



Minutes of the 26th meeting of the Faculty Council held on May 25, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.

FACULTY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT (via Zoom)

Afilalo, Marc	Gagnon, Robert	Park, Morag
Allard, Robert	Gonnerman, Laura	Quesnel-Vallee, Amelie
Arora, Anish	Gratton, Alain	Robbins, Shawn
Barchichat, Guila (NUS delegate)	Henry, Melissa	Rollin, Marie-France
Barnett, Tracie	Kearney, Robert	Rubulotta, Francesca
Bessissow, Ali	Kilpatrick, Kelley	Saunders, Sara Elizabeth
Burnier, Miguel	Loganathan, Sampath	Soufi, Ghassen (ARM delegate)
Cambrosio, Alberto	Loiselle, Carmen	Tonin, Patricia
Chaffer, Jordi	Lomber, Steve	Toussaint, Paule-J.
Chelini, Erica	Marchionni, Caroline	Tulandi, Togas
Chen, John	Marelli, Ariane	Vaillancourt, Sophie
Cloutier, Jean-Francois	McWatt, Sean	Valerio, Alexander
Cybulsky, Andrey	Mondou, Mélanie	White, John
Daniel, Sam	Naiyeju, Ibukunoluwa	Zeytuni, Natalie
Eidelman, David	Nardini, Sonia	

REGRETS

Steven Backman, Jake Barralet, Jonas-Sébastien Beaudry, Rislaine Benkelfat, Robert Simon Biskin, Michelle Elizov, Timothy Evans, Lili Fu, Marie-An Hoang, Sidong Huang, Kevin Jutras, Srinivasan Krishnamurthy, Mark Levental, Zachary Levine, Chelsea Maedler-Kron, Juliet-Ann McArthur, Jean Ouellet, Arnim Pause, Ciriaco Piccirillo, Joella Reev, Bernard Robaire, Charles Rohlicek, Lauralicia Sacre, Harmehr Sekhon, Cindy Starnino, Catherine St-Cyr, Leon Tourian, Sydney Wasserman, Francine Wein, Theodore Wein, Stephen Yang.

SECTION I

(D. Eidelman)

1. Welcoming Remarks from the Chair

The Chair welcomed Faculty Council members and guests, including newly appointed graduate student representative: Sydney Wasserman (Ingram School of Nursing).

2. Approval of the agenda

Before proceeding, the Chair delivered a land acknowledgement. He then presented the agenda, outlining several presentations. He asked for a proposer and seconder, for which two members came forward. With no objections reported, the agenda was accepted.

3. In Memoriam

A moment of silence was observed to remember those in our Faculty community who had recently passed: Ronald Gottesman, Gordon Watters, Maxime Bouchard, Jacques Tremblay and Richard Murphy.

The Chair proceeded to provide a few updates, including the upcoming return to campus on May 30, an update on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia contract to support residents as well as additional convocation ceremonies for those who graduated at the height of the pandemic. The additional convocation ceremony will take place on June 9. On the return to campus, the Chair mentioned that most employees are expected back on campus as of May 30, with the exception of those who applied for the university's flexible work arrangement where up to two days per week could be conducted from home. Additionally, he indicated that as of May 24, face masks are optional on campus, however noted these rules do not apply to the entire Faculty, specifically in the hospitals where they remain mandatory. This is also the case for professional programs for as long as the clinical milieu requires mask wearing. Regarding the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia contract, he reported the Faculty is in a situation of being in accounts receivable with Saudi Arabia in the amount of \$7 million, which they have committed to sending us by the end of the month. The Chair expressed that while it has no immediate impact on the learners, it is quite concerning and could result in changes in the way we manage inviting international trainees, which could impact both our budget and providing care in our hospitals. Finally, the Chair stated there would be an additional convocation ceremony for the graduates of our Faculty on June 9 who already received their diplomas however were not able to attend an in-person ceremony, given the pandemic forced graduation ceremonies to take place virtually for the past two years.

SECTION II

4. Update on Harmonized stipends for Graduate students *(A. Ryan)*

A. Ryan provided an update on this topic, which was presented at a previous Faculty Council meeting. She began by thanking those who participated in two working groups and who provided feedback over the last 2.5 years. She presented an overview of the timeline which began in fall 2019. The variation in stipends across the Faculty pertains to MSc-Thesis and PhD students and not to students in applied programs or those in non-thesis programs (see presentation). A. Ryan presented a list of goals for a Stipend Policy and a proposed funding package for 2022-23 as well as guiding principles for award recognition (see presentation for details).

5. Student Suicide Prevention Framework & Postvention Program *(M. Lutchman, R. Beech, M. Mondou, N. Saad, C. Cécyre-Chartrand)*

R. Beech, Dean of Students, provided a brief summary of his office, noting they have procedures in place for students who are either in immediate distress or following the death of a student for any reason. He explained that the suicide framework is intended to regularize this process and indicated the postvention section was deemed a priority by McGill and is mostly written, while the intervention and prevention sections will be coming in the next year or so. M. Lutchman outlined various details of the suicide prevention continuum as well as the Student Suicide Prevention Framework, noting language matters (see presentation). She explained the Office of the Dean of Students is central in guiding faculties on best practices in implementing postvention activities and provided a summary of adapting the Quebec Postvention Program to the McGill context. She discussed the postvention program and highlighted framework implementation next steps (see presentation).

N. Saad and M. Mondou then provided a summary of the postvention timeline as well as timeline of events following the death by suicide of learner Justine Renaud, stressing that the aim was to prevent contagion at the time and provide support to those in need (see presentation).

C. Cécyre-Chartrand then spoke about the student perspective of classmate Justine Renaud's death by suicide. She expressed students were contacted by various news outlets to get a sense of the challenges faced during medical school. She further explained that those in the graduating class reached out to the MSS to put in place an action plan to continue to advocate for student wellbeing throughout medical school. She also expressed that students from the Class of 2022 wrote the Student Assessment for Educational Recommendations ([SAFER](#)) Report to address the challenges faced by medical students and shared that the Class of 2022 decided to use their class gift to create a fund for medical students to address financial barriers to accessing mental health services, allowing them to have a partial reimbursement of accessing professional help whether to replace or add onto the services offered by the WELL Office.

6. The McGill Group for Suicide Studies (MGSS) *(G. Turecki)*

G. Turecki presented an overview of the work that is being done by the MGSS, a research group that aims to better understand suicide and depression. He outlined the Douglas Bell Canada Brain Bank at McGill, noting it is the only one in Canada and one of the only of its kind in the world with almost 4,000 brains, many of which were obtained from deaths by suicide. He also shared some work that is being done to develop better non-invasive access to molecular brain changes. He then spoke about some of their work on proximal factors that trigger suicidal behavior, intervention and testing novel forms of it, and developing preventive approaches and briefly spoke about various projects that are underway (see presentation).

SECTION III

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

The Chair confirmed that at its meeting on April 12, 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.

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

The Chair indicated that during the Nominating Committee's meeting on April 27, a presentation was made by Angela Campbell, Associate Provost, Equity and Academic Policies, on the topic of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, for which two recommendations were made. Their report was made available to all members of the Faculty Council and was posted online.

9. Consent Agenda

i. Faculty Council Minutes (February 22, 2022)

The minutes of the Faculty Council meeting held on February 22, 2022 were presented on the consent agenda, for which the link was sent to all members following the meeting. Due to time constraints, the Chair asked if there were any objections, hearing none, the minutes were approved.

SECTION IV

The Chair was pleased to share a few recent highlights, including the 5th annual CLIC competition, celebrating the arrival of the new head of Health Sciences Education as well as recognizing former Dean Richard Cruess and Dr. Sylvia Cruess for their contributions to our Faculty, the Maude Abbott Symposium and Maude Abbott Museum Virtual Tour, the recent inauguration of Campus Outaouais on May 16, the official launch of the School of Population and Global Health as well as Global Health Week. Further, he highlighted an important milestone in that it has been 100 years since our first female medical graduates: Lilian Irwin, Jessie Boyd, Winifred Blampin, Eleanor Percival and Mary Childs.

10. 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. 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, he wished everyone a great summer and congratulated the Class of 2022 who would be graduating that week; the meeting ended at 6:28 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.