



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 2:30 – 5 pm

Via Zoom meeting

Approved at April 12th 2023 School Council Meeting

Attendance: **a) Faculty:** Alicia Boatswain-Kyte, Delphine Collin-Vézina, Régine Débrosse, Syndie David, Charles Gyan, Jill Hanley, Nicole Ives, Ainsley Jenicek, Julia Krane, Lucy Lach, Heather MacIntosh, Kate Maurer, Pam Orzeck, Marjorie Rabiau, Tamara Sussman, Nico Trocmé (Director/Chair); **b) Field Coordinators:** Nicole Mitchell; **c) Administrative Staff:** Sara Marcil-Johnson, Patty Tarica; **d) Students:** Olivier Joncas, Camelia Salehi, Pankil Goswami; Anais Cadieux Vanvliet, Marianne Lachapelle, Sarah Boily; **e) Field Supervisors:** Jennifer Michelin; **f) Course lecturers:** Corrie Sirota; and **g) Non-voting member:** Yong Hong Feng (Minutes).

1. Approval of agenda

1.1 The agenda was approved by majority of the attendees.

2. Approval of minutes

2.1 The minutes for the October 19th 2022 School Council meeting was approved by majority of the attendees with one correction:

4.7: 40+ students participated in the end-of-term party with fund-raising activity for *Mission Mont Royal*, which should be changed to *Moisson Montréal*.

Action item: Feng to make the correction and finalize the minutes.

3. Business arising/Updates

3.1 Director Trocmé provided an **update on the hiring** (*tenure-track assistant professor, practice with individuals, families and groups*): a) 3 job talks were scheduled with the shortlisted candidates, i.e, February 15th with McCrossin, February 22nd with Tarshis and March 10th with Kaushik; b) the Hiring Committee will make the final deliberation and recommendation to the Dean by end of March; and c) the selected candidate is expected to start on August 1st 2023.

Action item: Feng to circulate job talk info upon finalization of the details.

3.2 Sussman provided an **update on matching PhD experience with teaching opportunities** (details see [December 7 2022 SC minutes](#), 3.4): a) the Union allows up to 10% of exclusive teaching which has been typically reserved for PhD student teaching at the School; b) PhD program committee has been reaching out to PhD students understanding their expertise, teaching interests and need and making them aware of the teaching, training and professional development opportunities including teaching assistantship, guest lecturing, and courses offered by the McGill Teaching and Learning Services through Education; a survey to better understand PhD students'

overall expectations will be sent out soon; and c) supervisors are also encouraged to invite their supervisees to shadow in class to accumulate teaching experiences.

- 3.3 Gyan provided an **update on the social work climate survey** (details see [December 7 2022 SC minutes](#), 3.3): a) it was decided that the frequency of the climate survey be every 2 years to capture most students; the next survey will be carried out in the year of 2024; and b) a small working work will be set up in the Fall to start the preliminary planning and to gather feedback from the social work community in term of what else to include in the survey.

Action item: To table “call for volunteers for social work climate survey” in the first School Council meeting for 2023-24 academic year.

- 3.4 Krane provided an update on the **development of an additional course for U2 students starting in Fall 2023:** (details see [December 7 2022 SC minutes](#), 4.1): a) the course title for SWRK 353 will be changed from *Introduction to Practice* to *Introduction to Mental Health Practice* with the focus on the knowledge and skills in mental health first aid, illness and crisis intervention; b) the course will be offered in Fall 2023 to BSW U2 students first as a complementary course; whether to offer it as a required course will be determined by the student feedback in the next year or two; and c) a course revision has been submitted to the university for approval.

- 3.5 Collin-Vézina provided an **update on the selection of a new School Director:**

a) Trocmé’s current term as the Social Work Director will end on July 31st 2023; b) a selection committee comprised of faculty (Boatswain-Kyte, Rabiau, Orzeck, and Collin-Vézina as chair) and staff (Bonner and Pacheco) was struck in the Fall of 2022 with a mandate to make the recommendation, but not to make the decision; the Dean of the Arts gave the School greenlight in terms of the selection process; c) The selection committee invited faculty to express their interest in the candidacy, with Ives being the only candidate; d) a survey on Ives’ candidacy was circulated among the faculty and staff; a total of 17 votes was received in support of Ives’ candidacy; and e) a listening circle open to all social work community members will be organized by the selection committee; the purpose is for Ives to share her vision, and for the community members to share their thoughts, have their voice heard, and to clarify doubts or questions.

Action item: March 10th, 2023, from 4-5 pm was set as the tentative time for the listening circle; Collin-Vézina to finalize and share the details of the event with the SW Community.

4. Motion to vote: 2 year MSW program

- 4.1 Hanley presented the design of the 2 year MSW program (co-led by Hanley, Lach and Jenicek; details see [Min_Append_I](#)) outlining a) the rationale for the creation of a 2-year MSW; b) admission requirements for direct entry into the 2-year MSW; c) content for the 2 year MSW with a total of 69 credits; d) revision of the current 1-year MSW (non-thesis) with a total of 45 credits; and e) rethinking of the current MSW Streams or Concentrations.

- 4.2 Hanley proposed a motion, seconded by Lach, as below:

Given the need to respond to community requests for more English speaking social work graduates, and given the continued demand for an MSW program for applicants with a non-social work bachelor’s degree, it was proposed that the School Council mandates the MSW Program Committee to finalize a proposal for a 2-year MSW and

a revised 1-year MSW, to be submitted to the Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee and to related university and ministry approval bodies.

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

5. Update from the Constituency Groups:

- 5.1 Goswami provided an **update on the SWAGS plans** (Social Work Association on Graduate Studies): the SWAGS is in the process of developing PhD students' research profile as part of the preparations for the job market; the web profile will also give a macro perspective of the different research areas the students cover.
- 5.2 Joncas provided an **update on the SWSA activities** (Social Work Student Association): a) SWSA and SWAGS are organizing a SWAPPY event bringing BSW and graduate students, and faculty together; the event will take place on February 23rd at 6:30 pm at 550 Sherbrooke; and b) working to highlight BSW students' outstanding work in the community.
- 5.3 Ives provided an **update on the Indigenous Access McGill (IAM)**: IAM's student support (Coutu-Moya) will be taking up the manager position at the First People's house at the end of May; recruitment of a new replacement is in process. Director Trocmé stressed the importance of maintaining the consistent IAM leadership and updated the group that he and Ives have been in touch with the Dean of the Arts and the Provost's office about the possible recruitment of an indigenous faculty to fill out the gap in leadership left by Gabriel's departure.
- 5.4 Gyan provided an **update on the upcoming activities co-organized by Black Access McGill (BAM)**: a) a symposium with 3 speakers will be held on March 24; b) a SW info session for students from Dawson and other CEGEP programs will be held on February 16th; c) Black History Month Panel discussion will be held on February 22nd; and d) BAM also participated along with other faculty (Ives, David,& Gyan) in the potential exchange program between Howard U and McGill Social Work.
- 5.5 Rabiau provided an **update on the Endowment, Gifts, Awards, Bursaries Committee (EGAB)**: the committee is currently busy reviewing applications for the bursaries, awards and fellowships; review of the SSHRC fellowship is in process.
- 5.6 Orzeck provided an **update on the Field program**: the Field team organized a Field Integration Week; BSW U1 had the chance to visit the local communities and public organizations to better understand the city as a whole and how social work is acted in the health care system and in the community; BSW U2 had the chance to meet and dialogue with the service providers, the field supervisors and academic advisors.
- 5.7 MacIntosh provided an **update on the MScA CFT program**: feedback on the change of some courses' titles to better reflect the content was positive; interview of 22 applicants for the program will be held on Friday.
- 5.8 Sussman provided an **update on the PhD program**: the annual full-day PhD symposium will be held on April 14th; the presentations will include both individual work as well as collaborative group work; it is a good chance for the PhD students to showcase their work and get feedback from both faculty and their peers.

6. Adjournment

- 6.1 The meeting adjourned at 5 pm. The next School Council is to be held on **Wednesday, April 12th, 2023.**