations have been asked to convene meetings with their advisory committees to examine this issue as well as getting students involved with the advisory committees, these Directors have also been asked to speak about their minor concentrations at Orientation sessions, etc.~~

~~Associate Dean Lach also noted that the OASIS web site was being redesigned to try to make information about such programs more visible.~~

~~It was pointed out that when the University supplied self-contained documents, for example, the printed Calendar one knew all the necessary information was provided, however, with the move to eCalendars, web sites and links provided with information, one was always left wondering if one truly received all the necessary and proper information. This causes confusion. One suggestion was to move to self-contained documents as PDF files and to get away from receiving disjointed~~

~~links. The one concern with this suggestion was that all the information in the PDF must be consistent with what was on the eCalendar.~~

#### Research and Graduate Studies

311.2 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick reported on the following:

- ~~• All the applications for the Mellon Fellowship have been received. This was a program with a value of \$1.5 million which was available to students in Humanities. Two applicants will be chosen out of eighty.~~
- ~~• A new position was posted for a Research Grants Assistant. The organizational chart and budget for this office will be brought to the next Faculty meeting.~~
- ~~• There will not be any changes to funding from the University for graduate students.~~

#### Student Affairs

~~311.3 Associate Dean Lach drew attention to a scholarship offered by the University of Glasgow. Information about this scholar was now posted on the OASIS web site. This award was a fee tuition waiver for students graduating from McGill University in Arts to study on a one year Masters program at the University of Glasgow.~~

~~Associate Dean Lach reminded members to complete the survey that was sent to academics about fall grades. The survey was open until November 30<sup>th</sup>. It was important to find out if academics agree with it in principle and there were a number of options that have been articulated for academics to weigh in on regarding the extent to which they favour them one way or the other.~~

311.4 Interim Dean Meadwell thanked the Associate Deans for the reports.

### **Report of the Curriculum Committee**

**A-15-12**

4??1 Associate Dean Lane-Mercier **moved** approval of the Report of the Curriculum Committee 'en bloc', seconded by Mr. Gilling.

The report contained the following proposals:

#### **PUBLIC POLICY**

Background Report / Feasibility Study Consultation  
Proposed New program: Master of Public Policy (CC-15-76)

Proposed New courses: PPOL 601 (CC-15-77) / PPOL 602 (CC-15-78) PPOL 603 (CC-15-79) / PPOL 604 (CC-15-80) / PPOL 605 (CC-15-81) / PPOL 606 (CC-15-82) / PPOL 607 (CC-15-83) / PPOL 608 (CC-15-84) / PPOL 609 (CC-15-85) / PPOL 610 (CC-15-86) / PPOL 611 (CC-15-87) / PPOL 612 (CC-15-88) / PPOL 613 (CC-15-89) / PPOL 614 (CC-15-90) / PPOL 615 (CC-15-91) / PPOL 616 (CC-15-92)

#### **SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

Proposed New option: MSW – Thesis, Gender & Women's Studies (CC-15-117)

#### **B.A.&Sc. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

Proposed Program revisions: Interfaculty Program in Cognitive Science (CC-15-115) /  
Honours in Cognitive Science (CC-15-116)

#### **INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS**

Proposed New program: Minor Concentration in Social Entrepreneurship (CC-15-93) /  
Proposed New course: SENT 499 (CC-15-93A)

#### **FACULTY OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

Proposed Program revisions: Honours Religious Studies – Asian Religions (CC-15-94) /  
Honours Religious Studies – Western Religions (CC-15-95) / Joint Honours Component  
Religious Studies – Asian Religions (CC-15-96) / Joint Honours Component Religious Studies-  
Western Religions (CC-15-97) / Major Concentration World Religions (CC-15-98) /  
Minor Concentration World Religions (CC-15-99) / Minor Concentration Religion and  
Globalization (CC-15-100)

Proposed New courses: RELG 358 (CC-15-101) / RELG 336 (CC-15-102) / RELG 444  
(CC-15-103)

Proposed Course revisions: RELG 208 (CC-15-104) / RELG 456 (CC-15-105) / RELG 573  
(CC-15-106)

#### **CATHOLIC STUDIES**

Proposed Program revisions: Minor Concentration in Catholic Studies (CC-15-107)

Proposed New courses: CATH 320 (CC-15-108) / CATH 330 (CC-15-109)

Proposed Course revisions: CATH 200 (CC-15-110) / CATH 315 (CC-15-111) / CATH 325  
(CC-15-112) / CATH 340 (CC-15-113)

Proposed Course retirement: CATH 320 (CC-15-114)

#### **MCGILL SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT**

Proposed Program revisions: Faculty Program Environment – Ecological Determinants  
of Health and Society (CC-15-118)

#### **ANTHROPOLOGY**

Proposed Program revisions: Ph.D. 2 in Anthropology (CC-15-119)

4???.2 The motion **carried**.

#### **Report of the Activities of the Arts Undergraduate Society**

4???.1 Mr. Gillling reported on the following:

- The Annual AUS Work Your BA event series is running from January 19 to January 29 and involves speed mentoring, a UN Speaker, alumni events, and more!
- The AUS-Library Partnership Committee (with the HSSL) is finalizing its AUIF proposal. We are looking at adding better furniture and revamping the HSSL landings.

- Peer tutoring for different departments will be launched next week! We've received some very high quality applications and we look forward to coordinating with various departments in setting that up.
- The first Prof Talk event happened on January 21st featuring Hans Beck and was well-attended.
- Marketing Committee is working hard to put together events and programming for AUS Services Week taking place February 1st-5th.
- FEARC is planning the yearly Quebec City trip which will be taking place in February.
- Two more presidents' roundtables are scheduled throughout this semester, including one with incoming members of departmental associations in order to facilitate turnover.
- The Arts Undergraduate Improvement Fund Committee is set to meet February 2nd. Application deadline was January 20th and the Steering Committee will be reviewing applications on January 25th. - The Screening Committee for the AUS VP Finance screening process will be set up by the January 27th. We are in talks to get a McGill Accounting Professor (most likely Prof Seda Oz) to sit on the committee.
- Met with faculty internals, the SSMU VPs Finance and Internal, and the Gerts manager to discuss the 3-year Sleeman contract and distribution of obligations between the faculties/SSMU.
- This semester the Event Planning and Involvement Committee will be planning Arts Attack (either in late March or early May) and helping with the logistics of the VP Academic's Thesis Retreat, with the possibility of another smaller event.
- Grad Ball Committee met for the first time last week and we discussed areas where we could improve from last year's event (specifically making the registration process easier) and we're currently in the midst of booking music for the evening.

A detailed report can be found at:

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

4???.2 Interim Dean Meadwell thanked Mr. Gilling for the report.

### **Report of the Graduate Students**

4???.1 Mr. Dial reported that there will be a report made at the March 8<sup>th</sup> Faculty meeting.

4???.2 Interim Dean Meadwell thanked Mr. Dial for the announcement.

### **Other Business**

4???.1 There was no other business.

### **Adjournment**

4???.1 The meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.



