



Minutes of the 24th meeting of the Faculty Council held on December 7, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.

FACULTY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT (via Zoom)

Afilalo, Marc	Hoang, Marie-An	Quesnel-Vallee, Amelie
Allard, Robert	Huang, Sidong	Robaire, Bernard
Arora, Anish	Kearney, Robert	Robbins, Shawn
Barralet, Jake	Krishnamurthy, Srinivasan	Rollin, Marie-France
Barnett, Tracie	Levental, Mark	Sacre, Lauralicia
Biskin, Robert Simon	Loganathan, Sampath	Saunders, Sara Elizabeth
Cambrosio, Alberto	Lomber, Steve	Sekhon, Harmehr
Chabot, Zoë	Maedler-Kron, Chelsea	Soufi, Ghassen (ARM delegate)
Chelini, Erica	Marchionni, Caroline	Starnino, Cindy
Cybulsky, Andrey	Marelli, Ariane	Tonin, Patricia
Daniel, Sam	McArthur, Juliet-Ann	Toussaint, Paule-J.
Eidelman, David	McWatt, Sean	Tulandi, Togas
Fu, Lili	Mondou, Mélanie	Valerio, Alexander
Gagnon, Robert	Nardini, Sonia	Wein, Theodore
Gonnerman, Laura	Ouellet, Jean	White, John
Gratton, Alain	Park, Morag	Yang, Stephen
Henry, Melissa	Piccirillo, Ciriaco	

REGRETS

Steven Backman, Jonas-Sébastien Beaudry, Rislaine Benkelfat, Ali Bessissow, Miguel Burnier, John Chen, Jean-Francois Cloutier, Vanessa D’Aquila, Michelle Elizov, Timothy Evans, Kelley Kilpatrick, Zachary Levine, Carmen Loiselle, Arnim Pause, Joella Reev, Charles Rohlicek, Catherine St-Cyr, Leon Tourian, Sophie Vaillancourt, Francine Wein, Natalie Zeytuni.

SECTION I

(D. Eidelman)

1. Welcoming Remarks from the Chair

The Chair welcomed Faculty Council members and guests, including the newly appointed Clinical Academic Staff (CAS) representative for Anatomy and Cell Biology, Sean McWatt.

2. Approval of the agenda

The Chair presented the agenda, outlining several presentations.

3. In Memoriam

A moment of silence was observed to remember those in our Faculty community who had recently passed: Drs. Geoffrey Blake, Richard Goldbloom and Olli Miettinen. A special mention was made related to the 14 young women who lost their lives at the École Polytechnique shooting on December 6, 1989 and all those who have died as a result of gender-based violence.

The Chair proceeded to provide a few updates on the Omicron variant, noting in-person holiday events in the hospital sector have been banned as a precaution against a possible COVID-19 outbreak in clinical departments. Also, given recent upgraded travel restrictions, he asked anyone who would be travelling to be cognizant of these travel requirements. He noted the Winter 2022 session aims for continued progressive return for our administrative teams, however in light of space limitations and other factors, administrative staff should work with their teams to find reasonable solutions that meet the needs of our students, professors and administrators.

In terms of Bill 96, the Chair indicated it is causing quite a stir in the bilingual hospitals as well as in the English-speaking community. He stated the University is not taking a public stand at this time but is quite active working in the background. He stressed that access to compassionate and patient-centered care is one of our core values that cannot be compromised.

He reminded those in attendance of the award nomination deadline for the Principal's Prize for Public Engagement through Media, for which the central deadline is January 31, 2022. He also mentioned the searches for the next Associate Vice-Principal and Vice-Dean (Health Affairs) and the next Vice-Dean, Education are underway.

SECTION II

4. World Restart a Heart

(J. Levett, C. Apostolova)

J. Levett presented the student-led World Restart a Heart 2021 Campaign. He thanked all those who helped make this campaign a success and outlined its background and mission (see presentation). C. Apostolova indicated the goal this year was to create a hybrid campaign strategy to make it more hands-on than last year's solely digital campaign. She further noted a collaboration with Teaching and Learning Services which allowed for an online module to learn CPR from one's home while receiving expertise from specialists. J. Levett noted the tremendous impact of this campaign, where over 600,000 individuals both in Canada and globally were reached (see presentation). To learn more about the campaign, he invited those interested to visit their [website](#). The Chair congratulated and thanked the presenters for their successful efforts.

5. Strategic Research Plan (approval required)

(S. Baum, S. Baillet)

S. Baum provided a brief summary of the process that went into updating the Strategic Research Plan. She presented the plan's four major research areas, noting *Healthcare Across the Lifespan: Development, Rehabilitation, Chronic Diseases* was slightly tweaked from the previous version

with the goal of improving health through prevention, education and social awareness among other things. She outlined four cross-cutting strategic priorities, for which *Biomedical and health sciences in the age of digital data* was recently added, as well as several new initiatives (see presentation for further details). As approval of the plan required a vote, the Chair asked Faculty Council members to take a moment to consider this proposal. He then asked for a motion to approve, for which a first and seconder came forward. Without any objections or abstentions, he declared the motion passed, thus the plan was endorsed. He noted that this process is done every five years and as such, it is continuously updated over time, thus it is a living document.

6. Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) *(L. Fellows, S. Razack)*

L. Fellows provided an overview of the importance of EDI both within McGill and the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, stressing the fact that it needs to be integrated into everything we do. To that end, she cited several examples on how and where it should be integrated (see presentation). She indicated there is an office within McGill that assists with ensuring transparent, equity-compliant search processes through training for search committee members and online modules. At the Faculty-level, Administrative Excellence Centers (AECs) provide similar support. She then outlined several other Faculty initiatives to support EDI as well as some next steps (see presentation).

S. Razack then spoke about the student and teaching experience as it pertains to EDI. He outlined a list of ongoing Social Accountability and Community Engagement (SACE) office activities, noting the majority are rooted in the Anti-Black racism plan which was presented and approved at a previous Faculty Council meeting. After multiple consultations with many programs around anti-racist curriculum building, most recently with the undergraduate medical program and for which there is currently a curriculum review being done, he noted a major issue is microaggressions, for which the SACE's goal is to provide sessions in allyship. He stated these have and continue to be well attended, with the next session scheduled for the winter term. Monthly EDI lunch and learn sessions for teachers, available in both English and French, are also offered. Equity training for Admissions Committees, which began in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, has also been broadened more widely (see presentation for further details).

S. Razack then provided an update on what has been happening surrounding the Anti-Black racism plan and the development of a Community of Support (COS) program, which ranges from attraction to recruitment to application support to entry into Medicine and the Health Professions (see presentation for further details).

7. Lady Davis Institute update *(S. Robbins)*

S. Robbins provided a brief background on his studies in Microbiology and Immunology and ensuing career, noting that for the last eight and a half years, he was seconded by CIHR to be one of the 13 scientific directors, his being of the Institute of Cancer Research. He proceeded to provide his perspective and a brief summary of the Lady Davis Institute, indicating his attraction to

becoming its Director was due to the history of the Institute along with that of the Jewish General Hospital, and the opportunity of being able to deal with issues such as no barriers to care (see video link for further details).

In terms of immediate focus, S. Robbins discussed building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic, citing digital health as an example. Another area of focus in expanding our clinical research interest is the Cancer Clinical Research unit and how the Institute can be a pipeline to bring discoveries from the bench to the bedside. Based on his own research, he explained one area of deficiency in structure has been in target validation to move to the clinic, noting there is an opportunity to build the kind of infrastructure needed to move forward. To that end, he mentioned having reached out to thought leaders in the area of clinical trials to think about what the McGill ecosystem needs. He suggested one of the areas this would go nicely with is the EDI topic by coming up with a cross-cutting theme of research that supports health disparities, for which he asked those involved in research programs to think about any disparities where we could make a difference.

SECTION III

8. Report from the Steering Committee *(D. Eidelman)*

The Chair confirmed that at its meeting on November 2, the Steering Committee reviewed and adopted the agenda for this meeting of the Faculty Council. Their report was made available to all members of the Faculty Council and was posted online.

9. Consent Agenda

i. Faculty Council Minutes (September 21, 2021)

The minutes of the Faculty Council meeting held on September 21, 2021 were presented on the consent agenda, for which the link was sent to all members following the meeting. The Chair asked for a motion to approve, for which a first and seconder came forward. He then asked if there were any objections or abstentions, hearing none, the minutes were approved.

10. Business Arising and updates

i. Membership volunteers (representatives appointed by their respective student associations)

- a. Faculty Council: 1 graduate student from the School of Medicine
- b. Faculty Council: 1 graduate student from the School of Biomedical Sciences

SECTION IV

11. Kudos

(D. Eidelman)

The Chair went over a robust list of accomplishments within the Faculty and congratulated an impressive number of faculty and staff members as well as students who have been publicly recognized for their accomplishments in recent months (see presentation). Congratulations to all!

SECTION V

Open Session/Town Hall

The Chair extended thanks to all for their efforts and wished everyone happy holidays. He invited Faculty Council members and guests to put forward any questions or issues they wished to discuss. There being no other business to address, the meeting ended at 6:05 p.m.

The complete set of documents, including PowerPoint presentations made at the Faculty Council meetings and video links of the meeting, are kept as part of the official minutes and can be found in the [Governance section](#) of the Faculty website.