

**FACULTY OF ARTS  
Minutes of Meeting  
March 10, 2015  
Robert Vogel Council Room**

**Attendance:** As per Faculty Appendix Book.

**Documents:** A-14-8 to A-14-16

**Order**

Associate Dean Engle-Warnick welcomed Provost Masi to the meeting and conveyed the regrets of Dean Manfredi. Associate Dean Engle-Warnick called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

The first piece of business was to give speaking rights to colleagues attending the meeting from the Faculty of Religious Studies as well as to the Arts administrative and support staff present.

Mr. Sobat **moved** approval to allow speaking rights to both groups, seconded by Mr. Greenspon.  
**Carried.**

**Presentation – Provost A. Masi**

401.1 Provost Masi began by thanking the assembly for the opportunity to come and address some of the issues now facing the University. The Provost began by providing a brief overview of the current budgetary situation from the government noting, among other points, that there will be an increase in tuition fees for all Quebec students, that there will be an increase in fees for international students but only for those in deregulated programs for the incoming cohorts, and that the government will continue to study the way in which it finances universities.

401.2 The Provost displayed slides that covered topics such as:

- Key achievements in Arts: very impressive to see the progress in Arts over the last year or so with increases in per-capita Tri-Council funding; per-capita FQRSC funding; research funding; philanthropic support; promoting socially-engaged research and teaching; and finally, reduced accumulated deficit by 29.3% in FY14.
- Key challenges: deferred maintenance needs; assessment of the success of the administrative reorganization; uneven and overall enrolment pressures; courses and teaching programs under revision; and the distinctiveness of the McGill B.A. and associated pathways to it.
- Key achievements in Religious Studies: the first Patrick and Barbara Keenan Chair in Interfaith Studies attracted Professor Armando Salvatore to McGill; another Keenan gift supports two Winfred Cantwell Smith Graduate Awards; there is a partnership with the Tony Blair Faith Foundation; the Centre for Research and Education on Religion (CREOR continues to thrive).
- Key challenges for Religious Studies: the largest challenge is the combination of scholarship and vocational training in religion; limitations on graduate funding;

recruitment at postgraduate and faculty levels; and an increase in accumulated operating deficit.

- McGill's three strategic priorities: being academically successful; maintaining a student-centred focus; and to manage the resources that is available, this is difficult to do because the Quebec government has launched a series of budget cuts that are truly affecting the nature of higher education in the province.
- ASAP progress report: because the Provost at McGill is also the Chief Academic Officer and the Chief Budget Officer the result is that there is a solid alignment between its academic goals and its budget process; Faculty-level "Agreements" guide resource allocation decisions; performance indicators are being used to track progress against established targets.
- Administrative and Support Units: the government imposes cuts on the administrative and support staff category which means that the entirety of the cut devolves onto the operating budget. This has major implications on how we can provide services to students in departments and faculties at the university level. As a result, we must think carefully about the existing support levels and how they are being supported and where they are located.
- McGill budget context – FY2015: a planned deficit of approximately \$7 million is predicted and with unanticipated mid-year reductions to government grant and measures taken in previous years and with careful management McGill should be in a "relatively solid" position by the end of FY2015.
- FY2016 and beyond: preparing for more leaner years: operating revenues in the coming years are now likely to be significantly less than projections contained in the Budget Book for FY2015.
- Looking ahead for FY2016-FY2019: revenues and expenses.
- Looking ahead for FY2016-FY2019: goals
- Looking ahead for FY2016: commitments to the McGill community and institutional commitments (deferred maintenance and infrastructure needs).
- FY2016 and beyond: revenue growth and diversification – How can we grow our existing sources of revenues? What mechanisms are available to allow us to generate new revenue sources?
- McGill Innovative Learning Environments (MILE): transforming teaching and learning - reimagining the Library; teaching Innovations Complex (TIC); infrastructure and information technology upgrades; innovative partnerships (MOOCs within the edX Consortium and elsewhere).
- Principal's priorities: an open, connected, and purposeful McGill – three priorities: student life and learning, research, and community engagement; two priorities that support the mission – our work culture and transformations (physical and virtual campus).
- (Some) Current Projects in the Office of the Provost: period of transition – Professor C. Manfredi becomes Provost July 1; searches for new Deans; FBI/FBM; copyright compliance; edX consortium (MOOCs and SPOCs); academic planning for future of the RVH and the Neuro; fundraising for priority initiatives; composition of Senate/structure of Senate meeting committee; updating McGill's course evaluation policy; and U15 and AAU data exchanges.

- 401.3 After a question and answer period that covered important topics such as budget issues, Library issues, target enrolment for Arts, old IT equipment, etc., Provost Masi concluded his presentation.
- 401.4 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick thanked the Provost for providing such an interesting presentation. Faculty applauded.

### **Agenda**

- 402.1 Professor Meadwell **moved** approval of the agenda, seconded by Professor Johnson. The Associate Dean asked that Item 9(f) be moved to Item 2 so that Professor Jouve-Martin could present his annual report before leaving to teach his class. **Carried, as amended.**

### **Announcements**

- 403.1 There were no announcements.

### **Minutes of Faculty of January 27, 2015**

**A-14-8**

- 404.1 Professor Couture **moved** approval of the minutes, seconded by Mr. Greenspon. **Carried.**

### **Business Arising from the Minutes**

- 405.1 There was no business arising.

### **Members' Question Period**

- 406.1 No questions were submitted.

### **Report on the Actions of Senate - Senate meeting of February 18, 2015**

- 407.1 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>

- 407.2 The Associate Dean noted that the report of the Senate meeting of February 18<sup>th</sup> will be available for the April Faculty meeting.

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

### **Report of the Dean**

- 408.1 There was no report.

**Report of the Associate Deans**

409.1 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick said that the reports would be postponed until the next meeting.

**Report of the Curriculum Committee****A-14-9**

410.1 Mr. Greenspon **moved** approval of the revisions to the Major Concentration in Economics and of the new Graduate Certificate in Information Architecture and Design, seconded by Mr. Sobat. **Carried.**

Note: New course GLIS 625 was approved by the Curriculum Committee on February 23, 2015 which is part of the new graduate certificate.

**Report of the Nominating Committee****A-14-10**

411.1 Professor Meadwell **moved** 'en bloc' the Report of the Nominating as outlined in document A-14-10, seconded by Mr. Greenspon.

**Report of the Sexual Diversity Studies Program****A-14-11**

412.1 The annual report was accepted.

**Report of the Women's Studies Program****A-14-12**

413.1 The annual report was accepted.

**Report of the History and Philosophy of Science Program****A-14-13A/B/C**

414.1 The annual reports for 2013-14, 2012-13, and 2011-12 were accepted.

**Report of the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Interdisciplinary Program****A-14-14**

415.1 The annual report was accepted.

**Report of the World Cinemas Program****A-14-15**

416.1 The annual report was accepted.

**Report of the Activities of the Arts Undergraduate Society**

417.1 Mr. Sobat reported on the following items:

- Elections for the AUS Executive, Representative and departmental associations were underway.
- The AUS was working with the Faculty, Campus Space & Planning, and Facilities Operations & Development to draft a proposal for improvements to the lobby and second floor of the Leacock Building.
- An operating deficit was being projected for this year.
- Congratulations to all the professors who were nominated for the AUS Teaching Awards.
- EmbrACE Volunteer Week was taking place March 16-22.
- Negotiations were taking place with the University for the new MOA. The University has taken a hard line against the sale of sandwiches at SNAX. Members were encouraged to submit their comments to the Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning).

417.2 The full report can be found at:

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

417.3 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick thanked Mr. Sobat for the report.

**Report of the Graduate Students**

418.1 There was no report. The Associate Dean noted that it was unfortunate that there was no representative available to be a member of this assembly as of yet.

**Other Business**

419.1 There was no other business.

**Adjournment**

420.1 Professor Van Den Berg **moved** adjournment, seconded by Mr. Greenspon. The meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m. **Carried.**