

**FACULTY OF ARTS
Minutes of Meeting
October 27, 2015
Robert Vogel Council Room**

Attendance: As per Faculty Appendix Book.

Documents: A-15-3 A-15-4 Revised

Order

Interim Dean Meadwell welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Interim Dean Meadwell said that the first piece of business was to ask the assembly for permission to give Interim Dean Cere and his colleagues speaking rights so that they can speak to and respond to questions concerning Item 6 on the agenda. Members agreed with the request.

Resolution on the death of Mr. Stephen Millier

201.1 Professor Abisaab (Institute of Islamic Studies) presented the following resolution:

“It is with great sorrow that the Institute of Islamic Studies and the Islamic Studies Library notes the death of Mr. Steve Millier. Steve was born in Granby, Quebec, on 11 January 1959. He completed a Baccalaureus degree in Classic Studies receiving a First Class Honours degree in 1983. He began his graduate work in Islamic Studies the following year. However, by 1985 he changed course and began working in the Islamic Studies Library. By 1987 Steve became a copy-cataloguer of the diverse sources and materials in the ISL. On October 27th 2010 Steve became a member of the McGill Quarter Century club.

Steve’s language skills made him an ideal source of information on a plethora of topics and subjects related to the study of Islam. A humble man, Steve is known to have reading fluency in Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Ottoman Turkish, Urdu, French, German, Italian, classical Greek, Latin and to have been capable in an assortment of other languages such as Hindi, and Chagatai. Steve’s dedication to the IIS and ISL communities went beyond his regular duties of reference work, cataloguing and collection development; indeed, Steve is recognized for his generosity in helping students and faculty achieve their potential through his immense and far-reaching editing work.

Steve passed away, suddenly and unexpectedly, from a heart attack on 7 September 2015. He is survived by two brothers, Allan and Brian. Our deep condolences go to them.”

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

Agenda

- 202.1 Mr. Sobat **moved** approval of the agenda, seconded by Professor Trehearne. **Carried.**

Announcements

- 203.1 There were no announcements.

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- 204.1 Mr. Biggs **moved** approval of the minutes, seconded by Professor Stenbaek. **Carried.**

Business Arising from the Minutes

- 205.1 There was no business arising.

Members' Question Period

- 206.1 No questions were submitted.

Motion: Integration of the Faculty of Religious Studies into the Faculty of Arts As the School of Religious Studies

A-15-4 Revised

- 207.1 Interim Dean Meadwell **moved**, seconded by Professor Galbraith:
 "To support the integration of the Faculty of Religious Studies into the Faculty of Arts as the School of Religious Studies as per the agreement reached between the Provost and the Faculty of Religious Studies on June 22, 2015."
- 207.2 The motion **carried** unanimously. Interim Dean Meadwell thanked Interim Dean Cere and his colleagues for attending the meeting.

Report on the Actions of Senate - Senate meeting of September 24, 2015

- 208.1 Interim Dean Meadwell noted that the report for the Senate meeting held on September 24, 2015 was available to read at:
<http://www.mcgill.ca/arts/facultystaff/facultymeetings/faculty-meetings-restricted>

208.2 With no questions raised about the report, Interim Dean Meadwell thanked Senator Nystrom for the report.

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

Report of the Dean

209.1 Interim Dean Meadwell provided updates on the following:

- Negotiations with the T.A.s have concluded with a collective agreement, thus avoiding a strike. The T.A. collective agreement has been ratified and signed and will be going forward as a four year contract. The negotiations over the sessional lecturers' contract have also been concluded successfully. The collective agreement will be signed over the next few days. This collective agreement will change how the Faculty hires and uses sessional lecturers. The Faculty has been in touch with Human Resources to inquire on the steps that need to be taken to implement the agreement with the sessional lecturers. This contract covers three years.
- The curriculum for the Master of Public Policy in the School of Public Policy is being developed. The Provost's Office is waiting for instruction from the Secretary General with regard to administrative procedures to establish the School of Public Policy in the Faculty of Arts.
- The Interim Dean confirmed that there was continuing pressure on the budget in the Faculty, specifically on the salary mass of administrative and support staff. The Faculty has been asked to proceed with a \$200,000 cut to this part of the Faculty budget. The Dean's office is exploring several scenarios by which to meet these cuts. Budget pressure on administrative and support staff is likely to continue beyond this year.

209.2 This concluded the Interim Dean's report.

Report of the Associate Deans

Academic Administration and Oversight

210.1 Associate Dean Lane-Mercier reported on the following:

Curriculum Committee

- A reminder to all the units who intended to retire minor concentrations as a result of discussions that took place over the past several months with the Co-Chairs of the Curriculum Committee, to please forward such retirements as soon as possible. A few retirements have been received but it is important to continue the process of retiring programs that have low enrolments. This will be an ongoing process.

Summer Studies

- Units must submit, by the end of October, which courses they wish to offer for Summer 2016. The budget for the Summer Studies program has remained stable for the past five years at \$400,000. This year, however, it has dropped to \$352,000 because of budget cuts. Many of these courses are taught by sessional lecturers and because of the increase in sessional lecturers salaries, which will be in effect this summer, less courses will be offered this summer.

It was suggested, in light of the decreasing budget, that perhaps it would be useful to produce statistics on how much revenue McGill might lose should students begin attending Concordia University because there are no longer enough summer courses being offered this university.

Associate Dean Lane-Mercier responded that the suggestion was certainly relevant and interesting. However, discussions have begun with the Interim Dean on what the Faculty can do to deal with this situation. Now would be the time for the University to consider alternative solutions such as creating new summer programs that could take advantage of the residences which are really underused over the summer months.

It was noted that many North American universities use summer sessions to generate large amounts of revenue by offering not only courses for graduate students or courses that are necessary because of inadequacies of course breadth during the year but also offering high enrolment courses. Perhaps offering high enrolment courses during the summer could be a source of revenue for McGill.

Also noted was the fact that students are normally overwhelmed with large classes during the beginning of their studies at McGill and perhaps offering small enrolment summer programs could give them a unique experience of attending smaller classes.

Associate Dean Lane-Mercier said that these were interesting points and noted that this was an on-going discussion.

Promenade Urbaines

A public consultation for the Promenade Urbaines project will take place this evening at Thompson House at 7:30 p.m. This initiative will create a pedestrian thoroughfare through the city, connecting the river to the mountain. McTavish Street will play a key role in this thoroughfare and, as a result, there will be more construction disturbance on this street. Assurances have been given that the utmost will be done to ensure that classes being held in this vicinity will proceed with as little disturbances as possible. The outcome will be a beautiful green space. The Associate Dean expressed the importance of colleagues attending the public forum and information sessions in order to show how Arts is invested in this project and its design.

Library

On October 15th the Dean of Libraries unveiled plans for renovations to McLennan/Redpath Libraries. Details can be found on the library web site. These are the main items that will be done: 1) the Library will build an underground automated storage and robotic retrieval system which will be located under the commons; 2) Redpath Hall has a portion of its original façade incased in newer construction and the idea is to unveil the original façade which will be enclosed in an atrium. This will become a lovely concerts/events hall with access for the entire University; and, 3) Redpath Library will be completely rebuilt. A portion of the current collection housed in McLennan Library will be moved to storage and new student spaces will be created. The next step will be to develop a business plan

followed by fund raising events to generate funds to pay for the project. The timeline for this project is dependent on funding.

Research and Graduate Studies

- 210.2 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick reported on the following:

Research

The office was moving forward with posting a new position that will manage a grant writing system in Arts. This new hire was possible because of funds that come from the Federal Tri-Council (Arts) fund. Funding this new position will not affect the faculty budget. This means a restructuring of the office: one person responsible for the CRC program, the postdoc program and graduate studies; one person responsible for prizes and awards; and, one person responsible for the grant writing process.

Graduate Studies

A meeting with the Graduate Program Directors and staff in the various departments will be held in a week to roll out the database, the Report on Graduate Student Funding. Each department will now have a detailed summary of every full time graduate student's funding.

Student Affairs

- 210.3 Interim Dean Meadwell conveyed the regrets of Associate Dean Lach who was attending a Conference.
- 210.4 Interim Dean Meadwell thanked the Associate Deans for the reports.

Report of the Curriculum Committee

A-15-5

- 211.1 Associate Dean Lane-Mercier **moved** approval of the new Joint Honours Component in German Cultural Studies, the revisions to the Joint Honours German Language & Literature & Culture, the Major Concentration German Cultural Studies, the Major Concentration German Language, Literature & Culture, the Minor Concentration German Cultural Studies, and the Minor Concentration German Language, and the program retirements for the Minor Concentration German Literature and the Major Concentration German Contemporary Studies, seconded by Mr. Sobat.

Note: the following course proposals were approved by the Curriculum Committee on April 13, 2015:

GERM 332 CC-14-83 /GERM 333 CC-14-84 /GERM 335 CC-14-85 /GERM 337 CC-14-86 /
GERM 340 CC-14-87/ GERM 344 CC-14-88 /GERM 348 CC-14-89 /GERM 350 CC-14-90 /
GERM 351 CC-14-91 / GERM 366 CC-14-92 /GERM 371 CC-14-93 /GERM 372 CC-14-94/
GERM 375 CC-14-95 /GERM 379 CC-14-96 /GERM 381 CC-14-97 /GERM 385 CC-14-98 /
GERM 388 CC-14-99/GERM 390 CC-14-100/GERM 401 CC-14-101/GERM 360 CC-14-
102/GERM 364 CC-14-103 /GERM 365 CC-14-104 /GERM 369 CC-14-105

- 211.2 Professor Trehearne (English Department) queried whether or not the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures consulted with the Department of English regarding

any of their proposals with the name 'German Cultural Studies'. Associate Dean Lane-Mercier replied that the Curriculum Committee was not aware of any such consultation.

Professor Trehearne explained that the English Department has a Cultural Studies program which has had for many years included courses, for instance, German Cinema. For this reason it is important that written consultation to discuss any potential implications to the English Department take place. Professor Trehearne noted that it was not his intention to impede the approval progress for the submission, especially where Calendar deadlines are concerned but did feel that it should be noted that the consultation process was flawed in this case.

Associate Dean Lane-Mercier said that normally departments and the Curriculum Committee try to ensure that consultation has taken place.

- 211.3 Professor Holmes (Languages, Literatures, and Cultures) explained that the department has always offered a German Cinema course and that the submission was not to move in a new direction, such as Cultural Studies, but more so to retire old programs and old courses.
- 211.4 Interim Dean Meadwell suggested that the Dean's Office coordinate a meeting between the Chairs of both the departments to discuss the concerns and with the aim of acquiring written consultation.
- 211.5 The motion **carried, as amended.**

Report of the Activities of the Arts Undergraduate Society

212.1 Mr. Templer reported on the following:

- A Secretary General of the AUS has been hired. We are looking into making changes to the VP Finance appointment process, potentially moving from an elected position to an appointed one.
- The Academic Affairs Committee has met and is looking at a variety of projects for the year.
- The Library Partnership Committee will meet on Friday October 30th with Robin Canuel and Sara Holder from the HSSL to discuss some capital improvements for the library.
- Peer tutoring allocations for 8 different departments have been allocated, allowing these departments to hire students to mentor and tutor their peers.
- The President's roundtable was hosted and was very successful. Presidents from departmental associations sat with the VP internal and the President to discuss current issues and possible collaborations.
- The Freshmen Events Academic and Representative Committee executives were appointed.
- Plans are in the works for the Grad Fair and we are in the process of hiring volunteers for the event.
- Finished hiring and appointing students for various committees and positions.

- The French Conversation Circles are in full swing; Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 students are all welcome.
- We are in the process of booking the Windsor Ballrooms again for our AUS/SUS Grad Ball on Saturday, March 19th.
- Our next confirmed event is the Stache Dash apartment crawl on Friday, November 20th, which raises money for cancer research.
- Presented the AUS budget to Council and had it approved.
- Re-hired Fuller Landau as auditors for 2015-2016 and finalized all tax forms for 2014-2015.

A detailed report can be found at:

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

212.2 Interim Dean Meadwell thanked Mr. Templer for the report.

Report of the Graduate Students

213.1 Interim Dean Meadwell reported that there was no graduate student representative appointed to this body as of yet.

Other Business

214.1 There was no other business.

Adjournment

215.1 Professor Trehearne **moved** to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Ning. The meeting adjourned at 3:44 p.m.