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## MINUTES

Subcommittee on Teaching and Learning  
Tuesday, February 3, 2015 (3:00pm – 4:00pm)  
James Administration Building, room 301

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**Present:** Jeremie Abitbol, Pete Barry, Ollivier Dyens (Chair), Karl Jarosiewicz (for Sharon Roy), Hoi Kong, Jacqueline Leclair, Bronwen Low, Jana Luker, Laurent Mydlarski, Jean-Paul Rémillieux, John Silvius, Nancy St-Pierre (Secretary), Carole Urbain, Evan Vassallo, Laura Winer

**Regrets:** Jan Adamowski, André Costopoulos, Ian Henderson, Svetlana Komarova, Lucy Lach, Laura Nilson, Sharon Roy, Yvonne Steinert

**Guests:** Mariela Tovar, Teaching and Learning Services  
Carolyn Samuel, McGill Writing Centre  
Diane Koen, Libraries

### 1. Administrative

- Adoption of the agenda
- Approval of the minutes, November 3, 2014
- Business arising

The administrative portion of the agenda was adopted as distributed.

### 2. Meeting objectives

By the end of the meeting, the subcommittee should have:

- Discussed the results of the survey on assessment in large classes;
- Received updates from the Library Feasibility Study, the McGillX initiative, and the McGill Commitment.

### 3. Discussion

#### a. Survey result on assessment in large classes (STL2015-02-07)

**Guests:** Mariela Tovar, Academic Associate, Teaching and Learning Services  
Carolyn Samuel, McGill Writing Centre

Dr. Tovar shared the results of the recent survey on assessment in large classes undertaken by the Advisory Group on Assessment in Large Classes. Discussion ensued on the report, with the following points being raised:

- based on the survey responses, interesting assessment techniques were identified and follow-up interviews were conducted;
- from these follow-up interviews, strategies to disseminate those assessment techniques were developed. These include the brown bag lunch series, blog posts on the TeachingForLearning blog (<http://teachingblog.mcgill.ca/>), and poster sessions. Activities to promote the discussion continue to be developed;

- a number of instructors are searching for ways to integrate open-ended or written assignments but are unsure of how to implement them, especially in large class settings;
- instructors are also searching for strategies to integrate peer-review and rubrics.

It was suggested that an Executive Summary be drafted using the key observations from the report. The Summary could then be submitted to APC to help demonstrate the need for instructional support, be it in the form of additional TAs, to focused workshops, to online tutorials and peer-review software.

**Action:** the executive summary will be drafted over the summer months with it being ready for STL feedback in the Fall.

**b. Library's Feasibility Study Project**

Guest: Diane Koen, Associate Director, Planning and Resources, Libraries

Diane Koen provided a brief outline of the Library's Feasibility Study. As members may be aware, there is currently no room for growth in the physical collection, and the Library buildings are overcapacity; there is no new space for the variety of spaces students want or need. As such, the Feasibility Study is will be used to develop a Master Plan to best determine how the McGill Library and Archives can meet the evolving teaching, learning and research needs of its community. Architectural firms Shepley Bulfinch and EKM are expected to produce a general conceptual and functional Master Plan (The Plan) to ensure optimal use of the University Library and Archives space.

Members were invited to attend the Faculty Symposium on the Future of Academic Research Libraries, scheduled to take place on March 18<sup>th</sup>. The Secretary will forward the link to members. In addition, members were encouraged to participate in focus groups or to submit their feedback here: [Library - Suggestion Form](#).

For more detailed information members are encouraged to visit the Library's website: <http://www.mcgill.ca/library/about/planning/master-plan>.

**Action:** The Library will be invited to return to STL to speak in more detail before the end of the Academic Year.

**c. McGillX update:** Laura Winer provided an update on the MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses) currently being offered. This included:

- ATOC185x - Natural Disasters: it was confirmed that the course is currently being re-run on the MOOC platform with ~1200 students being active in the course (out of 4400 registered). The materials created for the MOOC have also been adapted for the on-campus course, and are being used by McGill students through the *myCourses* portal.
- Chem181x – Food for Thought has now transitioned to an on-campus format as well. It was noted that 90% of students taking the course have introduced themselves online and 96% have completed the online assignments.
- BODY101x – The Body Matters is in full production mode and is scheduled to launch at the end of February. Currently there are ~18,000 students registered. This course will include interviews with industry experts and has launched a partnership with the British Journal of Sports Medicine. The Journal will be following and responding to student inquiries in the discussion forums as the course unfolds.

- The Social Learning for Social Impact is still in the development phase with launch anticipated for Fall 2015.

Laura Winer also noted that an Advisory Committee will be meeting this term to determine the longer-term plan for MOOCs at McGill.

- d. SLL Commitment:** Professor Dyens asked that this item be postponed to the next meeting.

There being no further items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.