The following document is a summary of the 2019 Annual Board meeting of the Institute for Human Development and Well-being at McGill University. Throughout this document the acronym IHDW is used interchangeably for The Institute for Human Development and Well-being.
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Members of the Board

Professor Neil Andersson, Department of Family Medicine
Institute Member

Ms. Nesa Bandarchian, Department of Integrated Studies in Education (DISE)
Graduate Student

Professor Sylvain Coulombe, Associate Vice Principal of Research and Innovation
Delegated by the Vice-Principal of Research and Innovation

Professor Nancy Heath, Associate Dean Research and Graduate Studies
Chair, Delegated by the Dean, Faculty of Education

Professor Claudia Mitchell, Department of Integrated Studies in Education
Director of the IHDW

Professor Ingrid Sladeczek, Department of Educational and Counseling Psychology (ECP)
Institute Member

Guests

Mr. Ramy Gorgis, Institute for Human Development and (IHDW)
Coordinator of IHDW

Ms. Crystal Noronha, Research Administrator for the Faculty Research Office
Community Guest
Meeting Agenda

McGill University
Institute for Human Development and Well-being (IHDW)
Annual Board Meeting Agenda
May 21, 2019 - 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Faculty of Education, Coach House, Room 200
3715 Peel Street, Room 200, Montreal, QC H3A 1X1

1. Chair’s Welcome

2. IHDW Annual Report Presentation (Prof. Mitchell)
   a. 2018-2019 Report on Activities
   b. 2019-2020 Plan
   c. External Funding

3. Open discussion and feedback from Advisory Board
Discussion
Summary
The focus of the discussions during the IHDW 2019 Annual Board Meeting centered around three main issues:

1. The long term vision and plan for the Institute
2. The funding options available for the upcoming year alongside possible future collaborations.
3. The metrics used to assess the Value Added criteria by the IHDW to the University of McGill.

A review recounting the investigation to these questions follows for each of these points in turn:

Long Term Vision and Plan

The discussion began with the question on whether transition plans can be put in place, in the event that the Institute would no longer operate under its current director, Professor Claudia Mitchell. The question assessed the modularity of each working group within the university context and the wider research community, and the capacity for the research initiatives taken under their respective co-directors and project coordinators to operate independently. Answers to these questions provided a critical perspective to the function and value of the IHDW as a collaborative effort of those involved.

The response focused on two aspects:

1. The current independent operation capabilities of the internal working groups and
2. The capacity to continue and expand their research by way of secured funding.

As the IHDW operates with very little financial overhead, then its operating structure could potentially be carried forward by others with the same interests. While each working group has demonstrated the potential value of their research in a variety of communities and industry partners, the current challenge to both a growth and transition plan is the construction of a self-funding program. To obtain funding within the current academic and para-academic milieu is highly dependent on the collection of established research within the Institute. Thus, while the co-directors are capable of acquiring infrastructure funding, the Institute is in the process of building a collection of proven research projects and publications that can showcase its capacity to organize and produce further independent research opportunities, centering on the globally emergent theme of Well-being.
Dr. Mitchell highlighted that transfer to another director as head of the program would depend on whether interest in the IHDW would be maintained by an individual operating within the Education department, where it would continue its focus on pedagogy and global development, and whether McGill was committed to its mandate for interdisciplinary research spearheaded by education initiatives around the development of the concept of Well-being that integrates its knowledge within the arts, design, the humanities and social sciences, medicine, social and economic statistics, urban development, architecture, and emergent fields focused of social improvement.

**Growth and Integration**

Prof. Ingrid Sladeczek suggested that a group focusing on the Well-being of individual development and individuals with disabilities can be formed as an extension of the Well-being theme, in conjunction with Dr. Tara Flanagan and Dr. Jake Burack. Professor Mitchell seconded that motion, as this is an issue with good growth potential and which involves many community partners. Professor Mitchell will begin by connecting Professor Sladeczek in the upcoming June meetings organized by Dr. Hala Mreiwed, in preparation for the September conference on the 30th convention on the “Rights of the Child”, hosted by McGill university.

**Value Added**

Professor Claudia Mitchell highlighted many of the benefits that the IHDW brings to graduate and undergraduate students. As part of its vision, the IHDW seeks to provide a single cohesive knowledge and research identity under the concept of Well-being for students who are studying across a range of disciplines from the humanities and the sciences. The IHDW has already been successful in attracting participation with students in research studies, as well as supporting independent student initiatives that take place within the MAHI or independently, such as the Free Summer school gardening program run by Jayne Malenfant and Mitchell McLarnon. The previous coordinator, Brenda Cleary, did a lot of work to construct projects and activities by getting in touch with a host of students last year, as well as external faculty in the Medicine and English departments. The IHDW has involved students through the McGill Work Study Program, hiring two undergraduate interns: Augustus Fisher, who has created video production for the IHDW youtube account, and Darshan Daryanani who works with the MAHI on the summer program. Nesa Bandarchian, a graduate student, has also been hired as an intern within the IHDW. Finally, the IHDW is offering its first course
In addition to the many projects highlighted during the presentation which help to raise the visibility of McGill within the Montreal community and globally, the IHDW’s early adoption of the central concept of Well-being has been responsible for founding an Educational and Global Development Network consisting of a central core of Educators from McGill, the University of Western Ontario and the University of Toronto. The aim of this collective is to bring Canadian knowledge and research to its Global partners and to consolidate the knowledge accumulated nationally in regards to educational initiatives into a cohesive source for future educators and the community at large.

The work of the Institute, in regards to research to combat and educate on Sexual and Gender-based Violence, has also garnered the attention of the Government of Canada, where the IHDW is now recognized as one of five organizations helping to support survivors and their families in Quebec, meeting Canada’s first Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence.

Funding

Dr. Sylvain Coulombe indicated two major sources of funding which would be of immediate benefit. First, Dr. Coulombe indicated that Tri-Council money is available in the case that the IHDW wanted to partner across disciplines, and suggested that a meeting could be setup with the Office of Research and Innovation to investigate this option.

Secondly Dr. Coulombe noted the agenda within the Vice President’s office to increase collaboration with Mitacs. The growth potential for Mitacs collaboration with McGill’s Social Science faculty is outstanding, and works well with research programs that partner with Non-Profit organizations. Mitacs gives $7500 to grad students doing international work which would have to be matched by the partnering institutions. Professor Nancy Heath indicated that having previous experience with Mitacs grants, it would be beneficial for the IHDW to formulate a cluster grant proposition, which would scale the grant money from $3000 to $10K. A strong case can be made for Mitacs funding based on the work in the Gamification working group for its Accelerate program, while work generated from gender-based violence research can be beneficial within the GlobalLink sector. While STEM research departments have a strong history of collaborative
efforts based on established research criteria, the issue for the IHDW is that research within a funding structure such as Mitacs require propositions from prospective students with extensive time commitments toward projects of qualitative studies that extend the field’s knowledge base into new areas with variable parameters. In addition, financial support that often exceeds the capacities of funding partners such as non-profit organizations. To make such propositions function properly, graduate students in the departments of the co-directors have little choice other than to make their partnerships part of their graduate research or thesis.

In response to Dr. Coulombe’s question regarding our collaboration with external companies, Prof. Mitchell indicated that the PortraitX project had created a collaboration with Turbulent, a Montreal based company creating digital learning environments. The growth of these potential collaborations are expected to continue within the Games and Gamification working group as the group’s coordinator Hani Sadati continues to accrue funding grants and showcase projects with deliverables that are beneficial to external partners. The upside for this group is quite substantial.

The recent pursuit in constructing an Educational and Global Development Network, in which our Sustainability and Well-Being Working group operates, opens an avenue for the creation of services around Well-being in a global context, and the potential partnerships with interested industry conglomerates that support the same values that the IHDW and McGill University uphold.

Professor Neil Andersson highlighted that the situation regarding allocation of funding gets worse when it involves inter-departmental money transfers. This is a particularly troubling issue as Professor Andersson operates within the Department of Medicine and there is no financial structure to do interdisciplinary that allows for a split budget shared between different departments or divided between various factions of a single department.

To address one aspect of this issue, Professor Claudia Mitchell highlighted that the IHDW would work on improving its marketing visibility around the release of project vernissages in hopes that attracted attention will provide a strong case to McGill administrative officials for the need of an improved financial template that facilitates the funding sharing process. Media events around grant launches are planned to get exposure for projects and their impact. This angle would be developed by improving the efficacy of the Institute’s communications and marketing team.
Metrics

A common consensus to establishing definitive responses to the questions above centered on the need to understand the metrics being used by McGill University and other pertinent funding boards that would help to steer the management of the IHDW research toward optimizing its applications for funding. Although varying metrics exist which provide insufficiently clear and consistent criteria, the most outstanding metric commonly demanded from the IHDW board of directors by funding boards is the source and amount of independent money raised.

To respond to this question in future funding applications, the IHDW will focus on

1. Highlighting as an Added Value how students from across the each Co-director’s department attend each other’s courses.
2. Continue to search for additional collaborations outside of the Institute’s core and within the larger community of McGill and its departments.

Future Annual Meetings

A consensus was reached that the IHDW would hold its annual board meeting at the end of May or the beginning of June each year. Future annual reports should help respond to McGill’s question regarding “how can we make a research initiative sustainable?” by highlighting in bold any CV submissions, collaborations or papers that are shared across the Institute’s members, rather than separated by each research faculty’s single contribution.
Action Points
Summary of Action Touch Points

1. Strengthen our own marketing and communication profile, taking charge of managing our events and activities on our website, social media, and creating publishing opportunities.

2. Strengthen our national and international representation through the progress of the *Education and Global Development Network*, locally headed through our new working group, and nationally with our relation to other Universities in Canada. We have begun with a collaboration with researchers at the University of Western Ontario.

3. Create a connections grant for the *Sustainability and Well-being* working group.

4. Contact Mitacs to begin a conversation regarding funding for projects.

5. Investigate the possibility of Tri-Council funding by partnering with other departments.

6. Highlight modular, expansive and transitional capacities of the IHDW research and working groups.

7. Connect Ingrid Sladeczek with the upcoming September conference: 30th convention on the rights of the child. This may potentially expand to another working group focused on *Individual development and disability*.

8. Investigate the possibility of research papers for publication that are coauthored by members of the board, their departments or grad students.

9. Highlight courses offered by members of the board that are shared components of an education program at McGill.
Presentation
IHDW Annual Board Meeting
Institute for Human Development and Well-Being

Guiding Principles and Objectives

The guiding principle behind the creation of the Institute is that a transdisciplinary approach to studying human development and well-being provides an optimal method to study and improve the development and well-being of individuals, group of persons, and various populations.

The Institute works to achieve the following proposed principal objectives:

To promote a comprehensive understanding of human development and well-being through collaboration among scholars from a variety of disciplines and community practitioners and leaders.

Identify intersecting and interlocking barriers to the wellbeing of individuals or communities.

To move towards holistic educational and lifestyle solutions to problems of development and well-being.
Achievements

Deepening an understanding of what human development and well-being means as concept & set of practices.

Arriving at an ‘action-oriented’ approach developing an internal structure of Working Groups allows members to coalesce interests.

Developing and supporting a funded research agenda.

Several national projects (PortraitX and More Than Words) Several grants awarded (and pending) to the founder of the Working Group on Games and Gamification support the campus-wide engagement of this group.

Recognizing through consultation with numerous other successful institutes at McGill the importance of flexible and dynamic structures.

Working Group on Games and Gamification and Well-being, and both undergraduate and graduate students were hired as part of the work-study program at McGill.
Membership
Director and Co-Directors

Director:
Dr. Claudia Mitchell

Co-directors:
Dr. Neil Andersson
Dr. Jake Burack
Dr. Jeff Derevensky
Dr. Nancy Heath
Dr. Shaheen Shariff
Dr. Ingrid Sladeczek

IHDW Structure
Research Nodes

focus on relationships with parents, siblings, and family, as well as expectations (age, culture, gender-based)

This node focuses on the enhancement of mental health and well-being across the life span

The development of an individual from multiple perspectives

the role that communities and societies can have on influencing policy or programming
Themes

Indigeneity

Community Engagement

The Arts

Education and Knowledge Production

Working Groups

Working Group on Sexual Violence
Led by Shaheen Shariff, co-director

Games & Gamification for Human Development and Well-Being Working Group
Led by Hani Sadati, Member and DISE PhD Candidate

Participation Across the Lifespan Working Group
Led by Neil Andersson, MD
Working Groups

SUSTAINABILITY AND WELL-BEING
Education and Global Development Network [under development]

Co-led by Lisa Starr and Blane Harvey

Given interconnectedness of the Sustainable Development Goals Framework, with special reference to SDG 4 on education, and the broad-ranging issues that touch the field of education and global development there is an increased need to mobilize knowledge, synthesise insights, and collaborate. The Education and Global Development Network aims to serve as an academic platform for Canadian scholars and researchers working on issues related to education and global development to connect with one another, share research, and to collaborate. The network is envisioned as a multi- and inter-disciplinary forum for research exchange and scholarly collaboration.

Communication

Newsletters

Video Productions

Website
IHDW Initiatives

Reflecting Forward Think Tank

6th International Cellphilm Festival

Voices in Longitude and Latitude

Film Screening: Quiet Killing

Well-Being, what a concept! Video Capsules
Partnerships

P. Lantz Initiative for Excellence in Education & the Arts / McGill Art Hive Institute

*Altar for the Day of the Dead*

*Weekly Indigenous Film Series*

*Artists-in-Residence working at the Faculty of Education*

*Sustainability Event*

*Mindfullness and Dance*

IHDW

2019-2020
Plans for 2019-2020

*McGill’s Bicentennial Celebrations the IHDW will convene its second ThinkTank*

*First transdisciplinary course on human development and well-being, Critical Perspectives on Well-being*

*7th International Cellphilm Festival*

*Conference on ‘Building a network on Indigenous-focused youth-led approaches to survivor engagement in addressing sexual violence’*

*Co-sponsorship of 2 day conference on Children’s Rights Sept 12-13: Exhibition by Girls with disabilities*

**Visiting Researchers and Postdoctoral Fellows for 2019-2020**

- Prof. Claudia Eppert (University of Alberta)
- Prof. Amy Metcalfe (UBC)
- Prof. Juliet Perumal (University of Johannesburg, SA)
- Dr. Kaylan Schwarz
- Dr. Prudence Caldarion-Bessette

**Funded Research**

1. **WG: Sexual Violence**
   - *Department for Women and Gender Equality*
   - *More than words: Studying the impact of arts-based survivor engagement on families and communities* ($740,000 + $160,000; 2019-2023)

   - *Public Health Agency of Canada*
   - Raisondarte, Claudia Mitchell, Aurelie Lebrun

2. **WG: Participation across the life span**
   - *SSHRC ($349,000 not funded)*
   - *Young People and Participation: What’s Well-being Got to Do With It?*
   - Claudia Mitchell, Neil Andersson, Shaheen Shariff, Ingrid Sladecek, Shannon Walsh, Sarah Flicker (collaborators: Jeff Derevensky and Jake Burack)

   - *New Frontiers: High risk/high reward*
   - *Concept note: Youth-led prevention of gender violence and self-harm – an interdisciplinary international search for the tipping point of "this violence ends with us"*
   - Claudia Mitchell (Institute of Human Development & Well-being; Participatory Cultures Lab), Neil Andersson (Participatory Research at McGill), Grace Marquis, Hugo Melgar (School of Human Nutrition)

3. **WG: Gaming and Gamification**
   - *IDRC Doctoral Fellowship*
   - *FQRSC Doctoral Fellowship*
   - *Serious games and well-being*
   - Hani Salati et al

4. **WG: Sustainability and well-being**
   - *Under development – Connections*