



Steering Committee Minutes

April 6, 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Council Steering Committee held on April 6, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. by Zoom.

PRESENT (*virtually*)

Sanah Alani (ARM rep)
Filion, Françoise
Moss, Leah

Arora, Anish (PGSS rep)
Habib, Rami (MSS)
Robaire, Bernard

Eidelman, David (Chair)
Marelli, Ariane

Regrets: Diana Colby

L. Moss indicated that the Chair would be late due to another urgent meeting. As such, she mentioned that she would begin the meeting and thanked everyone for participating. She also thanked the Steering Committee for their quick approval of the agenda for the Special Faculty Council meeting held on March 31, for which an astounding number of participants joined, noting that several other town halls are coming up as a result.

1. Review of the January 27, 2020 Steering Committee Minutes

The minutes were approved without change.

2. Review of the February 25, 2020 Faculty Council Minutes

The minutes were approved without change.

3. Review of topics for the May 19, 2020 FC meeting [education, research, students]

Student topics:

L. Moss asked if R. Habib had any items to share. He replied that a lot has happened in light of COVID-19. He also brought back the topic from the previous meeting: MUSIG, which is an ultrasound interest group that organizes events and training and allows students from different faculties to learn how to use ultrasound. He also noted that other topics may be pending, and asked A. Arora whether he still wanted to provide an update on MASH (see discussion on page 2).

- i. Graduate students survey:* As discussed at the previous Steering Committee meeting, A. Ryan presented an update at the February meeting. It was decided that S. Razack's survey on diversity be presented at the meeting on May 19.

ACTION: L. Moss to reach out to S. Razack for availability to present.

- ii. *MASH (McGill Association of Students in Healthcare) update:* A. Arora confirmed that he could provide a 5-10 minute update at the May meeting. B. Robaire suggested providing a synopsis on student activities surrounding COVID-19. R. Habib confirmed he has a repertoire of initiatives in the MDCM program and can reach out to certain students to highlight what is being done in general. F. Filion further noted that perhaps Nursing students could be involved, and wondered if this can be a shared moment where the Faculty of Medicine's students get together to support society in this pandemic, perhaps SPOT as well. L. Moss suggested getting in touch with those students who participated in the March 31 Special Faculty Council meeting, asking R. Habib to act as the point person. He agreed, asking what format should be used (e.g. one update per school). L. Moss confirmed, noting that once ready, all could be sent to her and D. Colby to coordinate who will present, noting that 1-2 slides per student group would suffice. B. Robaire noted there would be a session with A. Ryan later that day, and mentioned he would ask her to reach out to L. Moss on the graduate student side. F. Filion added that she could reach out to a Nursing student and get the information to L. Moss. She confirmed that for the May 19 Faculty Council meeting, the format will be to have a brief update on MASH as well as a student response to COVID-19 from each student association. All agreed.
- iii. *Students with disabilities? Accommodations? / WELL Office: mental health among learners:* No discussion was had.
- iv. *McGill Ultrasound Interest Group (MUSIG):* See discussion on page 1.

<p>ACTION: R. Habib to provide name of student(s) who founded this initiative to L. Moss for presentation at a future meeting.</p>

- v. *Graduate students and postdocs:* No discussion was had.

Research topics

- i. *CFI10 application/ NIFR: the next round:* B. Robaire indicated that CIHR is the biggest research topic on people's minds right now, noting that many scientists are frustrated due to the competition being cancelled. He presumed it should be S. Baum to provide an update on the block by CIHR that there be no competition after so much work has already gone into it, and on how to phase back into work. L. Moss agreed. A. Marelli noted she is not sure anything can be done about CIHR's decision and thus suggested MI4's initiative surrounding research on COVID-19 be presented instead. B. Robaire replied that he would like to see whether the University will take any steps to try to partially remedy the situation at hand regarding admission to graduate school as there will be huge consequences, however added that outlining 1-2 projects in MI4 relating to COVID-19 is a good idea. L. Moss asked whether that might be better served for the research town hall and Faculty Leadership Commons. B.

Robaire replied it all depends on where we will be on May 19; if things become clearer over the next few weeks regarding investigators who had applied, then we should present COVID-19 and its research, but if not, CIHR will be the only thing on people’s minds. L. Moss mentioned that she had received some privileged information that is likely to be announced this week related to an inter-research endeavor being led by T. Evans, noting it is positive and research related, that could also be presented. She suggested that as we have several research options, perhaps we can hold off on selecting one and closer to May 19, we will circulate an email to the Steering Committee with the topics to be voted on. All agreed. S. Alani suggested that if the topic that is selected has to do with COVID-19, she could ask for input from OB-GYN as they are involved in research as well.

ACTION: Per the January 27 Steering Committee meeting, L. Moss to invite VP Crago to present to a future Faculty Council meeting “NIFR: the next round.”

- ii. *Animal Facilities in Faculty of Medicine:* No discussion was had.
- iii. *Managing Conflicts of Interest/ Nepotism:* No discussion was had.
- iv. *Round of Committee meetings for AI:* No discussion was had.

Education topics

- I. *Campus Outaouais:* R. Habib believed an update was provided at the previous meeting.

ACTION: Per the January 27 Steering Committee meeting, L. Moss to verify availability of G. Brousseau to attend May 19 Faculty Council meeting.

B. Robaire suggested distance education/web learning could be interesting, noting his department has been asked to potentially plan this for all courses this fall. He suggested speaking to medical students who are participating in it to get a sense of its successes and difficulties. F. Filion asked whether this is a new topic. B. Robaire confirmed it is.

F. Filion added that a student by the name of Guido Guberman, founder of the Canadian Alliance of Medical Students against Human Trafficking (a topic she had suggested at the last meeting), could be invited to present at either the September or December Faculty Council meetings, adding that if we could combine a student topic to this topic, it would be a good combination of effort against human trafficking. L. Moss suggested this be revisited in the fall for exact meeting date. All agreed.

L. Moss stated A. Majnemer would have a lot to say about online education, especially as it crosses the entire faculty at various levels and is done in different ways for different groups. F. Filion agreed, adding that in terms of clinical online education, Nursing is set to begin in May, noting they will not be able to let students go to any hospitals so learning

will need to be done online with simulations. She further noted this leads to the question of whether we are meeting all competencies with online learning, so it could be interesting to mention this in addition to theoretical online learning. B. Robaire noted that the Dean of Science distributed a link to online labs that are available to all Basic Science departments, noting there are also other things that are publicly available. L. Moss suggested getting an update from A. Majnemer about what has been done. All agreed.

ACTION: L. Moss to reach out to A. Majnemer regarding innovative practices in the age of COVID-19.

A. Marelli asked if it would be useful to get a student’s perspective on this as she has heard mixed reviews. The Chair joined the discussion at that moment and confirmed most of the feedback received has been positive. A. Arora spoke on behalf of graduate students, noting they do like the new online platform, but would not want to continue that way forever. R. Habib indicated that initially, medical students could do everything from home, but are missing group work and simulation sessions, acknowledging there is no choice right now. A. Marelli mentioned it would be great to hear about all that is available, but it would be interesting for someone to quantify student evaluations of courses and professors and objectively compare online learning overall to traditional learning. She stated that our way of functioning will be different even once this is over. F. Filion noted it may be early to get evaluations. A. Marelli confirmed this would be planned for the end of the semester. F. Filion noted that their courses will finish by mid-June, so they will not know what the student evaluations are before the end of June.

B. Robaire updated the Chair on what had been discussed regarding online teaching. The Chair confirmed that updates from various levels are a great idea, noting there is a team working on what to do in the fall regarding enrolment and continuing the University’s operations. He noted that with potential additional waves of the pandemic, we may not be able to go back to normal operations for some time. He believes that most of our teaching will go back to the way it was before, however there may be a tendency to move some types of teaching online. He further noted that small groups and other types of learning other than lectures may indeed be lost if learners are not in the same room. A. Marelli added this is a great opportunity for research. The Chair asked L. Moss to bring this up to the Institute of Health Sciences Education. A. Marelli noted having to leave at 3:00pm to attend another meeting, which brought the Steering Committee meeting to a close.

- i. *Human trafficking*: See notes on page 3.
- ii. *School of Population and Global Health (SPGH)*: No discussion was had.

Business arising/updates

1. *Steering Committee membership (1 CAS rep & 1 Basic Science graduate student rep):* no discussion was had.
2. *Nominating Committee membership (2 elected reps):* no discussion was had.

There being no other business to address, the meeting ended at 3:00 p.m.