



Meeting Minutes

Wed, April 14th 2021, 2:30 – 5:00 pm

Via Zoom meeting

Approved at October 20th 2021 School Council Meeting

Attendance: **a) Faculty:** Cindy Blackstock, Alicia Boatswain-Kyte, Sharon Bond, Shari Brotman, Régine Debrosse, Wanda Gabriel, Charles Gyan, Jill Hanley, Nicole Ives, Julia Krane, Heather 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) Course Lecturers:** Nona Moscovitz; **e) Students:** Francesca Capozzi, Nour Daoud, Yuan Kelly, Maya Malik, Jo Roy; **f) Non-voting member:** Yong Hong Feng (Minutes); and **g) Guests:** Olivia Dakkak (author of motion), Stephane Grenier (President of CASWE), Willa Holt (reporter for McGill Daily) and several BSW and MSW students.

1. Announcements

- 1.1 PhD candidate Susan Mintzberg won the Principal's Graduate Student Prize for Public Engagement; Honourable mention of Boatswain-Kyte's work on over-representation of Black youth in youth protection, and of Brotman's work on experiences of social exclusion and resilience among older adults.

2. Approval of agenda

- 2.1 The agenda was approved by majority of the attendees.

3. Approval of minutes

- 3.1 The minutes for February 24th 2021 School Council meeting was approved by majority of the attendees.

4. Business arising

- 4.1 A revised summary of the School's Self Study for the CASWE (Canadian Association of Social Work Education) Accreditation to include the 2012 site visit recommendations by CASWE COA (Committee on Accreditation) was shared with the Council members prior to the meeting via email communication (see *Feb. 24th 2021 SC Minutes, 3.1, Action Item*).
- 4.2 Trocmé introduced Stephane Grenier, president of CASWE, who was invited to the meeting to address questions of Council members regarding the School's Self-Study and the accreditation process.
- 4.3 Professor Grenier debriefed the group on changes at CASWE and in Social Work programs across Canada; in response to concerns raised about increasing EDI in the School, Professor Grenier noted that the CASWE Board has been impressed by the initiatives that have been taken at McGill and noted that these are cited as models for other schools; Professor Grenier confirmed the site visit would take place when the pandemic conditions and the public health guidelines permit.
 - **Action item:** Trocmé to keep Council informed of updates on the site visit plans.

5. Nunavik BSW program

5.1 Ives and Gabriel provided an update on the Nunavik BSW program which is aiming for a September 2021 start. The Nunavik BSW will be the first post-secondary education in the region, using a land-based and co-teaching model including school faculty, Inuit instructors and elders.

5.2 Gabriel moved, seconded by Krane, that a ratification vote be taken on the below proposal that

*two certificate programs (“Foundational Social Services Skills and Knowledge” and “Para Social Work and Community Practices”) be offered by the School of Social Work given that the BSW delivered in Nunavik needs to be structured in a three-stage process to optimize flexibility of the program and meet the request of the Nunavik health board to recognize all efforts of students. (*Note: the proposal had been submitted to the Arts Curriculum Committee for approval; details see [SC Min_Appendix I.](#))*

- **Vote result:** Majority of the attendees voted in favour of the proposal.

6. Year-end reports from SC Constituency Groups & Committees

6.1 Directors of BSW Program (Krane), MSW Program (Ives), MScA CFT Program (MacIntosh), PhD Program (Hanley), Field Education Program (Orzeck) and lead of EGAB (Endowment, Gifts, Awards and Bursaries Committee, Rabiau), IAM (Indigenous Access McGill, Gabriel), SWSA (Social Work Student Association) and SWAGS (Social Work Association of Graduate Students) all provided updates on their respective work (details see [SC Min_Appendix II.](#))

6.2 In response to student feedback over the years, Krane moved, seconded by Ives, that
a) the number of SWRK complementary courses in the BSW program be increased from 6 credits to 9 credits, and b) the number of non-SWRK complementary courses be reduced from 15 credits to 12 credits.

- **Vote result:** Majority of the attendees voted in favour of the proposal.

7. Motion for the School to implement a hybrid teaching model

7.1 Kelly moved, seconded by Roy, a proposal drafted by Bakkak as below:

Be it resolved that the McGill School of Social Work deliver a hybrid learning model for classes starting in Fall 2021, wherein one section(s) of a course is to be delivered in person, and a second section(s) of that same course be delivered through online means;

Be it further resolved that the McGill School of Social Work council strike a committee to immediately begin pedagogical development of a permanent hybrid teaching and learning model for the school to build upon the current infrastructure and modality of online teaching delivery.

7.2 After much discussion to understand the context (*Note: student representatives reported the communications from the University which gave the impression of in-person teaching and learning in Fall 2021 being a confirmed decision) and the governance structure of the University, Arts and School concerning the teaching, the

motion was revised and agreed by the mover, seconder and author of the motion for vote as below (details see *SC Min Appendix III*):

Be it resolved that the McGill School of Social Work council strike a committee to immediately begin exploring pedagogical development based upon principles of universal design such as flexibility, accessibility, agency; and distance-learning options for the short and long-term in the school and to advocate on behalf of the McGill School of Social Work community in response to the COVID-19 context currently facing us. This will include clarifying and assessing accountability mechanisms available to students, staff and faculty;

Hereby be it resolved that the School of Social Work will seek clarification on the differences in communications to faculty and students on University responses to COVID 19; and

Hereby be it resolved that the School of Social Work will take positive measures within its authority and expertise to ensure the safety of students, staff and faculty and communicate any safety issues outside of its control to appropriate health and safety authorities.

- **Vote result:** Majority of the attendees voted in favour of the revised motion as above.
- **Action items:** a) Trocmé to follow up with student representatives on university communications to students re: the Fall plan; and b) the working group (Brotman, Kelly, Orzeck, & Roy) to provide updates to the Council at the future meetings.

8. EDDII updates

8.1 The EDDII updates will be carried forward to the next Council meeting; Trocmé briefly reported that a spreadsheet had been created to monitor the objectives, actions, and indicators included in the EDDII strategic plan.

- **Action item:** Trocmé to provide updates on the implementation of the EDDII Strategic Plan to the School Council in Fall 2021.

9. Adjournment

9.1 The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. Trocmé expressed thanks to all School Council representatives for their active engagement in the School's governance for 2020-21 academic year.