

**FACULTY OF ARTS
Minutes of Meeting
March 12, 2019
Robert Vogel Council Room**

Attendance: As per Faculty Attendance List.

Documents: A-18-11 to A-18-15

Order

Associate Dean Engle-Warnick welcomed members to the meeting and conveyed the regrets of the Dean. The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

Agenda

401.1 Professor J. Johnson (Political Science) **moved** approval of the agenda, seconded by Professor E. Bolangaro (Languages, Literatures, and Cultures). **Carried.**

Provost Christopher Manfredi

402.1 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick welcomed Provost Manfredi to the meeting.

402.2 Provost Manfredi began by saying that he was happy to be at the meeting. He said he was visiting the various faculty councils to hear what was on the minds of colleagues and to provide a sense of what was going on in the Provost's Office and where the University was with respect to the budget planning process for FY20 as well as how the University will end up in FY19.

402.3 Budget

One year ago the Board of Governors approved a budget for the University that had a deficit of \$15.4 million. The argument was successfully made that in order to deliver the kinds of programs that we wanted to deliver and at the level of quality that we want to deliver them, the University needed to spend more money than what it was bringing in. The University was also operating under a "plan de redressement" because of the budget deficit the year before as a result of some unexpected recalculations of the University's government grants from years previous to last year. The "plan de redressement" meant that the University had to present a plan to get back to a balanced budget within five years, which was done. The "plan de redressement" was critical for receiving what is called 'the conditional grant' that we get from the province which was equal to approximately \$30 million a year. The Plan was accepted and the conditional grant was received in the summer. This was good because if it was not received then the University would have to go out and borrow money to replace the money from the government. There is a plan to get back to a balanced budget in five years.

402.4 For FY19, we thought we budgeted for \$15.4 million deficit but as a result of two factors it was likely that we would end the year much better than planned. It might be more like a \$7.5 million deficit. This was a big improvement.

Factor 1: was that the FY19 budget was built on the basis of the old funding formula, which was the one that was in place when the budget was built one year ago in March, and over the spring the funding formula changed. The weights that are attributed to different disciplines changed and there was a simplification of the characterization of activities and the result of that, because of the composition of McGill's students, the change was very favorable to the University. There were changes with respect to how doctoral students are weighted, there used to be a big differential between doctoral students in the health sciences, sciences and social sciences and humanities. They are all now weighted in the same manner. This was very good for Arts. The reweighting of the disciplines, given our student composition, meant that our government grant went up which was higher than what was budgeted.

Factor 2: our enrolment numbers were higher than predicted, not by a huge amount but by enough that when you combine higher grant times more students and also tuition times more students we generated much more revenue than predicted.

As a result, the University was looking to finish this fiscal year in a much better position. This will all be laid out at the next Senate meeting in the Provost's second budget report. The University was on track to hit the target of a balanced budget in five years.

For FY20, the change will be the deregulation of international and graduate students currently in regulated programs which are largely programs in Arts, not exclusively but that is one of the biggest groups of currently regulated international students resides. Now we will be free to set tuition for those students and will keep all of the money that those students pay to the University. Previously we only kept the Quebec tuition portion and sent the remainder of the money to Quebec City to be redistributed across the network. On the other hand, we will lose all of the small number of government grants that we are now getting for the currently deregulated students in Science, Management, and Engineering.

In the short run, the deregulation will have a bit of a negative impact on our revenues because we are not planning on increasing our tuition fees by a substantial amount. The tuition fee increases will be kept at the percentage increases that have been typical for that group, which is around the three percent range. At least in the short term until we figure out a way to make sure we have the right financial assistance programs in place and so on.

The Provost said he was quite comfortable that the University will meet its commitments made under the "plan de redressement" and that the University will continue to receive the conditional grant.

402.5 Master Plan

Working in conjunction with the Vice-Principal (Finance) on the development of the Master Plan for the physical plan for both campuses. Sessions have been held around the Master Planning process. The plan is quite extensive. There is an ambitious plan for Capital

Investments in the University. If one looks at the entire range of what is hoped to be done the amount comes to approximately \$3.4 billion. So the issue is how to do this and where will the funds come from etc.

402.6 Questions:

What is the likelihood of academic staff salaries increasing because there is a balanced budget? Provost Manfredi replied that the effect might be extremely good.

Will Arts benefit from the deregulation? The Provost replied that it would.

OASIS has been looking into ways of changing the workload for the study away program. What are the chances of an office dedicated to study away being created? Response: What is not needed is more bureaucracy, what needs to be changed is to make the procedures easier for both students and staff and to make changes to transfer credits.

Currently the funding formula for graduate students is a problem in Arts, can the formula be revised? The Provost replied that he would need to see data about this and speak to the Dean of GPS to determine if there was, indeed, a disadvantage to Arts.

It seems the costs for work like hiring contractors, painting, and moving are still much higher than outside costs. This is a burden on departments. Can something be done? Provost Manfredi said the point was taken, however, since he was not involved in Procurement but that he understood the situation.

402.7 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick thanked the Provost for attending the meeting and providing such interesting news. Faculty applauded.

Announcements

403.1 There were no announcements

Minutes of Faculty of January 22, 2019

A-18-11

404.1 Professor D. Béland (Political Science/MISC) **moved** approval of the minutes, seconded by Professor S. Laszlo (Economics/ISID). **Carried.**

Business Arising from the Minutes

405.1 There was no business arising.

Members' Question Period

406.1 No questions were submitted.

Report on the Actions of Senate -

407.1 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick asked if there were any questions for Senators. No questions were raised.

Detailed minutes of Senate meetings can be found at: <https://mcgill.ca/senate/senate-2018-2019/senate-meeting-documents-2018-2019>

Report of the Dean

408.1 There was no report.

Report of the Associate DeansAcademic Administration and Oversight

409.1 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick conveyed the regrets of Associate Dean Lane-Mercier and noted that there was no report.

Faculty Affairs

409.2 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick said that there was no report.

Research and Graduate Studies

409.3 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick noted that there was no report.

Student Affairs

409.4 Acting Associate Dean Hickman reported on the following:

- Enrolment Services has been performing a lot of work on enhanced language on their web site about final exams, deferred exams, and supplemental exams. The new language has gone live over the past week or so. The enhanced language is designed to support students in a better way concerning their decision-making around final exams and deferred exams. A pilot project began three years ago that students could submit a first-time request for a deferred exam with a valid reason but no medical documentation. A decision on whether or not this will continue has not yet been made, however, it has been noted that a culture change has taken place because of this project around deferred exams. Students were now thinking more that deferring final exams would be possible, to their advantage, and of help. Enrolment Services and OASIS both are of the opinion that students need to be reminded that sometimes students are not eligible to request a deferred exam and sometimes it may not be to their advantage to do so. This was the reason for the enhanced language. It is important to spread this news as widely as possible.
- In light of the greater commitment recently for international mobility and global engagement OASIS has been trying to think in serious and specific terms on how to operationalize in ways that reduce the amount of work and make the process of Study Away smoother for everyone at the academic advising office, for Faculty advisors, for Faculty members in units who are involved in the course equivalency process etc.

OASIS has been thinking about and working with the Provost's Office about a new way of proceeding whereby credit for courses people request for elective credit is built into partnership agreements with partner universities. Going forward this would be a process whereby if McGill has a partnership agreement with another university then it would be assumed that any courses that the student took elsewhere would receive elective credit towards their degree. Then if students wanted to receive program credit for a course taken elsewhere they could then seek a course equivalency according to the current process.

A consultation process will be undertaken to seek feedback about the ways in which the Study Away process might be revised.

- As noted at the last meeting, Ms. Ms. Bianca Brunetti has joined the team in OASIS as the new Local Wellness Advisor for the Faculty of Arts. In this role, Ms. Brunetti will act as a liaison for students, referring them to services at the Rossy Student Wellness Hub and to other student services; she will be identifying health promotion and other training needs for the Faculty of Arts; she will provide initial screening and assessment for students who present with concerns about well-being and health; and she will be ready to provide workshops and support groups, primarily for students, but also for staff and faculty. It is important to let as many students and colleagues know that this service is available to them.

409.5 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick thanked Acting Associate Dean Hickman for the report.

Report of the Curriculum Committee

A-18-12

410.1 Acting Associate Dean Hickman **moved** approval of the Report of the Curriculum Committee 'en bloc', seconded by Professor J. Johnson (Political Science).

The report contained the following proposals:

LANGUAGES, LITERATURES, AND CULTURES

Program revisions:

Major Concentration in German Studies	CC-18-96
Minor Concentration in German Studies	CC-18-97

LITTÉRATURES DE LANGUE FRANÇAISE DE TRADUCTION ET DE CRÉATION

Program revisions:

Ph.D. Langue et littérature françaises : traduction littéraire	CC-18-98
Ph.D. Langue et littérature françaises : recherche-cr�ation	CC-18-99

INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

New program :

Minor Concentration in Latin American and Caribbean Studies	CC-18-100
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410.2 The motion **carried**.

MISC Annual Report**A-18-13**

411.1 The Annual Report of the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada was accepted.

Report of the Activities of the Arts Undergraduate Society

412.1 Ms. M. Wilson (Student Member), on behalf of Ms. Kemeni (Student Member), reported on the various activities. The report was posted on the Faculty web page.

412.2 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick thanked Ms. Wilson for presenting the report.

Report of the Graduate Students

413.1 Ms. A. Thorup (Graduate Student Member) reported on the various activities. The report was posted on the Faculty web page.

413.2 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick thanked Ms. Thorup for the report and noted how great it was to have graduate students participating at the meetings.

Other Business

414.1 There was no other business.

Adjournment

415.1 The meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.