



Meeting Minutes

Wed, October 28, 2020, 2:30 – 5:30 pm

Via Zoom meeting: <https://mcgill.zoom.us/j/93894155922>

Approved at November 25th 2020 School Council

Attendance: **a) Faculty:** Alicia Boatswain-Kyte, Sharon Bond, Shari Brotman, Régine Debrosse, Wanda Gabriel, Charles Gyan, Jill Hanley, Nicole Ives, Julia Krane, Heater MacIntosh, Mike MacKenzie, Kate Maurer, Pam Orzeck, Marjorie Rabiau, Nico Trocmé (Director/Chair); **b) Field Coordinators:** Francine Granner, Nicole Mitchell; **c) Administrative Staff:** Sara Marcil-Johnson, Patty Tarica; **d) Field Supervisors:** Carly Berlin, Wendy Lavier; **e) Course Lecturers:** Corrie Sirota-Frankel, Nona Moscovitz; Nona; **f) Students:** Julia Barclay, Jo Roy, Ash Lowenthal, Maya Malik, Codey Martin, Kelly Yuan; and **g) Non-voting member:** Yong Hong Feng (Minutes)

1. Introduction & orientation to the Council

1.1 Trocmé a) welcomed the attendees to the first School Council for 2020-21 academic year; b) gave a brief introduction to the background of the School Council and its Bylaws approved in September 2019; and c) reminded the attendees that the School Council Bylaws and meeting materials can be accessible on the School's website (<https://www.mcgill.ca/socialwork/about/governance/>).

1.2 Given the Zoom meeting format, introduction of the attendees was skipped.

2. Approval of agenda

2.2 The agenda was approved by majority of the attendees with one addition to be inserted as Item #6: “*Motion in solidarity with Indigenous Sovereignty*” suggested by Martin.

3. Approval of minutes

3.1 The minutes from February 12, 2020 School Council was approved by majority of the attendees.

4. Motion to hold school council meetings over the internet

4.1 Trocmé proposed a motion, seconded by Tarica, as below:

Given a) that the School Council Bylaw 2.3.5 states that “distance participation by telephone or video does not contribute to quorum”; and b) that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic some Council meetings will be held by videoconference; and c) that even when in person meetings resume some Council members may for health reasons prefer to attend remotely, it was proposed that Bylaw 2.3.5., paragraph 2 be deleted from the Council Bylaws.

4.2 Majority of the attendees voted in favor of the proposed motion.

4.3 **Action item:** Trocmé/Feng to revise the School Council Bylaws as agreed upon.

5. Motion for an action plan to address anti-Black racism

5.1 Trocmé proposed a motion, seconded by Boatswain-Kyte, as below:

Given a) that the School’s mission statement commits the School to “focus on social justice issues facing vulnerable and disadvantaged people” (Council Bylaw 1.2.1); and b) that Bylaw 1.2.4. identifies “equity, diversity, and inclusion as guiding principles”; and c) that at the June 2020 CASWE (Canadian Association of Social Work Education) Annual General Meeting, CASWE members passed a motion calling all social work programs to address “Anti-Black Racism in Social Work”, it was proposed that the School develop an action plan to address anti-Black racism within the McGill School of Social Work, and that the Director report back to Council by the final Council meeting for the 2020-21 academic year on the implementation of this action plan.

5.2 Majority of the attendees voted in favor of the proposed motion.

5.3 **Action item:** a) An action plan to address anti-Black racism to be developed; and b) Trocmé to report back on the implementation of the action plan at the final Council meeting for 2020-21.

6. Motion in Solidarity with Indigenous Sovereignty

6.1 Martin spoke to the importance of the social work community to keep in solidarity with Indigenous sovereignty; Roy proposed a motion, seconded by Barclay, as below:

WHEREAS Indigenous social work students and their allies have been calling on the School of Social Work to voice its support in solidarity with Indigenous Sovereignty movements across Turtle Island.

BE IT RESOLVED that the School of Social Work Council immediately, in cooperation with Codey Martin and other Indigenous Students, release a statement in solidarity, on behalf of our School of Social Work, with various Indigenous Sovereignty Struggles across Turtle Island.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School of Social Work Council, using its privilege within McGill University, advocate and push the McGill University Administration, through a public statement directed at the University, to speak out in solidarity with Indigenous Sovereignty movements across Turtle Island.

6.2 Majority of the attendees voted in favor of the proposed motion.

7. Motion for an Equity, Diversity, Decolonization, & Indigenization Initiative (“EDDII”) Council Committee

7.1 Maurer, on behalf of the members of the EDDII, proposed a motion, seconded by Gyan, as below:

the Equity, Diversity, Decolonization, and Indigenization Initiative (EDDII) be formally included as School Council committee in the School Council Bylaws

(moving the current section 3.4 Ad Hoc Committees to 3.5) (See **SC2.1** for proposed language for amendment to the Bylaws).

7.2 Majority of the attendees voted in favor of the proposed motion.

7.3 **Action item:** Trocmé/Feng to revise the School Council Bylaws as agreed upon.

8. Motion for EDDI Strategic Plan

8.1 Maurer, on behalf of the EDDII, proposed a motion, seconded by Gyan as below:

Given

a) that over the past several months, McGill School of Social Work students, staff, and faculty have met to reconceptualise how to operationalize the EDI Mission statement adopted at School Council in Fall 2019 (Section 1.2.4);

b) that a proposal to create the School of Social Work Equity Diversity Decolonization Indigenization Initiative (EDDII) will be presented at School Council on October 28, 2020 for a vote; and

c) that an Equity Diversity Decolonization Indigenization (EDDI) Strategic Plan of Action for the next four years (2020-2024) has also been developed through consultation online and at town halls,

it was proposed:

a) that the EDDI Strategic Plan 2020-2024 be taken as the operationalization of section 1.2.4 of the School Council Bylaws;

b) that any substantive changes to the EDDI Strategic Plan be brought to the School Council in a motion to be voted on by the Council; and

*c) that the EDDII Lead make a report annually at the last School council meeting of each academic year on the progress made in implementing the EDDI Strategic Plan (details see **SC2.2**).*

8.2 Roy presented a BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, & People of Color) social work students' amendment to EDDI Strategic Plan (details see **SC2.3**) and proposed a motion to have it included in the EDDI Strategic Plan.

8.3 A vote was taken on the original motion proposed by Maurer (8.1) with a suggested statement by Brotman as below, in reference to the above amendment to EDDI Strategic Plan proposed by Roy (8.2):

The School Council recognizes and acknowledges the student statement presented today as a critical call by BIPOC students to redress the significant harm caused to them within the School.

The School Council commits to a) adding this statement as an amendment/appendix to the EDDI strategic plan as a way to ensure institutional memory is not lost and further; b) a process of immediate review and response in order to prioritize areas for immediate action on urgent points and a timeframe

for action in consultation with students; and c) providing a progress report by next School Council on Nov. 25, 2020.

8.4 Majority of the attendees voted in favor of the proposed motion with the suggested statement as above (8.3).

8.5 **Action item:** EDDII lead to provide a) a progress report at the next School Council on November 25 2020; and b) regular updates to the students on its review and response to the proposed amendment.

9. Adjournment

9.1 The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

9.2 Next School Council meeting will be held on November 25, 2020.