



McGill

Faculty of
Medicine and
Health Sciences

FACULTY OF MEDICINE & HEALTH
SCIENCES, FACULTY COUNCIL

Steering Committee

Minutes

August 30, 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Council Steering Committee held on August 30, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom.

PRESENT (via Zoom)

Bandara, Shashika (<i>PGSS graduate student rep</i>)	Colby, Diana	Fellows, Lesley (Chair)
Habib, Rami (<i>ARM delegate</i>)	Hassan, Adam (MSS)	Maione, Stefanie (secretary)
Marchionni, Caroline	Marelli, Ariane	Moss, Leah
Robaire, Bernard	Soufi, Ghassen (ARM)	

Regrets: Laura Gonnerman

Before proceeding, as this was the first meeting with the new Dean and Chair, L. Fellows asked participants for their thoughts on the format of these meetings to discuss if any changes should be made. A. Marelli expressed appreciation for the equitable and inclusive spirit of the Steering Committee in that it seeks representation from a variety of bodies and hoped this evolution could continue as the Faculty continues to evolve. G. Souffi noted both Faculty Council and the Steering Committee run very smoothly in terms of selection of topics however wondered if perhaps some topics that remain on the agenda for discussion at multiple meetings should be revisited. He further mentioned getting questions about new members of the Faculty residents who are not aware of the existence of Faculty Council. In terms of membership, C. Marchionni suggested getting a representative from the Indigenous Health Professions Program (IHPP). B. Robaire noted that with regards to attendance, the virtual format has increased it considerably, however Zoom does not allow for dynamic interaction and suggested providing some questions for discussion at the end of each Faculty Council meeting. The Chair agreed and suggested other ways to interact, such as break-out rooms. R. Habib further suggested putting forth topics that get the pulse of the Faculty.

1. Review of the April 12, 2023 Steering Committee Minutes

The minutes were approved without change.

2. Review of the May 16, 2023 Faculty Council Minutes

The minutes were approved without change.

3. Review of topics for the September 27, 2023 FC meeting [education, research, students]

Recurring fall presentation – Dean’s yearly state of the Faculty

The Chair will make general opening remarks and provide the audience with a general sense of her vision. B. Robaire advised that we then try to pick one topic in each of the three areas of focus. On the student side, S. Bandara suggested a key issue for international students is the Visa and passport inequity which reduces access to education and conferences for a lot of low and middle income country students. D. Colby asked whether this is simply to convey the issue for advocacy or if there is a call to action. S. Bandara replied there are three levels to consider: 1) advisors and faculty members need to be aware for the mental and emotional wellbeing of their students; 2) advocacy does not necessarily need to always be at the government level but also when we organize a conference, the planning committee should take this into account; 3) need to advocate to the government.

S. Bandara further suggested the topic of communicating research to the public effectively and getting faculty and students more engaged for which the School of Population and Global Health (SPGH) is already doing work. The Chair agreed this is an important topic and suggested holding it for later in the year when there is more to speak about. L. Moss agreed, noting the Ingram School of Nursing is a crucial player. The Chair noted one of her considerations is we should be more part of public conversations about important topics that our Faculty covers. C. Marchionni echoed her point, noting the need to take a more definitive stance on certain issues affecting future clinicians, public health issues, etc. B. Robaire agreed this is an important topic but part of the issue is knowing the channels in order to disseminate information. He noted working with McGill central to get a press release out is burdensome. D. Colby explained that her office works with central to pitch stories both to central and to the press and one challenge is there are four universities in this city with three of them being French and only one print publication in English and a definite inclination to go to the French universities first for their expert opinions. The Chair indicated this topic is shaping up for a future meeting.

Student/learner topics:

- i. NEW TOPIC – Resident Wellness in OBGYN:* L. Moss suggested instead bringing this topic to the School of Medicine or Clinical Chairs. All agreed.
- ii. NEW TOPIC – Student wellness:* S. Bandara suggested this topic for consideration at the January 25, 2023 Steering Committee meeting, noting it would be good to hear from students, especially graduate students, in terms of where they are and what needs to be done. As of August 30, the Chair suggested combining this and the next topic into one to provide an update on some other things going on in terms of wellness and ask A. Ryan’s help as well.
- iii. (RECURRING TOPIC) – Graduate students & postdocs:* As of April 12, 2023, B. Robaire suggested this as a recurring topic and to invite A. Ryan to update on what is happening with graduate programs. As of August 30, 2023, see item *ii.* above.

Research topics:

- i. NEW (RECURRING) TOPIC – Presentation about research results grant success:* B. Robaire noted M. Crago has come to past meetings to provide an overview of how our Faculty is doing in terms of research, so perhaps she can be invited again as this will be her last year as Vice-Principal, Research & Innovation (VPRI), to discuss how we are doing and how we can improve. The Chair agreed and suggested having a discussion around how we support research grant success. B. Robaire noted discussing what we are doing and what we hope to be doing in the coming years would be helpful.
- ii. NEW TOPIC – Status overview of the implementation of the new Research Security Policy:* D. Eidelman suggested this topic following an email received on May 3, 2023 from Martha Crago in which it was indicated CIHR had announced it would be concerned with research security. B. Robaire shared there are two aspects to this: the data security aspect and the requirement for open access from the tri council about having to put all the papers in open access and the implications/costs of doing so. The Chair noted there is also open science with having data openly available and that it sounds like data could be a theme. She further noted security and just general security in general. R. Habib expressed he has already heard talks in the hospital about security and integrating health data into a digital record, suggesting it could be of interest to present how the provinces are integrating it.
- iii. NEW TOPIC – Raising awareness of recruitment for a government funded, non pharma study, supported by Diabetes Quebec and the FMOQ called COLCOT-T2D, a study of uncoated ASA and or colchicine in the role of primary CVD prevention in patients with diabetes:* D. Eidelman suggested this topic following an email received on April 26, 2023 from J. Singerman who has been working to foster cooperation between the Institut de Cardiologie de Montréal (ICM) and McGill based practitioners, mainly amongst the endocrinology and family medicine communities at McGill who have both expressed much interest. He would like to present to raise awareness of recruiting patients amongst the McGill community. At the August 30 Steering Committee meeting, it was decided to remove this topic as it is very specific.
- iv. NEW TOPIC – Open Science:* As of January 25, 2023, D. Eidelman noted another aspect to sustainability in research which is “Open Science,” and we have a world champion, Dr. G. Rouleau, for which A. Marelli and B. Robaire agreed. It was suggested to hold this topic for a future meeting. As of August 30, 2023, see discussion under item *ii.* on page 3.
- v. Animal Facilities in FMHS:* The Chair and B. Robaire agreed that if someone from the VPRI Office is going to present on another topic at the September 27 Faculty Council meeting, it would be good to touch on this as well and invite the vet to lay out her plans.

- vi. *FOR CONSIDERATION – Core Facilities:* As of November 2022, B. Robaire suggested this topic for the next Faculty Council meeting which D. Eidelman confirmed was timely in terms of indirect costs of research. L. Moss reached out to S. Baillet and A. Guarné for an update on where we are heading, however they were not available to present in February 2023, so it was asked to consider this topic for Fall 2023. As of August 30, the Chair suggested holding this for a future meeting. She noted this is something that is principally School of Biomedical Sciences, for which B. Robaire added they also grow facilities in the hospitals.

Education topics:

- i. *NEW (RECURRING) TOPIC – AI in education and the disruption it may be causing:* B. Robaire noted this topic needs to come up at some point. The Chair asked who could speak to it. L. Moss reminded we had a small presentation about this from Teaching & Learning Services (TLS) as well as F. Bhanji last year. It was noted this might be an interesting topic for discussion, perhaps at a later meeting. S. Bandara indicated there were some recommendations from TLS about how we can teach and also include it in research and suggested including them in the next presentation. B. Robaire noted the implications are more than just for teaching. All agreed to hold this topic for the winter or spring meeting.
- ii. *Outcomes for learners/patients re telemedicine @ JGH virtual ward:* As of November 8, 2022, C. Marchionni indicated the Jewish General Hospital has a virtual ward when they do early discharge for patients often with congestive heart failure and they have students doing their clinical placement in the virtual ward. She suggested a presentation of some outcomes for learners/patients in the realm of the telemedicine theme. D. Eidelman noted this would be a good fit for the theme of educational core facilities as examples of alternate forms of clinical placements and clinical training. As of January 25, 2023, D. Eidelman asked who the right person to present this would be. C. Marchionni sent the contact person's name to L. Moss. D. Eidelman stated this will speak to the Professional Schools and provide opportunities for research. As of August 30, C. Marchionni noted this is ongoing and has two perspectives: the patient/healthcare system versus learner experience. The Chair suggested holding this topic for a future meeting where a possible theme could be innovation in our clinical healthcare delivery and how it meshes with what we are teaching in our clinical setting.
- iii. *Clinical instructors in Nursing (& other Professional Schools):* As suggested by C. Marchionni at the August 25, 2021 Steering Committee meeting, in Nursing, there is a serious issue in recruiting clinical instructors, for which D. Eidelman suggested a presentation could be made at a later meeting to focus on Nursing and any other Professional Schools. As of January 26, 2022, C. Marchionni provided an update in that a new pilot project concerning the creation of teacher roles who would be hired to follow groups of students based on a yearlong contract (as opposed to renewing contracts every three months or per term) is in the works but has not yet been approved, so suggested deferring this topic until more is known. All agreed. As of November 8, 2022, C. Marchionni provided a brief update, noting they have

not evolved in their challenges and that once a solution is found, an update can be given. As of August 30, C. Marchionni updated they are doing a bit better because they now have their clinical placement office that has taken over recruitment, so this may be put on hold for now, noting it has been an ongoing issue to get suitable individuals to support learners.

- iv. *Human Trafficking*: At a previous meeting, C. Marchionni explained that F. Filion runs a simulation about identifying individuals who might be involved or might be victims of sex trade and human trafficking. This is a learning opportunity for identifying potential victims done in collaboration with SPVM officers specializing in human trafficking who come to speak to students and perform a simulation of how to approach a potential patient. D. Eidelman stated this sounds like a great topic. As of November 8, 2022, it was decided to defer this topic for a future meeting. D. Colby added it would be beneficial to speak with D. Weidner as she wrote an article in Health e- News recently on this topic. As of August 30, although F. Filion has retired as of August 31, C. Marchionni believes she would be pleased to return to make such a presentation; she will reach out to F. Filion to follow-up.

Faculty topics:

- i. *NEW TOPIC – EDI work group report and recommendations*: The Chair noted this working group met several times last year and generated some recommendations that could be touched upon, for which the basic takeaway was we need to have a more robust community of practice for people who were engaging with EDI as an expertise sort of thing and how it should be integrated into everything we do. R. Habib suggested speaking to the process the committee took to come to those conclusions is important and creates transparency. The Chair would be happy to speak to this herself either at the coming meeting or the following one as she chaired that group.
- ii. *NEW TOPIC: Indigenous Health Professions Program & Social Accountability & Community Engagement re showcase services offered/initiatives underway to support diversity & equity within the FMHS*: The Chair suggested holding this topic until things are settled with the different portfolios there to come to the Council with a clear explanation of the mandates of these entities under their new leadership.
- iii. *NEW (RECURRING) TOPIC – Update on French in the Faculty*: L. Moss suggested inviting Leon Tourian (Postgraduate Medical Education; PGME) to speak on this as he was given the task to govern this portfolio in PGME. The Chair suggested thinking of it more broadly (e.g. clinical students who need to train in the clinical setting and eventually work in clinical settings, etc.) It was decided to provide a brief preliminary discussion on this.
- iv. *Communication and knowledge transfer of health issues to the public and the Faculty's role*: At the November 8, 2022 Steering Committee meeting, S. Bandara suggested the topic of communication and knowledge transfer of health issues to the public and the role the Faculty

can play. D. Eidelman agreed and noted we would just need to figure out who would be the best spokesperson. As of August 30, no discussion was had.

- v. *Bill S-5*: B. Robaire suggested this topic at the April 12, 2022 Steering Committee meeting, noting it pertains to a revision to all chemical regulations in terms of what is used in all products in hospitals, the environment and in society and their impact on health which should be complete by Fall. As of August 24, 2022, B. Robaire confirmed there are no new developments. As of August 30, no discussion was had.

Before concluding, D. Colby brought up two additional thoughts: 1) inviting Principal Saini to speak and 2) having thematic meetings whereby one for instance would deal primarily with education or research. The Chair suggested themes more like AI impact and touch upon its impact on research and education. This way, people would know what to expect and we could leave more time for discussion around a core topic.

The Chair expressed interest in hearing from our student contingent and encouraged their ideas regarding content, format, and to speak to their colleagues for further feedback. She thanked everyone for their time and participation on this committee. There being no other business to address, the meeting ended at 3:31 p.m.