



McGill

Faculty of
Medicine and
Health Sciences

FACULTY OF MEDICINE & HEALTH
SCIENCES, FACULTY COUNCIL

Steering Committee

Minutes

January 24, 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Council Steering Committee held on January 24, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

PRESENT (via Zoom)

Clement, Jason (*for Colby, Diana*)
Maione, Stefanie (secretary)
Robaire, Bernard

Fellows, Lesley (Chair)
Marchionni, Caroline
Soufi, Ghassen (*ARM*)

Levett, Jeremy (*postgraduate student representative*)

Moss, Leah

Regrets: Shashika Bandara (*PGSS graduate student rep*), Adam Hassan (*MSS*)

1. Review of the November 8, 2023 Steering Committee Minutes

The minutes were approved without change.

2. Review of the December 5, 2023 Faculty Council Minutes

The minutes were approved without change.

3. Review of Steering Committee membership (*as needed*)

L. Moss indicated that a couple of members had recently ended their terms, noting that the Nominating Committee is in the process of making selections to fill these two positions.

4. Review of Faculty Council's Terms of Reference (*following nomenclature changes*)

L. Moss suggested that, at the next Faculty Leadership Commons (FLC) meeting taking place on February 29, ten minutes could be allotted at the beginning as a Deanery Executive meeting to advise members that all FMHS terms of reference require revisions in terminology due to recent nomenclature changes made by the University. Specifically, this refers to the change in terminology from (Vice) Principal to (Vice) President. As the Faculty Council meeting is taking place the week prior, all changes would be ratified at the May 15 Faculty Council meeting.

The Chair asked whether Steering Committee members had any comments, for which L. Moss noted she has a draft terms of reference for Faculty Council that is more inclusive to a few more positions that she will share. B. Robaire asked whether the Professional School member should be clarified in

the Steering Committee terms of reference. The Chair suggested including a note to the effect of “effort should be made to ensure representation across all of the constituent Schools.” She further mentioned tenure track should be changed to “research intensive clinical faculty member.” She further suggested going to the Schools for more clarity, for which B. Robaire noted these terms were put in place prior to the new school structure and L. Moss replied she would like to see one academic representative from each of the 6 Schools. Due to the varying sizes of each School, the Chair suggested using the Schools model now that it exists, noting there could be two representatives from the three allied health Schools who could participate on a rotating basis. C. Marchionni wondered about the size of the committee becoming too large, for which B. Robaire agreed that this committee was based on the University’s Steering Committee whose idea is anything above ten members would be considered too many. The Chair suggested she and L. Moss could work on the changes that were discussed and send an email to members for consideration and follow-up. J. Clement also followed-up on some comments that were made in the Nominating Committee terms of reference, for which L. Moss indicated T. Barnett had recently agreed to chair this committee and there will likely be a refresh.

5. Review of topics for the February 21, 2024 FC meeting [education, research, students]

Before proceeding, L. Moss asked if we still want to adhere to including topics that fall into the categories of education, research and students or if we should change the structure. The Chair welcomed feedback, noting faculty-level discussions give us a chance to think about things more broadly. B. Robaire mentioned the purpose of having those categories was to ensure there was something of interest for the faculty to attract better attendance, however that is no longer an issue since meetings were switched over to Zoom. He suggested that as long as we offer topics that appeal to all three areas, we do not need a specific topic for each one. All agreed this would make planning the agenda easier. The Chair thus noted the committee’s need to consider whether topics are broadly engaging.

The Chair asked if anyone had any comments on the last Faculty Council meeting with respect to breakout rooms, for which B. Robaire noted it went well and encouraged continuing to do so. Based on the feedback received during the breakout rooms, the Chair suggested preparing a summary to provide members. She further suggested that the refresh on the strategic plan will bring up some headings or themes such as community engagement, interdisciplinary work, etc. L. Moss added that she would like to use Faculty Council as a sounding board and engagement as we look for input on the strategic plan refresh and suggested we consider doing the same with the Faculty’s mission at the next meeting. The Chair indicated her idea is to ask for feedback pertaining to the Faculty’s short-term goals over the next ten years. C. Marchionni noted this exercise will allow us to refocus where we put our limited resources. The Chair stated the focus should be placed on student training, which could lead to wider considerations.

Being conscious of time, L. Moss steered the discussion towards outlining topics for the next meeting. B. Robaire suggested that referring to the consequences for our Faculty and the various Schools with the hiring freeze as a result of tuition increases could be discussed during opening

remarks. He also thought a topic that would be of broad interest to many is the impact of AI on research and teaching, which could be amenable to breakout sessions. The Chair confirmed she would provide an update on the first point in her remarks. As for AI, she wondered how to address it at Faculty Council. B. Robaire suggested bringing in two experts, one who could present on how it is going to affect teaching and the other on how it affects research.

L. Moss noted that in terms of the first point, there was the thought to invite President Deep Saini to speak at the previous meeting and wondered if timing would now be better to invite him to speak at the upcoming meeting. The Chair agreed, noting one of the things Prof. Saini would like to do is to ask those across the University to think about their vision for McGill over the next 25-50 years. All agreed he should be invited to speak.

As for AI, the Chair agreed it would engage people, but suggested we need to think about how to set it up. C. Marchionni mentioned Teaching and Learning Services (TLS) has issued some guidance about this, for which the Chair added we could think about it in terms of teaching or learning and research and clinical work. Whether this is brought to the upcoming meeting or the following one will depend upon the agenda. Before concluding, the Chair promised to send an updated list of the Steering Committee's categorical membership proposal for the committee's input.

Education topics:

- i. (RECURRING) TOPIC – AI in education and the disruption it may be causing:* As of April 12, 2023, 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. As of January 24, 2024, see discussion above.

Varia:

- i. Inviting Principal D. Saini to speak:* As of January 24, 2024, see discussion above.

The Chair thanked everyone for their time and participation on this committee. There being no other business to address, the meeting ended at 2:59 p.m.