

**FACULTY OF ARTS
Minutes of Meeting
January 27, 2015
Robert Vogel Council Room**

Attendance: As per Faculty Appendix Book.

Documents: A-14-7

Order

Dean Manfredi welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Resolution on the death of Professor Samuel Noumoff

301.1 Professor Meadwell (Political Science) presented the following resolution:

“The Department of Political Science notes with sadness the death of our colleague, Sam Noumoff. Sam died in Montreal on November 26th at age 79.

Sam came to McGill in 1967 and taught for four decades in the Department of Political Science before retiring in 2006. In those 40-odd years, Sam was an inspiring teacher, a dedicated colleague, a committed campus activist and, above all, a compassionate and deeply-principled human being.

He is remembered in the classroom for both his passion and insight in the wide range of courses he taught, from political philosophy to comparative revolutions to East Asian politics, notably the politics of China, a country he visited numerous times over his career.

Sam was an institution-builder. He helped to organize East Asian studies at McGill and was instrumental in the creation of the Center for East Asian Studies and served as its Director. He served also as Director, in the late eighties and early nineties, of the Center for Developing Area Studies, which was the nucleus for the current McGill Institute for the Study of International Development (MISID). Sam was a strong supporter of the internship program in the Faculty of Arts and was involved in the writing of the first grant

proposal to the Québec government which got the internship office off the ground. The Arts Internship Office is a great success. All of these initiatives have yielded enduring benefits for the University.

Sam kept several generations of university administrators on their toes. He was a longstanding member of University Senate, where he represented the Faculty of Arts, and he served as well on the Board of Governors. Sam used these venues to protect due process across the university, to encourage transparency in university governance, and to defend and promote the importance of a progressive liberal arts education at McGill.

Sam will also be remembered for the numerous times he acted as an advocate and counsel for colleagues, whether academics or support staff, in tenure, grievance or appeal hearings. He was the best store front lawyer on the block.

Above all, Sam was devoted to fairness, justice and equity. These were his convictions and he lived by them. “

301.2 Dean Manfredi noted that the resolution was unanimously accepted.

Agenda

302.1 Professor Meadwell **moved** approval of the agenda, seconded by Mr. Sobat. **Carried.**

Announcements

303.1 Dean Manfredi made the following announcements:

- Professor M. Evans (School of Information Studies) was elected, by acclamation, a seat on the Arts Nominating Committee for a three year term.
- *My Arts Research: Library Skills for Success*. A two-part hands-on library research workshop specifically designed for Arts undergraduates was once again being offered on March 10 and 11. Learn more on the Arts main web page.
- The deadline to apply for the McGill International Experience Awards (formerly the Faculty of Arts International Travel Award) which are supported by Joseph Schull (BA '82, MA '85) and Anna Yang (BCL, LLB '88) was March 30, 2015. The Faculty of Arts offers one McGill International Experience Award each year. More information can be found at: <http://www.mcgill.ca/arts/awardsgrants/mcgill-international-experience-awardfaculty-arts-international-travel-award>

- MISC's 2015 annual conference, *The Cities We Need (Les villes qu'il nous faut)* will take place in Montreal on February 19 and 20, 2015, at the Phi Centre (407 St Pierre St). Registration was now open.

Dean Manfredi congratulated, on behalf of the Faculty, the following colleagues and noted that those being honoured with awards should forward the information to his office so that accolades can be announced at Faculty meetings:

- Congratulations to Professor Hans Beck (History and Classical Studies) who has received the 2015 Anneliese Maier Research Award. Awarded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the prize merits excellence in research and leadership in international collaboration in the Humanities and Social Sciences.
- Congratulations to Professor Eduardo Kohn (Anthropology) who has been awarded the Gregory Bateson Prize for best book of the year in sociocultural anthropology for his monograph, *How Forests Think: Toward an Anthropology Beyond the Human*.
- Congratulations to Professor T.V. Paul (Political Science) who has been elected as the 56th President (2016-17) of the International Studies Association (ISA), the leading scholarly association in that field.

303.2 There were no further announcements.

Minutes of Faculty of November 25, 2014

A-14-7

304.1 Professor Everett **moved** approval of the minutes, seconded by Professor MacLaren.
Carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes

305.1 There was no business arising.

Members' Question Period

306.1 No questions were submitted.

Report on the Actions of Senate - Senate meetings of December 3rd and January 21st

307.1 Dean Manfredi 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>

307.2 With no questions raised about the reports, the Dean thanked the Senators for the reports.

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

Report of the Dean

308.1 Dean Manfredi reported on the following:

Deanship – Transition

- Dean Manfredi said that he would remain as Dean until April 30th before moving to his new position, as announced in December, as Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic). In the next few weeks the Provost should be announcing who will become the Interim Dean until the process to select a new dean has been completed. An election will be held to determine the membership of the Advisory Committee to Select a Dean, this membership will also consist of student representation. Any confidential ideas and/or suggestions about the Interim Dean can be sent to the Dean who will then forward these comments to the Provost.

In response to a question, Dean Manfredi said that no one would be precluded from becoming the next dean because they served as Interim Dean.

Budget:

- The Provost has informed the deans that he expects to end current FY15 at the target deficit of approximately \$7 million. In late October the Provost put in place spending restrictions designed to ensure that targets were met, for example, measures such as the freeze on external hires and restrictions on internal hires, postponing non-essential furniture purchases, etc. These measures were to be reviewed in January, the review took place, and the Provost has announced that the measures will continue until the end of the fiscal year. The Chairs and Directors are in possession of the restrictions.
- A couple of staff members have left the Faculty since the hiring freeze was announced and it is possible to make a business case to replace some positions. The Faculty has reduced its support staff as far as it can and, as a result, will be making a strong case to have these vacancies filled. The hiring freeze only applies to positions that are funded by operating funds (100 funds).
- Budget meetings with departments will be taking place very soon.

Arts and Religious Studies

- The relationship between Arts and the Faculty of Religious Studies has been under review since 2006. The discussions have intensified over time and now the discussions concern the possibility that the Faculty of Religious Studies would be integrated into the Faculty of Arts as a School of Religious Studies. It would become a school because the Faculty of Religious Studies offers a professionally accredited degree. Other reasons for this potential integration are that all their undergraduate programs are B.A. programs, there are overlaps between the kind of study of religion in Religious Studies and the various studies of religion as a cultural, sociological and political phenomena within Arts, there are currently joint appointments between the two faculties, and there are other units in Arts that have explored various kinds of possibilities for collaboration with Religious Studies.

The Faculty of Religious Studies will be undertaking a self-assessment as well as an external review concerning this. This must be driven by the Faculty of Religious

Studies to determine that this is in their best interests. If a proposal is complete in the very near future, it would be submitted to April Faculty meeting for approval.

308.2 This concluded the Dean's report.

Report of the Associate Deans

Academic Administration and Oversight

309.1 Associate Dean Lane-Mercier reported on the following:

Space/renovations

- The Library Feasibility Study was ongoing. The two important items are storage issues and student spaces. The study should end by the early or late spring.
- The Bookstore Feasibility Study was also underway to relocate the bookstore. The Faculty of Management will take of the space on McTavish Street as of September 2016.
- Renovations to Wilson Hall will begin in 2016-17.
- The Arts portico has been erected to mask the damage to the front entrance area of the Arts Building because of the repairs needed in this area. This project will begin September 2016.
- McTavish Street will be greened in 2016 therefore the noise and construction chaos will continue.
- Classroom Arts West 120 has been completed and was now a state of the art classroom.
- Two minor renovations will be completed during the spring break in the Leacock Building. Leacock 420 will become a staff lunch room on one side and a graduate student lounge for Economics and Political student's space on the other side. Leacock 608 will be transformed in a small seminar room and Leacock 908 will be furnished as a lounge for all staff located in the Leacock Building.

309.2

Library Issues

- The Ad Hoc Library Services Taskforce has been struck. The mandate will be to suggest improvements in communication between the library and the Faculty of Arts focusing on changes in services provided and the needs of the Faculty. As chair of the Humanities and Social Sciences Library Advisor Committee (HSSLAC), Associate Dean Lane-Mercier and four members of HSSLAC will be members of this important new ad hoc committee.
- An invitation to attend a symposium on the future of academic research libraries to be held on March 18th has been circulated. This is an important symposium for Arts academics and students to attend.

309.3

Curriculum Issues

- The Co-Chairs of the Curriculum Committee were almost finished meeting with departments to discuss issues concerning full year courses (D1/D2 courses), minor concentration issues, low enrolment courses (fewer than 10 students), and courses not offered for five years or more. The meetings have been extremely fruitful.

- The Chairs and Directors have recently been provided with guidelines on how to write course descriptions for proposed new courses, the style guidelines was provided by the University.
- A new rule from APC was that for each new program proposed the Faculty must retire one existing minor concentration. This was because the University feels there are too many existing programs University-wide. This has been discussed in the departments.
- It has been brought to the attention of the Curriculum Committee that it would be very helpful to students if departmental web sites with regards to course offerings and descriptions of courses for the following semesters were updated and matched each other. It would also be helpful if course evaluation information could be provided so that students, in particular students with disabilities, can be informed of the course load and evaluation system which will help them to better choose their courses. It would be good to have the web sites updated by January for the next academic year.

309.4 It was noted that the Department of History and Classical Studies does not have sufficient resources to maintain and keep the departmental web site up-to-date. The Chair of this department wondered if assistance could be provided. The Dean took this under advisement.

Research and Graduate Studies

309.5 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick gave a presentation on graduate funding and budget information. More information on the slides can be obtained by contacting his office.

Student Affairs

309.6 Associate Dean Lach emphasized the importance of harmonizing the information on departmental web sites with the information that is available on the eCalendar. The result of inconsistent information on both sites becomes misrepresentation of the programs.

The graduation list was being reviewed and, as a result, departments should be available for questions should they arise.

Senate voted and approved providing students who have a term of "W" on their transcript to give such students the choice to remove the listing of courses with associated "W"s and simply list a statement that the student has withdrawn from that term. This change will not be implemented until the next academic year.

309.7 Dean Manfredi thanked the Associate Deans for the reports.

Report of the Activities of the Arts Undergraduate Society

310.1 Mr. Sobat reported on the following items:

- Following recent budget cuts, we will be submitting a referendum question to implement a fee for the Arts Internship Office while an endowment fund is raised.

- The AUS has opened negotiations for its new Memorandum of Agreement with McGill
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- Capital project applications to the Arts Undergraduate Improvement Fund are due February 2nd; the committee will meet on February 10th.
- Applications to the Arts Student Employment Fund are now open for summer employment projects on-campus.
- The AUS has received a number of exciting proposals for our undergraduate-led reading groups, a project that we are piloting this term.
- Nominations for the AUS Teaching Excellence Awards will open in early February, with the Awards Reception to be held in early April.

310.2 The full report can be found at:

<http://www.mcgill.ca/arts/facultystaff/facultymeetings/faculty-meetings-restricted>

310.3 Dean Manfredi thanked Mr. Sobat for the report.

Report of the Graduate Students

311.1 There was no report.

Other Business

312.1 Dean Manfredi reminded members about the visit of Provost Masi at the next Faculty meeting on March 10, 2015. He urged members to remind their colleagues to attend this meeting.

Adjournment

313.1 Professor Van Den Berg **moved** adjournment, seconded by Mr. Sobat. The meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m. **Carried.**