



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 15th 2021, 2:30 - 5 pm

Via Zoom meeting

Approved at February 16th 2022 School Council meeting

Attendance: **a) Faculty:** Delphine Collin-Vézina, Régine Debrosse, Wanda Gabriel, Charles Gyan, Nicole Ives, Julia Krane, Lucy Lach, Heather MacIntosh, Mike MacKenzie, Zack Marshall, Nicole Mitchell, Pam Orzeck, Tamara Sussman, Jim Torczyner, Nico Trocmé (Director/Chair); **b) Field Coordinators:** Francine Granner, Nicole Mitchell; **c) Administrative Staff:** Sara Marcil-Johnson; **d) Course Lecturers:** Nona Moscovitz; **e) Students:** Zeke Bertrand, Hugo Lafrançois, Ash Lowenthal, Maya Malik; **f) Field Supervisors:** Vandana Chaubey, Jennifer Michelin; and **g) Non-voting member:** Yong Hong Feng (Minutes).

1. Approval of agenda

1.1 Collin-Vézina moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Lowenthal; the agenda was approved by majority of the attendees.

2. Approval of minutes

2.1 Sussman moved to approve the minutes for October 20th 2021 School Council meeting, seconded by MacKenzie; the minutes was approved by majority of the attendees.

3. Business arising

3.1 Re: **the EDDI** (Equity Diversity Decolonization Indigenization) **Initiative:** a) Trocmé, with the help of Lach and Marshall, reviewed the School Council Bylaws and updated the website content re: the EDDI Initiative to ensure the clarity in wording about its role and structure (details see *Oct. 20 2021 SC_Minutes, 5.3a*); and c) Trocmé, Mitchell, Salaciak and Bertrand met to review the EDDI Strategic Plan tracking spreadsheet; a second meeting was set up in early January; interested members are welcomed to join (details see *Oct. 20 SC_Minutes, 5.3 c*).

Action items: Trocmé to provide an update on the progress of the EDDI Strategic Plan at the February 2022 School Council meeting.

3.2 Re: **initiatives for Black students:** a) Gyan and Mitchell met with grad (Gyan) and undergrad (Mitchell) social work Black students in the Fall to plan meetings/activities for Winter 2022 with an aim to build a sense of community and to understand the needs of the Black students; b) a research assistant will be hired to help plan Black History Month activities and help develop a mentorship program; and c) invite for future meetings/activities will be included in the School bulletin, posted on the School website, and circulated through SWSA/SWAGS to promote visibility and involvement.

- 3.3 **Update on IAM (Indigenous Access McGill) & Nunavik Program:** Gabriel reported that a) a student support coordinator was hired to support the Indigenous students and help with the recruitment from high schools and Indigenous communities; b) IAM has been engaged with other Indigenous-related events and collaborating with other Indigenous programs and initiatives across McGill; c) workstations were secured near the IAM office for Indigenous students to get together; and d) two co-instructors and one field coordinator are being hired for the Nunavik BSW initiative.
- 3.4 **Update on universal access to teaching/learning:** Orzeck reported no update at this point.

4. Program Updates:

- 4.1 Krane reported the **BSW Priorities for 2021-22 academic year:** a) to continue to work with McGill Enrollment Services to finalize the details about the advanced standing for graduates with social services DEC, which was already posted on the School website and is now open for applications; b) to increase the transfer credits from 18 to a possibility of maximum of 30, with up to 12 additional credits; c) to review how other BSW programs structure U1 and integrate field learning with course-based learning; and d) to review the BSW curriculum in terms of both foundation knowledge and preparation for field.
- 4.2 Ives provided an **update on the MSW Program:** a) the program committee is working on addressing the issue re: statistics as pre-requisite for MSW program; a proposal is being developed to tackle equity issue for students not taking the course before; b) Review of the Qualifying Year Program will begin in the new year; and c) the MSW Town Hall did not happen as planned in November 2021 and is planned to be held in February 2022.
- 4.3 MacIntosh provided an update on the **MScA CFT program:** a) CFT graduates opted to serve at the public settings for 2 years on part-time basis can obtain a graduation scholarship; b) the program committee will have a meeting in January 2022 to discuss changes to be made for the relevant courses.
- 4.4 Sussman provided an **update on the PhD program:** a) the PhD symposium has served as a good venue for students to present their work and get feedback and will continue to be held virtually in the next term; and b) will carry out a program review including survey among students.
- 4.5 Orzeck provided an **update on the communications and the Field Education program:** a) the School's Instagram account now has 400+ followers; b) the Field Education Advisory Committee includes faculty members (Collin-Vézina & Marshall) and field supervisors (Chaubey & Michelin); and c) workshops on practice skills will continue to be held on Fridays as a means to understand the challenges students face in the placement and better support them.
- 4.6 **Updates from Student Societies:** a) Bertrand reported 3 more members on board of the SWSA (Social Work Students Association) executive team which allows SWSA more capacity to organize and plan future events/activities; b) Lowenthal reported that SWAGS (Social Work Association of Graduate Students) has been more active in its organization of the activities; and c) Trocmé recognized the challenges for the MSW students to get involved in the SWAGS given that it is a one-year program and the responsibilities of SWAGS falling on other graduate programs; ways to better support MSW students' involvement in SWAGS need to be further discussed.

5. In-person Classes

- 5.1 Trocmé debriefed the group that the School is expected to plan and prepare for in-person teaching for the Winter term in accordance with the current University rules while keeping a close eye on the evolving pandemic situation and the public health guidelines;
- 5.2 Concerns raised by the instructors and students re: the hybrid teaching in the Fall were also reported and discussed: a) the flexibility provided to students in many courses meant that many (in some classes more than $\frac{3}{4}$) opted for online mode; b) Course lecturers reported that their union (MCLIU) informed them that instructors cannot be required to do hybrid teaching, given that the extra work required goes beyond their contracted hours; c) Courses with intense skills/practice elements are very difficult to teach in hybrid mode; practice instructors prefer on-line to hybrid; and d) Given the pedagogical limitations of hybrid teaching, especially for social work practice courses, it may make more sense to shift social work courses back to online if the COVID situation worsens.
- 5.3 Trocmé noted that student requests for accommodations should go through the University centrally and that Arts has provided some funds for assistants and equipment to facilitate on-line access to in-person classes.
- 5.4 **Action items:** a) Trocmé to bring the issue to the Dean of Arts to raise concerns; and b) instructors to brainstorm collectively what is/is not working with the hybrid teaching mode at the next faculty meeting on Jan 19th 2022.

6. CASWE Site Visit

- 6.1 Trocmé reported that a) the CASWE-COA (Canadian Association of Social Work Education – Commission of Accreditation) site visit was scheduled to be on February 2nd and 3rd with details to be confirmed with the 2 accreditors; a first draft site visit schedule was shared with the group; and b) a summary of changes to the School and its BSW and MSW programs as of May 1st2020 is being prepared.
- 6.2 **Action items:** Trocmé to a) circulate a copy of the changes to the School and its BSW and MSW program upon completion; and b) provide update on CASWE-COA's site visit plan.

7. Willson Hall Plan

- 7.1 Trocmé presented the current Wilson Hall plan: a) the renovation is scheduled to be completed by Spring 2025; b) Social Work will be the primary occupant, shared with French Language Centre; c) Social work offices, classes and meeting rooms cover $\frac{1}{2}$ of floor 1, all of floors 2 and 3, $\frac{1}{2}$ of floor 4, and two rooms in the basement; and d) while the architectural plans have been signed off after extensive negotiations to fit the School and French Language Centre space requirements, the final allocations of School offices and spaces will be determined by the School as we move back in 2025.

8. Adjournment

- 8.1 The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m. The next School Council is to be held on **Wednesday, February 16th, 2022.**