Attendance: As per Faculty Appendix Book.

Documents: A-14-17 to A-14-23

Order
The Dean welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Agenda
501.1 Mr. Sobat moved approval of the agenda, seconded by Professor Bray. Carried.

Announcements
502.1 There were no announcements.

Minutes of Faculty of March 10, 2015
503.1 Professor Everett moved approval of the minutes, seconded by Mr. Sobat. Carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes
504.1 There was no business arising.

Members’ Question Period
505.1 No questions were submitted. The procedures for submitting questions can be obtained by contacting the Secretary, Ms. Susan Sharpe (susan.sharpe@mcgill.ca or by calling #094859).

Award Presentations
506.1 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick (Chair, Arts Faculty Prizes and Awards Committee) said that several awards would be announced and that the awards were determined by committees whose members volunteer their time to review the nominations and choose the recipients.

The Associate Dean also thanked Dr. Kathleen Holden (Dean’s Office) and Dr. Sarah Kaderabek (Dean’s Office) for their assistance with the work of the awards committee. Faculty applauded.
Arts Award for Distinction in Research

506.2 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick announced that the winner this year was Professor Vincent Pouliot of the Department of Political Science. The Associate Dean conveyed the regrets of Professor Pouliot.

506.3 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick read the following citation:

“I am delighted to announce that Professor Vincent Pouliot from the Department of Political Science has been awarded the Faculty of Arts Award for Distinction in Research for 2015.

Vincent Pouliot has a distinguished record of research and publications and is internationally recognized in the field of international relations. He came to McGill in 2008 after completing his PhD at the University of Toronto, where he was a Trudeau Scholar. He was named a William Dawson Scholar in 2011, and received early tenure in 2012. He is currently the Director of the McGill – Université de Montréal Centre for International Peace and Security Studies.

Professor Pouliot’s research focuses on international security, international organizations and diplomatic practices. He has emerged as a leading voice in the sociological understanding of international relations, and is known in particular for his application of the work of the French social theorist Pierre Bourdieu to the analysis of the various practices that constitute international society. He has done important work on NATO-Russian relations, the transatlantic security community, and the politics of the United Nations, as well as on the methodological consequences and philosophical underpinnings of “practice theory” – that seeks to explain how social beings, with their diverse motives and their diverse intentions, make and transform the world in which they live. His colleagues note that, just seven years after his PhD, Professor Pouliot has enlarged the theoretical boundaries of this field.

His research output includes one single-authored book, three co-edited books, 18 articles and 13 peer-reviewed book chapters. His book, International Security in Practice: The Politics of NATO-Russia Diplomacy, won the Canadian Political Science Association’s 2011 Prize in International Relations and received “Honorable Mention” for the 2011 Leggold Prize awarded by Georgetown University for “exceptional contributions to the study of international relations.”

Professor Pouliot has given 18 invited lectures in Europe and North America, and held a research fellowship at the Institute d’études avancés de Paris in 2014. Now on sabbatical, he is currently a Visiting Fellow at the School of Political Science and International Studies at the University of Queensland.

Please give Vincent a huge round of applause. Sarah has promised him he will be able to hear it in Australia.”

Faculty applauded.
Arts Insight Dissertation Award
506.4 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick announced that the winner this year for Social Sciences was *Dr. Benjamin Ferland of the Department of Political Science.*

506.5 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick noted the regrets of Dr. Ferland and read the following citation:

“Dr. Benjamin Ferland’s dissertation, entitled “Electoral Systems, Veto Players, and Substantive Representation: When Majoritarian Electoral Systems Strengthen the Citizen-Policy Nexus,” examines the heart of Democratic governance: the process of representation. His study provides new insights into the workings of electoral democracy both in Canada and abroad and reveals the consequences of the design of electoral institutions for the responsiveness and accountability of elected governments.

*His central argument challenges conventional wisdom about the impact of electoral systems on representation by arguing that majoritarian systems perform better than proportional representation.*

*Why does it do so? No coalitions; fewer actors; faster agreement; quicker decisions; greater citizen satisfaction.*

*His external examiner was effusive in his praise, recommending that the dissertation be given “a high pass if that is allowed in the McGill system.” He lauds how Benjamin blends his well-developed understanding of the theoretical literature with new empirical evidence based on what he describes as “an impressive new database” which merges data from national election studies and the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems. This produces a cross-national and cross-temporal database that both provides a resource for going beyond past analyses and allows for new research possibilities.*

*Dr. Ferland is currently a Post-Doctoral Scholar at Penn State University, and in 2016 will take up the position of Assistant Professor, School of Political Studies at the University of Ottawa.*

*We are very pleased to honour Benjamin Ferland with the Arts Dissertation Award for best dissertation of 2014 in the Social Sciences.*

Faculty applauded.

506.6 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick announced that the winner this year for Humanities was *Dr. Robert Stephens of the Department of Philosophy.*

506.7 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick read the following citation:

“Dr. Stephens’s dissertation, in the philosophy of mind and theoretical psychology, is entitled “Framing the web: cognitive modularity and the limits of belief revision.”
A bit of background. In the nineteenth century, psychologists began to understand that the mind is not monolithic, but is made up of relatively autonomous components called “faculties” or “modules” that do specialized jobs. The issue, however, is how to model creative thought because creative thought depends on the interaction of several modules.

Robert Stephens’ core idea has been described as “utterly brilliant” and his external reviewer describes his dissertation as a “tour de force”. Why? Because although he concedes that a maximally creative mind could not be modular, he reveals how minds can approximate full creativity. Through the use of case studies he shows how cognitive strategies can be used so that a cleverly designed modular mind can approximate full creativity. In other words, he argues it can be almost as good as the ideally creative one. He also shows how some of the best evidence for this theory derives precisely from the subtle limitations exhibited by the modular mind.

The result is a masterful and deeply compelling piece of work and has a stylistic lightness of touch that makes it entertaining and easy for a non-expert to understand.

Dr. Stephens is currently a Lecturer and the Philosophy Department Coordinator at Dawson College.

*We are very pleased to honour Robert Stephens with the Arts Dissertation Award for best dissertation of 2014 in the Humanities.*

Faculty applauded.

**H. Noel Fieldhouse Award for Excellence in Teaching**

Associate Dean Engle-Warnick announced that the winner this year was **Professor Dirk Schlimm of the Department of Philosophy**. The Associate Dean read the following citation:

“Dirk Schlimm teaches some of the densest and most difficult courses offered in the Departments of Philosophy and Computer Science. But by the end of the “Philosophy of Mathematics” or “Logic and Computability” to name but two, his students are hooked on the material and are raving about him.

Here is what some have written:

- “The best professor I’ve had at McGill, hands down.”
- “[S]tarting from the first lecture, Professor Schlimm was able to do the extraordinary — he made the most complex material that I’ve encountered in my entire undergraduate career accessible.”
- “He did an amazing job turning subject matter that might have been dreadful . . . into fascinating, interesting lectures . . . [A]fter the course was finished I truly felt like I had learned, not just memorized facts.”
Dirk Schlimm’s commitment to teaching and to providing his students with the best possible classroom experience is further evidenced by the fact that he does not wait until end-of-term course evaluations to learn how his students fared. He understands that the makeup of every class is different and what worked in one may not work in another. He therefore uses his own specially designed course evaluation forms that allow students to provide feedback early on in the semester, the results of which enable him to adjust his teaching style to what works best for each particular group.

No wonder he is known for “creating an environment in the classroom where everybody is comfortable speaking, asking questions, and participating” and for, and I quote: “open[ing] up the world of mathematics to students from across disciplines who, without him, would never have been able to even approach the subject.”

Professor Schlimm takes his teaching motto from the late Professor Wayne C. Booth, whose many books include The Rhetoric of Fiction and What Little I Think I Know About Teaching. It is:

“Good college teaching is the kind that promises to make the teacher finally superfluous, the kind that will lead students to want to continue work in the given subject and to be able to have the necessary intellectual equipment to continue work at a more advanced level.”

And to this motto he has been true. Congratulations, Dirk.”

Faculty applauded.

Arts Award of Excellence for Administrative and Support Staff

Professor Meadwell (Chair, Arts Award of Excellence for Administrative and Support Staff Committee) announced that the winner this year was Mr. Keith Roche of the Department of English and read the following citation:

“Since he joined McGill in 1997, Keith has played an integral role in the Department of English, the Faculty of Arts, and the University as Technical Director of Moyse Hall.

Students and staff alike highlight Keith’s integrity and amazing problem-solving abilities. One colleague describes him this way: “[Keith is] the most resourceful individual I’ve ever had the pleasure to know. . . . When most of us would get into a major flap over a technical glitch, Keith just puts his mind to finding a solution to the problem. He’s the ultimate go-to guy. His knowledge, skill, and professionalism give him a quiet authority that commands respect.”

Keith is also a hugely valued and sought-after mentor. His Stage Scenery and Lighting courses introduce undergraduates to the practices of lighting, sound, stage management, as well as set and prop construction. As one of his students wrote: “Every day [Keith] helps students realize what they did not think was possible.”

And Professor Myrna Wyatt Selkirk writes: “I have directed many shows with Keith as master carpenter and technical director. He knows Moyse Hall intimately. He has
turned the stage in Moyse into a 100-seat theatre by building tiered audience seating. He builds doors on wheels, and things that fly, and makes theatrical magic happen.”

When Myrna says “things that fly”, she isn’t kidding. Moyse is one of three “fly-houses” in Montreal, equipped with a theatrical rigging system that allows stage crews, trained by Keith, to lift or hoist stage components – scenery, curtains, even actors – into the vertical space above and behind the proscenium arch, enabling spectacular stage effects and lightning changes of scenery.

As caretaker of McGill’s signature historic theatre and its scene shop for the last 14 years, Keith has played a central role in all events that have taken place in it.

During that time, he has dedicated hundreds of hours above and beyond a normal workweek, often working 16 hours a day, weekdays, and weekends. But his understated manner and quiet efficiency means that what he does too often goes unnoticed.

Not anymore. At least not today.

Congratulations Keith.”

Faculty applauded.

**Arts Awards for Graduate Student Teaching**

506.10 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick said that the Arts Committee on Graduate Studies was proud to announce this year’s recipients of the Arts Graduate Student Teaching Awards. The following citations were read:

Mehri Ghazanjani is a PhD student in Sociology.

506.11 “She has served as a TA for 5 courses, including Sociological Theory, Contemporary Social Movements, and Introduction to International Development.

Mehri’s faculty nominators describe her as thoughtful, diligent, enterprising and creative; “truly a first-rate and indispensable teaching assistant, whose efforts call out to be recognized.” She has transformed Sociological Theory, adding revision notes on Durkheim on the web and creating a PowerPoint presentation on effective essay writing. She has given several lectures, including one on “Failed States and Civil Wars,” all of which were remarkable for their incisive accounts of the material and demonstrated her impressive abilities as a researcher.

Mehri’s students describe her as warm and cheerful, exceptionally engaged, competent and professional. She is clear, articulate, well-organized, well-prepared and enthusiastic.

Mehri had her conference students’ break into small groups to each tackle a different theory of the emergence of social movements, and then had the groups explain them to the rest of the class. One student remarked “how it was crucial in helping her frame her short essay and write a solid and coherent argument.”
Another wrote: “Mehri was always approachable, always reachable, and always excited to watch the little light bulbs in our brains turn on as she explained something.”

Faculty applauded. Associate Dean Engle-Warnick noted the regrets of Ms. Barth and Mr. Hamilton.

Josie Barth is a PhD student in English.

“She has been the TA for 6 different courses, including Introduction to Cultural Studies, The Poetics of the Image, Hollywood’s Great Depression, and American Film and Television of the 1950s.

Josie’s faculty nominators call her “a real pro,” and remark on her ability to create an energized and intellectually rigorous exchange on complicated issues.

Josie’s students write about her clear, concise and passionate teaching style, her warm and personable manner, and the supportive atmosphere of her classroom. She is thoughtful, organized, creative and fully prepared for every conference.

Her students describe her as “super knowledgeable,” “unfailingly brilliant,” and “truly great!” In one of her lectures she “gave an incredible analysis on the meta-narrative of Sunset Boulevard” and in another “she drew our attention to the white collar male anxieties depicted in The Incredible Shrinking Man.” As one student says, “I am lucky to have been in so many academic environments with Josie at my time at McGill, not only for her intelligence, but also for her eternal good vibes.”

Michael Hamilton is a PhD student in Linguistics.

“He has been a TA 5 times for Introduction to the Study of Language and Introduction to Linguistics, and has also TA-ed Syntax I. He will be the Instructor for Introduction to Linguistics this summer, a position reserved for only the Department’s strongest TAs.

Mike’s faculty supporters remark that he stands out for his ability to engage students in the conferences he has led. The job of the TA is in some ways more difficult in these introductory linguistics classes than those at the upper level because of the mix of students which ranges from those who discover they love linguistics to those who stick around only to satisfy credit requirements. To make these classes accessible for the latter, but also exciting and challenging for the former, is a tough balance, but is something at which Mike excels.

Students call him enthusiastic, passionate, dynamic, engaged, and clear. He has a great capacity for simplifying difficult concepts, and an uncanny ability for making abstract information more grounded and easy to grasp by providing concrete examples that resonate with students. His lecture on the syntax of Mi’kmaq, an endangered Algonquian language, was reported to be fantastic. He is “the best TA ever.”

As one student says, “Thanks for being awesome, Mike!!”
Please join me in congratulating Mehri, Josie, and Michael as the 2015 recipients of the Arts Graduate Student Teaching Awards. Faculty applauded.

Dean Manfredi congratulated all the winners and thanked all the committee members for their time and effort involved with the work of adjudicating these awards.

Report on the Actions of Senate - Senate meetings of February 18 and March 18, 2015

It was noted that because Senate meetings were now live-streamed and because the minutes of the meetings were available quickly, asking Arts Senators to make a presentation at Faculty meetings seems redundant. Therefore written reports on issues of particular interest to the Faculty of Arts were now available to read at: http://www.mcgill.ca/arts/facultystaff/facultymeetings/faculty-meetings-restricted

Dean Manfredi noted that the regrets of Senators Oxhorn and Ponech. No questions were raised.

Detailed minutes of Senate meetings can be found at http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/senate-2014-2015

Report of the Dean

Dean Manfredi reported on the following items:
- The Teaching Assistants section of AGSEM has mandated to hold a one-day strike on Thursday, April 16, 2015 which is the first day of final exams. AGSEM was currently in the conciliation process for contract negotiations with the University. The understanding is that the union will not interfere with the exams but will hold ‘soft pickets’ around the gym as well as other areas on campus. The University has contingency plans in place. The invigilators section of AGSEM are not on strike, however, it was possible that the invigilators might respect the picket line. Should this happen the University, again, has contingency plans in place to deal with this. The Human Resources web site has a list of FAQs about the effects of the strike.
- Meetings with chairs and directors to discuss budgets for FY16 were in the final stages. The measures put in place by the Provost for FY16 require a $355,000 budget cut and Arts was in the midst of determining how to meet the cut. Most of the cut will affect mainly non-salary items. There will not be any reductions to base funding for teaching support. Departments will have the flexibility on how to use their assigned funds whether to hire course lecturers to teach courses or to hire TAs to support courses. The most important news was that Arts was able to maintain its teaching support budget.

This concluded the Dean’s report.

Report of the Associate Deans

Academic Administration and Oversight

Associate Dean Lane-Mercier reported on the following:
Arts Internship Office (AIO)
- To demonstrate how well the AIO continues to function, the following significant increases have taken place over the last ten years in the number of Arts Internship Awards being distributed: 29 awarded in 2005 for a total of $70,000; 74 awarded in 2010 for a total of $138,000; and, 102 awarded in 2015 for a total of $216,700. This is excellent evidence on how well the AIO has been growing.

The statistics for the Arts Research Internship Awards were: 27 awarded in 2010 for a total of $108,000; and, 38 awarded in 2015 for a total of $152,000.

The statistics for two new programs –
- Top Tier Internships Program which provides internships with United Nations, embassies and foundations: 18 awarded in 2015 for a total of $96,000.
- Li Ka Shing Awards: two interns from Shantou University in China were welcomed into East Asian Studies programs and this summer eighteen McGill students will be attending Shantou University.

Space/Renovations
- The Library Feasibility Study was nearing its final stages. The main focus of the study has been storage and user spaces. Three options have emerged from the study which are now on the table for discussion, final decisions should be made shortly.
- The Bookstore Feasibility Study to relocate the operation was ongoing. The Faculty of Management will take over the space on McTavish Street by September 2016.
- The renovations slated for Wilson Hall were moving forward with several high level meetings taking place. The earliest completion date for the project is 2019.
- An upper beam that supports the roof in the Arts Portico entrance area has been damaged resulting in a delay in the project. The camouflage of the entrance will remain in place for another year.
- The work on McTavish Street was at the aesthetic phase of the project. The city has included the street in its new “promenade urbaine” project. Major paving work and the ‘greening’ of the street will begin in 2016.
- Leacock Building: renovations to 420 should be complete now; unfortunately, completion of work to 608 has been delayed to September. The AUS has kindly initiated a project to make major improvements to the public spaces on the ground floor and mezzanine level, specifically around the SNAX area as well as around the elevators.
- Ferrier Building: the heating and ventilations issues were currently being improved.

Research and Graduate Studies

509.2 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick reported on improvements to the Graduate Studies Funding System, namely that (1) the system will provide information to departments that will allow them to allocate their funds more effectively; and (2) to standardize appropriate funding letters. This has been good progress. The Department of History and Classical Studies was piloting the improved system. The improvements should be complete by the fall.
509.3 Dean Manfredi said that he received confirmation that graduate student acceptances in the Faculty were up by thirty-two percent. This was very good news.

Student Affairs
509.4 Associate Dean Lach reported on the following:

- Reminder that course evaluations are now open. The default position is that course evaluations are made available to students unless you opt out.
- Discussions between students and the administration were taking place about the potential of having a fall reading week. This was benchmarking as it is done in many Canadian universities. It would mean, perhaps, adding one day to the Thanksgiving long weekend or having it in November. Student input was being solicited. This has implications of starting classes earlier, holding classes on Saturdays, or holding exams during weekends, etc. Further discussion was needed about this.
- The following changes have been recommended to Senate concerning the Student Assessment Policy. These are new items to the policy (with exception to Point 3):
  - Normally, participation will not exceed 10% of the final grade. If participation is to exceed 10%, instructors must include a clear rubric in the course outline
  - In courses where specific components are required for successful completion, these components must be clearly defined in the course outline, must be worth at least 20% of the final course grade, and approved by the appropriate associate Dean.
  - For assessments that do not follow the Assessment Policy, the matter will be confidentially referred to the appropriate Professor, Department Chair, Director or Associate Dean
  - A 10% longer word count shall be permitted for assignments written in French
  - Assessments taking place outside of scheduled lecture time (i.e. tutorials, conferences, labs) should have their meeting times set by the end of add/drop period
  - Penalties for late submitted assignments must be stated in the course outline

509.5 Dean Manfredi thanked the Associate Deans for the reports.

Report of the Curriculum Committee A-14-18
510.1 Associate Dean Lach moved approval of the retirement of the Social Statistics Option of the M.A. in Sociology, and the revisions to the Honours in Economics and the Joint Honours Component, the Joint Honours in Economics and Accounting and of the Joint Honours in Economics and Finance, seconded by Professor Meadwell. Carried.

Note: New course retirements SOCI 688 and 689 were approved by the Screening Committee on March 16, 2015.

Note: FYI proposals for the revisions to the B.Com Honours programs was available upon request.
Report of the Nominating Committee
511.1 Dean Manfredi moved ‘en bloc’ the Report of the Nominating as outlined in document A-14-19, seconded by Mr. Sobat. Carried.

Report of the Canadian Studies Program
512.1 Professor Straw moved approval of the annual report, seconded by Professor Johnson. Carried.

Report of the Indigenous Studies Program
513.1 Professor Straw moved approval of the annual report, seconded by Professor Johnson. Carried.

Report of the History and Philosophy of Science Program
514.1 Professor Schlimm moved approval of the annual report, seconded by Professor van den Berg. Carried.

Report of the Activities of the Arts Undergraduate Society
515.1 Mr. Sobat reported on the following items:
- Results were in for the new AUS executives for 2015-16.
- Negotiations for the new MoA was almost complete and the sandwiches sold at SNAX will return.
- Work on a proposal to improve the Leacock lobby and second floor spaces was ongoing.
- Congratulations to award winners: teaching Professor Maria Starzmann, TA Ms. Alice Chessé & Advisor Ms. Nellie Voudouris on their awards.
- Valedictorians were chosen for the Class of 2015.
- Thanks to the Faculty for its support over the year.

515.2 The full report can be found at:
http://www.mcgill.ca/arts/facultystaff/facultymeetings/faculty-meetings-restricted

515.3 Dean Manfredi thanked the AUS for their service to the Faculty over the last year, and in particular for the very collaborative way in which they worked with the Associate Deans and himself. The Dean noted his appreciation for the AUS cooperation in starting a project to approve a student fee that would enable the Arts Internship Office (AIO) to continue its operations while the Faculty undertakes a philanthropic campaign to develop an endowment for the AIO. The Dean again thanked the members of the AUS and wished them all the best for their future endeavors.
Report of the Graduate Students
516.1 There was no report.

Other Business
517.1 There was no other business.

Adjournment
518.1 The Dean was congratulated on his terms as Dean and was wished all the best for his term as Provost. Faculty applauded.

The meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m. Carried.