



**Faculty of Education**

**Faculty Council**

**MINUTES**

**October 2, 2024 – 10:00 – 12:00 p.m.**

**Room 233**

Present:

*Elected members:* Professors Allison Gonsalves; Pengfei Zhao; Shanna Williams; Jessica Ruglis, Benoit Gentil; Tyler Churchward-Venne; Andee Shuster; Veronica Bergsten; Danielle Foster

*Non-elected members:* Dean Venkatesh; Professors Joseph Levitan; Caroline Paquette; Marie-Hélène Pennestri; Kevin McDonough; Eve Marie Quintin; Gordon Bloom

*Guests/Ex-Officio:* Professor Paul Zanazanian, Sabrina Milano, Allyson Nofall

*Regrets:* Professor Michelle Smith, and President of EGSS

**Chair's Remarks**

Dean Venkatesh thanked the members and asked the Faculty Council members to introduce themselves, as this was the first Faculty Council meeting of the year.

The Dean provided the following updates and broad vision for the Faculty:

- He spoke of his first three months during which he had already attended department meetings and had an opportunity to receive advice and counsel from various members of the Faculty.
- The Dean briefly shared his broad vision for the Faculty.
- The Dean made the following administrative announcements:
  - Currently, there are searches for a new Chairperson for the Department of Integrated Studies in Education (DISE) and the Department of Educational & Counselling Psychology (ECP).
  - The Dean is reviewing the Faculty Council Constitution and standing committees.



- There is a review of OFNIE. The current Director, Stephen Peters' mandate will not be up for renewal in January 2025 and the Dean is in the process of seeking Indigenous Scholars for an interim new Director.
- Dean Venkatesh clarified that the Directorship of OFNIE reports to the Dean's Office as opposed to the Department of Integrated Studies in Education (DISE).
- The Faculty is in discussions with the Office of Indigenous Initiatives to be able to hire an Indigenous Scholar for the Directorship of OFNIE.
- A third-party independent evaluation is necessary to undertake a revisioning exercise so that we can maintain neutrality and work with experts from Indigenous communities who have the capacity to understand the impact the work of OFNIE has had in the communities.
- The Dean requested that Faculty Council members communicate to their colleagues/teams information delivered at Faculty Council and bring any of their concerns back to Faculty Council.
- The Dean's vision exercise for the Faculty includes the student experience as an important facet of our Faculty.
- The Dean raised the questions of how we will respond to academics, government pressures, and pathways for accreditation of clinicians and teachers. How will our international students be affected by the government's deregulation process?
- The Dean wants to learn about our current recruitment policies and protocols. To what extent can we benefit from the Central recruitment services? To what extent can our graduate recruitment plan be improved? He asked about McGill's presence internationally, who are our key contacts regarding international recruitment and exchanges?
- The Dean emphasized that our departments need to work together and support each other.
- Concerning philanthropy, although we are well supported by University Advancement, it is the Dean's role to engage with donors. It is the Dean's role to consider the ethics of our donations, including the organizations we are engaging with, and to ensure that we engage in humane and responsible governance.

Question: K. McDonough asked the Dean what are his fundamental goals and values in regard to the revisioning of the Faculty? How does the Dean plan to accommodate the differences of the departments?

Response: The Dean stated that a steering committee may need to be formed to review the revisions or enlist external expertise.



### **Adoption of the Agenda of October 2, 2024**

B. Gentil moved, and A. Gonsalves seconded the motion to approve the agenda of October 2, 2024

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **Approval of Minutes of March 27, 2024**

- A. Gonsalves pointed out a spelling error in the name of elected member Pengfei Zhao in the Minutes of March 27, 2024.
- The Dean reminded Faculty Council that only elected members who attended the March 27, 2024, meeting of Faculty Council can vote to approve the Minutes.
- B. Gentil moved and D. Foster seconded the motion to approve the Minutes of March 27, 2024

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **QUESTION REGARDING THE STATUS OF THE COLAB (Appendix 02102024Q1)**

Allison Gonsalves presented the question and Dean Venkatesh responded that he had spoken to University Advancement and Kathy Nikidis, Headmistress, Trafalgar School for Girls. A Notice of Termination has been sent from Trafalgar School for Girls to McGill University which is currently being studied by the McGill Legal team. This action was taken because Trafalgar is incapable of purchasing the buildings needed as they have not raised enough funding. The donations are currently held in a fund at McGill. There is a willingness by the representatives of Co-Lab to work with the Faculty of Education to use these funds for other projects with Trafalgar and other public schools in the Montreal area. The Dean stated he will not make any unilateral decisions; he intends to discuss options with DISE.

Question: A. Gonsalves enquired who are the members of the CoLab?

Response: Dean Venkatesh did not have that information on hand.

Question: J. Ruglis asked what will happen with the space, can it be used for other purposes?



Response: C. Paquette responded that the Coach House is still up for sale and people with offices in the Coach House have been moved to other locations. In order for the Faculty of Education to utilize space allocated for the Co-Lab, we could reapply for permission to use these spaces.

Question: P. Zanazanian enquired if Trafalgar would be open to using the funds for collaborations with public schools. The Department of Integrated Studies in Education has suggested that the funds not only be used for a collaboration with Trafalgar School for Girls.

Response: Dean Venkatesh has written to University Advancement and studied the original proposal which clearly mentions working with Trafalgar and the public school system. The Dean is also looking into whether the funding may be used across the departments. The Dean will provide another update at the next Faculty Council meeting.

## Consultations & Reports

### **Associate Dean Academic Programs**

- eCalendar will switch to Course Catalogue:
  - This will include a major overhaul of the McGill eCalendar website with content being transferred to a software company called CourseLeaf and is billed as making the student experience better.
  - There will need to be a review process. Further details will be sent.
- Course retirements:
  - The Office of the Provost and Executive Vice-President Academic (OPEVPA) will be retiring courses that have had zero enrollment for at least three years. J. Levitan has contacted the Department Chairs to make sure there are no problems.
  - Course retirements **are not permanent**. The courses are just not going to be online unless an email is sent to Cindy Smith to bring them back. J. Levitan is consulting with the Chairs and GPDs of the three departments to make sure the lists are correct.
- Academic Program Development is no longer frozen.
  - The OPEVPA has asked for all program development plans to be run through the Dean's Office to avoid confusion, but preliminary conversations are starting again.
- ESSAC (Enrolment & Student Affairs Committee) updates:



- Canada award (for out-of-province students) is only available for Fall 2024 and Winter 2025. There is no plan to continue this award in future years.
- The [Policy for the Academic Accommodations of Religious Observances](#) is now up. This replaces the old policy. Important for faculty to be aware.
- The University is seeking to expand access to Enriched Educational Opportunities (EEO's) which are mobility and other experiences that are officially recognized by a student's Faculty. The OPEVPA is looking to promote EEOs. M.H. Pennestri has been in touch with ISA and there are limited EEOs in our Faculty. Internships and stages are not considered to be EEO's.
- The MEES Bourse d'Excellence scholarship program will proceed as planned for this year, but there is no confirmation from the government regarding its continuity for next year. The following points were presented to the attendants:
  - **Number and amount per scholarship:** Four scholarships of \$7,500 each, with a maximum of \$30,000 per student.
  - **Eligible Programs:** Regular programs with 30+ credits. For short programs with less than 30 credits, such as "Education Physique" the scholarship could also be granted. If required, it will be best to validate program status with Mme. Belanger from the Ministry office at [claudine.belanger@education.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:claudine.belanger@education.gouv.qc.ca);
  - **Residual amount:** If a student drops, the remaining amount can be allocated to another student in the Winter term.
  - **Reporting Periods:** There are two reporting periods. 1) December 15, 2024, and 2) April 1, 2025.

Question: J. Ruglis asked where departments should direct questions concerning the retirement of courses? Response: J. Levitan answered that more information is available through Cindy Smith; or J. Levitan, Associate Dean, Academic Programs, can assist with some questions.

Question: A. Shuster requested J. Levitan to link her in on any Course Catalogue changes as that affects links on the Faculty website.

**Associate Dean Research & Innovation**



The Dean announced that M.H. Pennestri, Associate Dean, Research & Innovation, is also attending Faculty Council as Co-Chair of the Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology (ECP), along with Co-Chair Eve-Marie Quintin

- Research Funding Checklist is the new name for the OSR checklist. M.H. Pennestri reminded academics to always check the OSR website for up-to-date forms.
- The Research Funding Checklist and Table of Commitments should be sent to M.H. Pennestri as soon as possible, and inform EDAC as soon as possible.
- The Innovative Education Grant Call was launched, and seven applications were received.
- Emails have been received re: delays from ethics committees. They are short-staffed. M.H. Pennestri will reach out to them.
- There is a new VP Research, Dominique Bérubé.
- The University is working on new strategic research plans for 2025. M.H. Pennestri asked for feedback from the Faculty.
- Mentoring: M.H. Pennestri is working with EEDAC to help academics with support

Question: Gordon Bloom shared that a KPE staff member submitted a plan in June, but it took three months to be reviewed. He wanted to know what caused such a long delay.

Response: A. Gonsalves informed Council that EEDAC doesn't meet and deliberate over the summer. The deadlines and important dates are mentioned on the EEDAC website.

Response: M.H. Pennestri mentioned that they are short-staffed, and they have hired new staff, which could partially explain the delay. M.H. Pennestri would follow up, and the Dean also offered to make enquiries as a three-month delay was not acceptable.

### **Associate Dean of Administration**

Updates on Construction Projects:

- COMPLETED: Currie Gym 305/6 and 408/9 Classrooms.
- UPCOMING: Education Building third floor Active Learning Classroom – On hold until further notice.

Request for scientific equipment (Teaching Labs):



- Every year, the University Teaching Lab Working Group (UTLWG) accepts applications to update/replace equipment for our teaching labs. A call for equipment may be issued in October/November, depending on the UTLWG budgets. Please inform the contact persons overseeing a teaching lab (or chair) and communicate any equipment needs

Classroom technology:

- Please make sure to always report problems to IT by opening a ticket (via classroom phone or online) and inform the Building Director of the issue so that we can follow up as well.

Space:

- Reminder not to move furniture or leave items in the corridor. Contact the Building Director instead.
- Meeting spaces can be booked via [buildingdirector.education@mcgill.ca](mailto:buildingdirector.education@mcgill.ca) for group/lab meetings.
- Graduate student workspace with hot desks: B180 is available.
- New Postdoc/Research Assistant Space available shortly with bookable hot desks. Watch for the announcement coming out soon.

## **LIAISON LIBRARIAN AND COORDINATOR**

Fiat Lux Update:

- The Senate announced on September 18<sup>th</sup> that the Fiat Lux project was suspended.
- The McLennan-Redpath Library complex buildings remain open for users. This complex includes the Humanities and Social Sciences Library and Rare Books and Special Collections, and more than 2,800 study spaces
- Different options are being looked at for the short-term and medium/long-term for the renovation of spaces in the McLennan-Redpath complex. The Dean of Libraries is involved in these discussions.

McGill University Collections Centre (MUCC) Update

- The McGill University Collections Centre opened in June 2024
- Users can request material from the collections centre for pick up through the Sofia Shared Library Search Tool.
- Daily deliveries are made five days a week using an electric vehicle service, so that users can access material in a timely manner.



- Items can be delivered to a branch of a user's choosing or to a faculty member's office using the Faculty Office Delivery Service.

Question: A. Noftall asked if the Collection Center is in Valleyfield.

Response: Veronica Bergsten confirmed this is correct.

- The Library contacts are Emily Kingsland for ECP; Sharon Rankin for DISE & Veronica Bergsten for KPE.
- Dean Venkatesh thanked the Libraries for their collaboration to ensure that our Curriculum Resource Center remains active, and that Fay Young continues to work there to provide assistance.

## **EGSS**

No Representative attended.

## **EdUS**

EdUS Elections:

- Voting will take place the weekend of October 4-6, 2024
- EdUS will need to appoint because there we still be a few unfilled positions.

EdUS & ISA Speaker Series:

- Collaborating with ISA administrators, Lara Franko, Career Advisor, and Anurag Dhir, Internships Administrator, to facilitate a series of professional development seminars throughout the year, which will replace the PedTalks of previous years. Eventually EdUS would like this to be integrated into the VP Academic portfolio.

Wellness Initiatives:

- Co-VP Wellness, Avery and Maria, have hit the ground running with wellness activities including yoga, apple picking and hike, and therapy dogs in the Education Building lobby.
- EdUS is collaborating with Local Wellness Advisor (LWA) to distribute fruit baskets delivered by SNAC at the EdUS office.

EduBuddies Mentorship Program:

- 61 matched pairs of first-year students and upper-year students to help ease the transition into university.



- Two events took place in September, including Online Speed Friending and board games. No events are planned for October due to midterms, but events will pick up again in November.

## Varia

- The Dean mentioned that at the last Faculty Council Steering Committee meeting a request was made that reports be made at least 5 working days in advance of future Faculty Council meetings which he is in favour of.
- The Dean would like to know if enrollment numbers can be shared with Faculty Council members and asked how often these numbers can be shared.
- The Dean would like awards, prizes and grants to be shared and documented at Faculty Council meetings.
- The Dean would like to open up discussion about our Constitution, which was established in 2013. Amendments have been suggested but there is currently a moratorium on modifications to the Constitution because the Secretary General Office were working on a central plan. Any revisions would have to be cleared through the Secretary General Office. This could be something the Faculty Council Steering Committee could look into.
- The Dean has been meeting with some of our Standing Committees and he would like to see documentation on the composition of these Committees, their powers, their nomination process and the voting process for committee members. Some committees are outdated or no longer exist. The Dean would like the Faculty Council Steering Committee to review terms and mandates of all our standing committees so that they can be published on the website.
- The Dean clarified who were the members of the Faculty Council Steering Committee.
- The OPEVPA will be attending the beginning of the December Faculty Council meeting.

Question: K. McDonough asked for clarification on how expansive will the conversation be about the composition and structure of Faculty Council?

Response: The Dean clarified that everything should be brought up, including how is the mission of Faculty Council being achieved at the moment? What changes do we feel are needed? We will have to discuss with Senate what the limits of our Constitution are. It may require a working group starting at the Steering Committee level.



Question: A. Gonsalves enquired who were the members on EGSS this year?

Response: A. Nofall confirmed that currently there are no members on EGSS. We have tried to contact them through email, but we have received no response.

- A discussion followed and it was suggested that the Dean's office reach out to the Dean of Students office or PGSS in case they have any information on the status of EGSS.
- A. Nofall confirmed that she had renewed their resource account for emails etc.
- K. McDonough mentioned in past years EGSS has offered travel grants, emergency bursaries etc., for conferences and that graduate students pay fees for EGSS but they have no current membership.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Faculty Council Steering Committee will meet to discuss the Constitution.
- Fact-finding for EGSS status.

Meeting adjourned @ 11:44 a.m.

- a. A. Shuster moved to adjourn, and A. Gonsalves seconded.



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Faculty of Education

Faculty Council

MINUTES

December 4, 2024 – 10:00 – 12:00 p.m.

Room 233

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Present:

*Elected members:* Allison Gonsalves; Pengfei Zhao; Shanna Williams; Jessica Ruglis, Benoit Gentil; Tyler Churchward-Venne; Michelle Smith; Andee Shuster; Katherine Spandidakis; Danielle Foster; Cole Gowdy

*Non-elected members:* Vivek Venkatesh; Joseph Levitan; Caroline Paquette; Marie-Hélène Pennestri; Anila Asghar; Kevin McDonough; Eve Marie Quintin; Steven Shaw; Gordon Bloom

*Guests/Ex-Officio:* Christopher Manfredi, Allyson Noftall, Eileen Foran

*Regrets:* Veronica Bergsten

**Invited Guest: Provost and Executive Vice-President (Academic), Christopher Manfredi**

In April 2024, the Board approved a provisional budget for FY25. There will be a presentation at Senate on December 4 then the budget will go to the Board for final approval.

There is a \$12M deficit, but we managed to do what we needed. Moving toward a \$15M deficit due to an increase in building and occupancy costs. There is a \$5M contingency. All is under control for this year.

Currently building the FY26 budget. Challenges: revenues are rising at a slower rate than expenses. Adjustments are required to present a balanced budget to the Board for the next fiscal year (\$45M budget adjustment). McGill has to do a *plan de redressement* because of a deficit budget over the next two years.

Concerns:

- Bill 74 will give the government more authority to limit international students. All Quebec universities are united. The rectors of the four medical-doctoral universities (McGill, Montreal, Laval, Sherbrooke) appeared before the Parliamentary Committee at the National Assembly to present their case. The bill is in its final stages of approval.
- Recent report on the status of French in Quebec has some sections on universities. This may provide the government with the fuel to do what they did with the English Cégeps (cap the number of English students and 85 percent of content taught must be in French).



Positive notes:

- Convocation was a success with a great number of Indigenous graduates from the Faculty of Education.

Question: G. Bloom asked how do we reply honestly and enthusiastically to prospective hires/graduate students/families who are asking what happens if these measures go to the extreme?

Response: McGill has been around for 200 years; we've gone through periods ebbs and flows. We have strong support from the alumni network (financially, acting as advocates with the government, the new Chancellor is well connected with the government); applications are up across the board including from American high schools (113 percent); McGill has a global reputation and we will continue to weather this situation as we have others in the past, we should all be prepared.

Question: A. Gonsalves asked can you project any material consequences and how it will impact faculty?

Response: This government has put the training of teachers as a high priority. We have seen special funding for teacher training. McGill has done better at meeting the government's objectives than some of the other Education faculties in other universities. Education will be one of the areas that the government prioritizes. If we must make major financial adjustments to the University, the faculty will be affected. Annual cap on capital spending (province-wide) has limited our ability to carry out some capital projects. Education will be in a good place.

Question: K. McDonough asked what timeline do you foresee for the escalation of the Cégep problems to university-level and what measures is McGill taking?

Response: It all depends on what the government thinks its electoral politics are. If they act on this report, they will start before the end of this legislative session (late spring to start in fall). They would have to bring it in slowly. We are now just monitoring, thinking through possible scenarios.

Francisation – 80 percent of non-Quebec students must graduate with intermediate French. Trying to turn this into a strength: *Come to McGill and leave with not just a great education but a set of personal skills that will serve you well in your future.* We must mobilize all our supporters in Quebec, including well-connected members of the francophone community to show that Quebec doesn't become stronger if you kneecap its most important institutions.

C. Manfredi expressed appreciation of the work of the Faculty, which contributes importantly to teaching and research missions of the University, and also in training the next generation of teachers not only in Quebec but across the world.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF DECEMBER 4, 2024**



A. Shuster put forth the motion, and S. Shaw seconded the motion to approve the agenda of December 4, 2024.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 2, 2024**

A. Gonsalves moved and J. Ruglis seconded the motion to approve the minutes of October 2, 2024

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **CHAIR'S REMARKS**

V. Venkatesh announced new members of Faculty Council and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

V. Venkatesh announced the new appointments in the Faculty since October 2024:

- Bronwen Low, Chair for DISE
- An offer was extended for the Chair of ECP, and they have accepted and are awaiting formal approval from the Provost's Office.
- Anila Asghar, Associate Dean, Faculty Support and Development
- Daniel Fortin-Guichard, Assistant Professor, KPE
- Donna Wilkinson retired, Eileen Foran is the new Senior Administrative Coordinator
- Allyson Noftall, Director of Administration
- Geraldine King and Michelle Kennedy, Interim Co-Directors, OFNIE
- V. Venkatesh is in discussion with the Provost's Office regarding the hiring of admin professionals and staff hires (DICE, ECP, OFNIE, Dean's Office). They are in the final steps of negotiations and should be hearing soon which positions we are allowed to hire for. There are specific funds for program development paid not only through operational funds of the Faculty but also through funds filtered down by the Provost's Office from the Ministère de l'enseignement supérieur.
- There is a meeting on December 17 with all program directors regarding the status of enrollment, how we go about recruiting students in graduate and undergrad programs and what targets we will be setting. We would like to negotiate with Central on what the targets may be. These vary based on graduate funding, funding available from the Faculty, and research that are handed to us from Central. We want to discuss some concerning trends: The graduate programs have dipped significantly; we want to support both thesis and non-



thesis. PhD programs have been successfully recruiting. There are some challenges ensuring continued funding of PhD students.

- Search for DISE Associate Chairperson: candidates will be interviewed by a search committee. The new Associate Chair should be in place by January or February.
- Seeking clarity on the status of the Education Graduate Student's Society (EGSS), there is no membership on Council. The Dean may escalate to GPS or PGSS for counsel; it is of concern.
- V. Venkatesh thanked those who attended the Town Hall/Meet the Dean Event. He spoke of the broad pillars of the strategic plan and has received feedback. He would like to move on this to work with Central to create a Steering Committee to work on the strategic plan. More news to come.

Items for discussion pertaining to the Constitution:

- V. Venkatesh suggested the creation of working groups to help review the Constitution to act in a more collegial governance. He spoke with the University Secretary General (Edyta Rogowska) about how governance at McGill functions. He would like to put forward for Faculty Council's review the mission of the Faculty Council and its membership.
- We would like to have a process of decision-making that is in alignment with university priorities, the principles and its broader mission. We have a larger mission to respond to societal needs.
- We need to ensure a participatory element and accountability at every level as we build these governance policies. Faculty Councils are not mandated in the statutes. They have a combination of decision-making and advisory powers.
- We are one of the few that does not include all tenure-tracked members of the Faculty Council. V. Venkatesh would like to open this up for discussion and create a working group with clear agenda items. We can also consider post-doctoral scholars and fellows. We want to ensure transparency and representation but avoid unnecessary bureaucracy.
- V. Venkatesh would also like to raise larger issues not in the Constitution: Recruitment, enrolment, internationalization, Indigenous issues, student safety, over freedom of expression on campus. There is a meeting with faculty members in the coming week regarding engaging students about their safety on campus and academic freedom – items he deals with on a regular basis in his role with constituents in the Faculty. There is room for larger discussion to bring the three departments together. Faculty Council can perhaps host some events.
- V. Venkatesh will send the notes to E. Foran to have a document for this meeting.
- Faculty Council should play a central role in strategic planning. A steering committee can be formed and who will sit on the committee is to be decided. This steering committee



should work with our colleagues at Central who can assist in preparing the strategic plan. The committee can look at indicators we're building with program directors about recruitment strategies, examining enrolment number. The steering committee can think carefully about what indicators work best for which departments. A significant buy-in by members in our department is required to enact this plan.

- V. Venkatesh will send out a reminder for the new year (after the end of term and holiday season).

Other matters that faculty councils on other faculties have debated:

Accreditation: we have several programs across our departments that are accredited involving special skills and expertise that are required of our academic staff members in terms of the process. There may be ways in which Faculty Council can assist in harmonizing some of those processes.

Faculty Council gives V. Venkatesh an opportunity to hear from members and how they function. In his meetings with the Provost, he would like to bring updates from these meetings on things that matter, what we need help in.

A document appended to the Constitution has standing committees. A few committees are already active (for example EDI Committee and Anti-Black Racism Committee which secured \$25K to work on an intra-departmental project). Do we want to add more committees? How to we rarify them – meet every few months to hear from ad-hoc committees? Meet in person? Half-hour updates online? Will you read reports sent to you? Do we divide the work and make recommendations?

V. Venkatesh talked about the creation of a Faculty Research Committee. He has received emails with questions on how decisions are made for awards at the Faculty and University-level. He has replied to these emails. We can create a Faculty Research Committee to allow for a centralized pool of expertise that would adhere to university policy in making nominations from the Faculty to the University. We need to look at the current list of committees first, who sits on them, are they defunct?

Do we begin with strategic plan? Membership: V. Venkatesh likes that Faculty Council has administrative representation; he would encourage seeking out advice on how to continue doing so. Procedures: it all comes together with an appendix; we may consider Constitution to be separate from terms of reference.

Question: A. Shuster asked about V. Venkatesh's mention of opening Council up to all tenure-track professors, while only having two staff representatives on Council. How can we be a decision-making body if we are open to many more people? How can we engage in dialogue with 100 people in the room?

Response: If we follow the example of other faculties, everyone will be a voting member. For example, quorum can be 50 percent + 1 and needs to be from tenure track. Not every member will attend. It will be a time for students, administrative professionals and academic staff members to



come together to make broader decisions. Open to any kind of configuration, knowing the current structure will remain in place until we decide otherwise.

Question: G. Bloom asked that if we open to larger numbers, the number of people attending can be greater in one unit than another. In our unit we have representation from everyone. It might discourage others from attending. We are already small to begin with. We need to consider how all units will be represented equally.

Response: Do we increase members from all departments with a cap on each department? Do we open voting privileges to all members of Faculty Council?

Question: K. McDonough talked about when Faculty Council was open to everyone, it could be more inclusive. One suggestion would be to make a full Council vote. Populate some of the committees with people outside of the main Council so they can participate. Does our Constitution present any barriers?

Response: Currently, the committees have members outside of Council. There is a distinction between some issues that are strategic: recruiting, awards. If these items are on the agenda, it might be an incentive to attend the meeting. They have a culture-making ego; unequal representation can backfire.

Response: If we separate things on which we vote versus discussions, we might be able to mitigate some of the representation issues. Interest might be varied across units; we might need to have a safeguard in place.

Question: S. Shaw asked about going through the exercise of reconsidering the Constitution and identifying the problems that need to be solved first. Consider who we are, what are our big problems? Then there is a purpose for every committee. The work of the steering committee is what to do first.

Response: The second paragraph of the Constitution is enacted by APC (Academic Policy Committee). End of paragraph says “will make recommendations”– is this something we are comfortable with? Most Faculty Councils also have the Provost/Presidents or their delegates as ex-officio members. It might be useful to have members from Central sit on Faculty Council. They can send delegates; we can hear from them, but they have no voting privileges. They can discover what is happening at the Faculty and vice versa. This is something else to consider for membership.

Question: M. Smith asked about the importance of being able to identify strategies to deal with the problems. The work around Indigenous Education has focused on OFNIE, it’s time to look more broadly across the Faculty with input from the President, Provost. She agrees with having standing committees. She wants to see that is integrated into the work and objectives of the Faculty. She sees a lot of potential.

J. Levitan said everything resonates with him. One concern is the flow of information and how different perspectives, and representation flow of information is important. Then the decision-making process can work. Small process, less information. We can examine what the structure



looks like, who is being represented, who needs to be included. A good process for decision-making which starts with the Constitution.

Question: J. Ruglis asked about the Awards Committee. Is it different from Prizes and Awards Committee? Is it student awards or faculty awards?

Response: A. Noftall said it's teaching awards and excellence. It doesn't specify which awards. This could be a committee that includes all types of awards, including research awards.

V. Venkatesh suggested a Constitution Review Committee that looks at the standing committees.

V. Venkatesh said to separate consultation/information gathering vs empowering leaders (administrative or otherwise) to make decisions that impact our faculty. Examples of what required larger consultation: policies around space, posters, student engagement and safety, Faculty safety, and recruitment on enrollment numbers. We might have some blind spots; what are the check points. Is there a standing committee? Review of the Constitution will help us delimit what kind of powers a Faculty Council should have. We can invite members from other faculty councils to advise (example: Edyta Rogowska). There is a lot of latitude in what we can and cannot do.

Question: A. Asghar asked what kind of decisions have been made by the Faculty Council?

Response: Voting on new programs, major curriculum changes.

J. Levitan mentioned the importance of equitable representation. Also, broad perspective of information sharing – a lot of the challenges are a lack of knowledge. When people are more informed, it's helpful. When decisions are made it is with a clear understanding of why they don't agree. Questions for review of the Constitution: What are some of the challenges? How are we going to think about representation? How are we going to design ways of sharing information and decision making?

Regarding representation, V. Venkatesh said it would be good to have MCLIU (McGill Course Lecturers and Instructors Union) members.

A. Shuster suggested varying our meetings (example: some closed council meetings then some public meetings).

V. Venkatesh said we can choose to keep Faculty Council limited in membership, requiring careful thinking around priorities thus making meetings more manageable. We can have open and closed sessions depending on the issue.

Next steps for Working Group on Reviewing the Faculty Constitution:

1. Volunteers of two or three people
2. Can Steering Committee look at this?
3. V. Venkatesh suggested he perhaps should not be chairing this, but instead be someone with a historical perspective. He can provide a counterpart in terms of his own experiences.
4. Smaller group to think about the larger ideas



5. Who is interested: C. Paquette, M. Smith, J. Ruglis, K. Spandidakis, A. Asghar, V. Venkatesh
6. Mandate: Review the Constitution, propose a mission, think about current articles in the Faculty Constitution - what the problems are, are they fulfilling the mandate they are supposed to, and review standing committees.
7. If possible, meet in January

## **CONSULTATIONS & REPORTS**

### **ASSOCIATE DEAN ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

- Significant course and program changes are in the pipeline for APC. We want to make sure that processes are clear. We are reviewing the terms of reference to ensure clear understandings of roles, responsibilities, and procedures in the committee
- Current admissions numbers and targets are being reviewed and reassessed based continuing policy changes
- Administrative efficiency for program development is a high priority and we have begun consultation about inefficiencies
- Proposals for international collaborations are moving forward
- No new updates on ministry policies or movements since last meeting
- A sub-committee to respond to the ministry's push for faster teacher education pipelines has been formed. Data is being gathered.

Question: Is this for elementary as well?

Response: We are at the information gathering right now. It's a 50/50 split on whether it's feasible. If you have any information, please email J. Levitan.

### **ASSOCIATE DEAN RESEARCH & GRADUATE STUDIES**

- Follow-up REB
- CRC and internal chairs competition
- Research mentorship available
- OFFERING will be out of the office from December 9, 2024, to January 3, 2025. ADR will monitor the requests, but please expect delays and plan accordingly.



- GPS is available to support information sessions for Graduate programs recruitment. Please reach out to ADR if you plan to organize an activity or if you need support.

Question: V. Venkatesh asked what research mentorship is available.

Response: They started meeting with junior academic staff members.

## **ASSOCIATE DEAN ADMINISTRATION**

Updates on Construction Projects:

- UPCOMING: Renovations of the KPE washrooms at Currie Gym
- ON HOLD: Education 3rd Floor Active Learning Classroom – Not moving forward this fiscal year

Space:

- Please fill out the survey sent on Nov. 15 (please respond by Dec. 13).
- New Postdoc/Research Assistant Space available with bookable hot desks (B-199).

## **LIAISON LIBRARIAN AND COORDINATOR**

Education Faculty Council Libraries Report

Winter 2025 Course Reserves: Liaison librarians will be reaching out to professors and instructors in the coming weeks to provide more information about Course Reserves for the Winter 2025 term.

SciFree: The libraries are pleased to launch SciFree, a tool designed to help researchers locate Author Processing Charges (APC) waivers and discounts for McGill-affiliated authors. The tool allows you to search for journals by subject area, publisher, and ISSN. It displays the amount of the APC, licenses, payment options, and publishing models. When you are submitting, make sure to use your McGill email to obtain the discounts. More information can be found in the press release can be found on the McGill Libraries website under the heading “Announcing SciFree: a new search tool to help you find APC waivers and discounts” or [here](#).

Interlibrary Loans and Canadian Union of Postal Workers Strike: Delivery services for physical documents coming from other universities are suspended and the delivery services for Interlibrary Loans are very limited. If you only require a single article or book chapter that is not held within McGill’s collection, you can submit an Interlibrary Loan (ILL) request. More information can be found in the press on the McGill Libraries website under the heading “Update | Canadian Union of Postal Workers strike ends; requests & deliveries resume gradually” or [here](#).



**EGSS**

No Representative attended.

**EdUS**

C. Gowdy provided a brief update:

- Speak on Campus planning has begun Feb 1 and looking to Dean's office for financial assistance
- Wellness Week was very successful
- Charity clothing and food drive are ongoing – good stream of donations
- Valedictorian Committee: passed a motion to formalize and slightly amend the process. C. Gowdy will be chairing the committee.

Meeting adjourned @ 12:00pm

B. Gentil moved to adjourn and A. Gonsalves seconded.

**MOTION CARRIED**



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**Faculty of Education  
Faculty Council**

**MINUTES**

**January 29, 2025 – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Room 233**

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**PRESENT:**

**Elected members:**

Tyler Churchward-Venne; Benoit Gentil; Allison Gonsalves; Cole Gowdy, Michelle Smith; Andee Shuster; Pengfei Zhao

**Non-elected members:**

Vivek Venkatesh; Caroline Paquette; Marie-Hélène Pennestri; Anila Asghar; Bronwen Low

**Guests:**

Veronica Mockler; Allyson Noftall, Paul Zanazanian, Eileen Foran

**REGRETS:**

Joseph Levitan; Shanna Williams; Jessica Ruglis; Steven Shaw; Gordon Bloom; Katherine Spandidakis

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF JANUARY 29, 2025**

B. Gentil puts forth the motion and P. Zhao seconds the motion to approve the agenda of January 29, 2025.

MOTION CARRIED with modifications

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 2024**

A. Shuster puts forth the motion and B. Gentil seconds to approve the Minutes of December 4, 2024.

MOTION CARRIED with amendments

**CHAIR'S REMARKS**

- New administrative hires:

In December, V. Venkatesh received approval from the Provost's Office for the hiring of administrative and support staff. He introduced V. Mockler, the new Senior Advisor to the Dean.

- New ECP Chair for Summer 2025:  
Tara Flanagan was nominated by the search committee, starting summer 2025.
- Update on DISE Associate Chair:



Unable to fill position but are looking to fill in the in the next 6-9 months. B. Low is assuming responsibilities until then.

- Poster Policy Advisory Committee:

Mandated to study current poster policy (expired December 1, 2024). The purpose of the committee is to advise the Dean's office on reviews or amendments taking into account other relevant policies which include academic freedom and Charter of Students' Rights.

Meeting will be on February 8, 2025. Would also like a policy to handle any complaints. Fifteen members volunteered from the Faculty (students, academic and non-academic staff).

- Steering Committee for Strategic Plan:

Convening a steering committee with student groups and academic and non-academic staff members. Over the course of three meetings the committee will come up with a draft plan for approval. V. Venkatesh is taking responsibility for moving forward with fleshing this out as a starting point.

- Tenure-Track Hiring Licenses:

V. Venkatesh asked the Department Chairs for feedback regarding a tenure-track hiring plan for their respective departments. All three departments came back with a rationale for their tenure-track hiring needs. V. Venkatesh then sent this to Provost's Office for discussion. The Provost's Office said it would consider emergency hires before April 2025 where faculties require tenure-track for research and graduate supervision needs. Two licences were approved for second-language education and pédagogie de l'immersion française (both in DISE). The Dean suppressed four ranked CAS in DISE in exchange for the tenure-track hire. Tenure-track hiring plan can be modified after May 1<sup>st</sup> once we hear about the new budget.

V. Venkatesh provided an update on the call for Canada Research Chair for four themes related to Indigenous hires. Awaiting news from the Provost office on what the final application list looks like. One theme was Indigenous Education. Expecting applications both at the CRC Tier 1 and CRC Tier 2. Departments will be asked to strike committees depending on the profile of the applicants. We would like departments to lead the search and selection process for Canada Research Chairs. V. Venkatesh will be in touch with Department Chairs.

- Working Group Creation for Constitution:

At the last Faculty Council meeting, there were volunteers to work on reviewing the constitution. V. Venkatesh recently sent out an email asking for volunteers. The group will be meeting in the next few weeks. Discussion from the January 29<sup>th</sup> Faculty Council meeting is going to guide the discussion. The Dean's office will take the lead on research and documentation and bring it back to Faculty Council for consideration.



- Internationalization Updates:

V. Venkatesh has trips in February and March: Southeast Asia including Singapore, Hong Kong, and China; as well as in India. We are being encouraged to think about revenues in the Faculty to see if we can build capacity for deregulated graduate certificate master's programs. If we work on Professional Development outside of Montreal, would be able to create an executive-type institute to meet with highly qualified professionals, work with local trainers as well as experts at McGill to have an intensive institute for a couple of weeks, then some hybrid opportunities to finish with a capstone project.

- Incremental Enrolment Plan:

Incremental Enrolment Plan has been prepared after consultation with Program Directors and Chairs, and presented to the Provost's office. All programs (undergrad and grad) have been asked to incrementally increase enrolments.

We are investing in student stipends from the Dean's Office budget. We are seeking to work with grad students to assist in curriculum development and knowledge mobilization, thereby aiding in recruitment for undergraduate and graduate programs.

- Philanthropy Updates – Eakin Foundation:

The Eakin Foundation has agreed to give the first installment of \$100K to OFNIE for childcare support. The majority of students are parents/young mothers. We want to be able to support their needs as they are undertaking courses and offer them childcare services.

- Dean's Speaker Series:

Prof. Manu Kapur from ETH Zurich will be presenting "Designing Learning Through Failure" as a panel discussion with Krista Muis (ECP Professor) on February 18<sup>th</sup>, and additionally will host a workshop on Feb 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **CONSULTATIONS AND REPORTS**

**Associate Deans shared their reports.**

**Liaison Librarian and Coordinator:** There is nothing to report at this Faculty Council meeting.

## **EDUS**

- Two big upcoming events:
  1. Career Fair – Information is online;
  2. Speaker event.
- Wellness Week: Several events can be found on Instagram and other places.



- Clothing drive was very successful.
- Valedictorian selection process is underway: they are revamping the process.
- C. Gowdy will be acclaimed as EDUS President.
- Constitution outdated from 2018, will be reviewed in March and April.

**INVITED GUEST: PAUL ZANAZANIAN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR | PODCAST FUNDING INITIATIVES**

P. Zanzanian has started a podcast. What can the Faculty do to help?

V. Venkatesh suggested: See across the Faculty what (Faculty-specific) resources are available, but there might also be colleagues who have experience and technical skills.

P. Zanzanian said a survey would be a good starting point. V. Venkatesh said his office could look into sending out a survey.

M. Smith is interested in podcasts for pedagogy. There would be excitement and interest.

**VARIA**

A. Gonsalves / V. Venkatesh: We can invite FEEDIC to Faculty Council?

Have a member of FEEDIC provide a report for the next Faculty Council meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 12:05pm

B. Gentil motioned to adjourn, and A. Shuster seconded.

**MOTION CARRIED**



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Faculty of Education  
Faculty Council

MINUTES

April 4, 2025 – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Room 233

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**PRESENT:**

**Elected members:**

Tyler Churchward-Venne; Benoit Gentil; Pengfei Zhao; Shanna Williams

**Non-elected members:**

Vivek Venkatesh; Caroline Paquette; Marie-Hélène Pennestri; Anila Asghar; Bronwen Low; Steven Shaw; Gordon Bloom; Veronica Bergsten

**Guests/Ex-Officio:**

Teresa Strong-Wilson; Catherine Roy; Tara Flanagan; Veronica Mockler, Eileen Foran

**REGRETS:**

Joseph Levitan; Michelle Smith; Jessica Ruglis; Katherine Spandidakis; Allison Gonsalves; Cole Gowdy; Andee Shuster

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF APRIL 4, 2025**

Bronwen Low puts forth the motion, and Benoit Gentil seconds the motion to approve the agenda of April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

MOTION CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 29, 2025**

Benoit Gentil makes the motion and Bronwen Low seconds to approve the Minutes of January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

MOTION CARRIED with amendments

**CHAIR'S REMARKS**

- Budget Cuts:

Staffing Impact: Contract positions and hiring exemptions primarily in the Dean's Office.

Emergency Request: ECP is struggling with staffing.

Enrolment Plan: Provost-approved plan developed with Department Chairs and Program Directors.

Opportunities in Asia for professional development and graduate-level certifications.



Exploring pilot opportunities with hybrid (online modules and live lectures) to test market demand, discussing price points and delivery models, and considering potential joint programs. Bureaucratic hurdles are being reduced for McGill's global offerings.

Administrative Resources: Ensure adequate administrative capacity to support these initiatives.

The Graduate Certificate in International Leadership in Educational and Administrative Development (I-LEAD): To be confirmed with the Provost's Office: if deregulated, 70% of revenues would return to the Faculty.

Impact of Political Situation on Budget: Awaiting election results; unclear impact on budget at this time.

- Associate Chair DISE:

Mitchell Miller has accepted the role of Associate Chair for DISE.

Other items:

Faculty of Education Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (FEEDIC) will provide an update to the Faculty Council Steering Committee.

### **INVITED GUESTS:**

- Teresa Strong-Wilson, Education Library Committee

The DISE Library Committee has proposed creating a Faculty committee to address concerns about the former library space, which is now the Learning Commons study and meeting area. The committee would ensure the preservation of valuable collections, including children's and adult literature, and guide how to best serve DISE's needs, particularly with ECP and curriculum-related materials. Vivek emphasized the importance of forming a committee to ensure Faculty interests are represented, with Teresa offering to guide the discussions and help develop a mandate.

- Catherine Roy, Accessibility Advisor, Office of the Provost and Executive Vice- President (Academic)

Catherine Roy, Accessibility Advisor, oversees accommodation for visual, physical, cognitive, and mental health needs, managing the \$40,000 annual Central Accommodations Fund and allowing employees to request accommodations without disclosing diagnoses.

Employee Resource Groups and Support: Three divisions—Black, Disability, and Queer—empower members to voice concerns, while the Office of Mediation and Reporting addresses formal reports of harassment and sexual violence.

McGill Accessibility Policy and Strategy: Catherine is leading the creation of an accessibility strategy focusing on student experience, workforce, research, outreach, and space, with annual reporting to Senate and the Board, and a website to support the McGill community, set to be presented in Spring 2025.



## **CONSULTATIONS AND REPORTS:**

### **Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies**

- Graduate programs recruitment and funding plans (update and thanks to all)
- Faculty awards (update)
- McGill Strategic Research Plan (online consultation for the Faculty of Education, date to be confirmed)
- Reminder that OFFERING is the first point of contact for anything related to research or graduate students' awards (questions on grants, awards, mentorship, contracts, ADR signature, Graduate Mobility Award). Kind reminder that a signature often requires several steps of verification. Research funding checklists should be sent to OFFERING with the researcher's and Chair's signature four days before the sponsor deadline. More time is needed when contributions are needed.
- OFFERING webpage is now updated with clear deadlines and procedures
- Internal McGill Chairs competition (William Dawson Scholars and James McGill Professors)

### **Associate Dean Administration**

#### Building Director:

Reduced staff in the Dean's Office with the Building Director on leave.

- Expect delays in our response time
- Put in requests ahead of time
- Send requests to [buildingdirector.education@mcgill.ca](mailto:buildingdirector.education@mcgill.ca)
- Education Building is nearly at capacity for classrooms; it may not be possible to accommodate all requests, even for the summer

#### Building:

- New wayfinding signage installed throughout the Education Building
- Issues with classroom technology, please make sure to report to: [itsupport@mcgill.ca](mailto:itsupport@mcgill.ca)
- Report any issues with the physical infrastructure to [buildingdirector.education@mcgill.ca](mailto:buildingdirector.education@mcgill.ca)

### **Associate Dean, Faculty Support and Development**

- Collaborating with the Dean and his team to develop support mechanisms for academic staff, including hiring, performance evaluations, and post-retirement work.
- Coordinating with the University's central administrative bodies, such as the Associate Provost's Office (Academic Policies and Faculty Affairs) and the Director of Academic Personnel, as needed.



- Overseeing tenure and promotion processes.
- Additionally, providing support to academic staff members with their research grants and projects in collaboration with the Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies.
- The Accessibility Advisor from the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice-President (Academic) has been invited to provide an overview of the resources and specific support the Equity Office at McGill can offer to individual Faculty of Education members facing various challenges.

#### **Associate Dean for Academic Programs Report to Faculty Council:**

- Major announcement: The Ministry has approved a new PsyD for ECP. Congratulations to Marie-Hélène Pennestri for getting this important program approved! The projected start date for the program is Fall 2025, so admissions will be starting now. This is a major win for ECP and the Faculty and will provide much needed school psychologists to both French and English schools.
- International collaborations are moving forward. There will likely be opportunities for academic and administrative staff in these initiatives. While agreements and negotiations are ongoing, we project that there will be calls for volunteers to contribute to these programs in the near future.
- Admissions numbers are not yet official, but they are being monitored. From what I have been told, numbers seem steady and may be rising slightly in general, though it is still too early to be sure, as final enrollment is the key metric.
- The Ministry has created a new policy in which fewer credits need to be given to internships, which is good news for teacher education programs, specifically the MATL.
- Continued committee work on MATL has led to a lower-credit scheme. Students from the Dean's initiative, Loop Lab, are reviewing the curriculum, and we will be meeting with them next week to analyze curriculum maps and to see if the scope and sequence of courses need to be updated.
- The EETC (English Exam for Teacher Certification) exam is creating problems for students with accommodations. SAA does not get paid for proctoring students' tests who have accommodations, and the policies are unclear. This is causing issues for students.
- Review of Faculty programs is ongoing.

#### **Liaison Librarian and Coordinator**

- Spring/Summer Course Reserves
  - Please ensure you submit your Course Readings & Course Reserves before the Spring/Summer term begins
  - You can read more on requesting course readings and course reserves on the Libraries website or by contacting your liaison librarian
- McGill Libraries Strategic Priorities 2025-2030 call for feedback



- The McGill Libraries have developed a draft of our strategic priorities for 2025-2030 in consultation with key stakeholders. We are inviting McGill students, academic and non-academic staff to help guide the final version. Respondents must complete the feedback form by Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, at 11:59 pm.

**VARIA**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 12:00PM. Bronwen Low motioned to adjourn, and Benoit Gentil seconded.

**MOTION CARRIED**