FACULTY OF ARTS
Minutes of Meeting
September 29, 2015
Robert Vogel Council Room

Attendance: As per Faculty Appendix Book.


Order
Interim Dean Meadwell introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Agenda
101.1 Mr. Greenspon moved approval of the agenda, seconded by Professor Jouve-Martin. Carried.

Announcements
102.1 Interim Dean Meadwell welcomed the thirteen new tenure-track staff members that have joined the Faculty. Introductions of new members present were made. Members were invited to read the biographies of their new colleagues on the Arts main web page.

102.2 Interim Dean Meadwell conveyed, on behalf of the Faculty, congratulations to the following colleagues:

- Professors Myriam Denov (Social Work) and Erin Hurley (English) who have been elected to the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists, and Scientists.

- Professors Michel Biron (Langue et littérature françaises), David Davies (Philosophy), and Maggie Kilgour (English) on their election as Fellows to the Royal Society of Canada.

- Professor Erin Hurley (English) who has been named the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Quebec Studies at SUNY - Plattsburgh. Professor Hurley will take up this Chair in winter 2016.

102.3 The Interim Dean pointed out that more information about the announcements can be obtained by visiting the Arts main web page (http://www.mcgill.ca/arts). There were no further announcements.
Award Presentation

The Rita and Charles Bronfman Award for Excellence in Teaching

103.1 Professor Straw (Director, McGill Institute for the Study of Canada) announced that the winner of the first Rita and Charles Bronfman Award for Excellence in Teaching for 2014-2015 was Ms. Orenda Boucher of the McGill Institute for the Student of Canada.

103.2 Professor Straw read the following citation:

“The Rita and Charles Bronfman Award for Excellence in Teaching was established in 2012 by Heather Munroe-Blum and Leonard Solomon Blum to honour the two individuals named in its title. The award is given based on student evaluations of a course offered within the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada.

The 2014-2015 recipient of the Award is Orenda Boucher, a course lecturer at MISC. Ms. Boucher has taught for us since 2012, when we first hired her to teach our course “Native Issues.” Originally, Ms. Boucher co-taught this course with a colleague. Subsequently, and on the basis of her very positive evaluations, we were pleased to appoint her to teach the course on her own in 2014-2015.

Orenda’s dedication, hard work, organization and passion provided students with a better understanding of key currents in contemporary indigenous issues in Canada.

I could quote widely from student evaluations in order to confirm her excellence.

As one student noted that “Orenda Boucher was honestly one of the best teachers I have had at McGill. She is truly passionate about spreading the knowledge that she has and her insight into what she is teaching is incredible. She made me want to learn.” Others spoke of her insight, her skill in handling discussion of difficult issues, and her resolute fairness.

We believe that Orenda Boucher embodies the excellence to which the title of this Award refers and we are very happy to make her the recipient of this award for 2014-2015.”

Faculty applauded.

103.3 Interim Dean Meadwell congratulated Ms. Boucher and thanked Professor Straw for presenting the award.

Seating of Student Members

104.1 The Interim Dean welcomed the students to the meeting and thanked them for the time and effort they will be devoting to the Faculty. The list of student representatives on Faculty committees for 2015-2016 was approved.
Minutes of Faculty of April 14, 2015

105.1 Mr. Sobat moved approval of the minutes, seconded by Professor Jouve-Martin. It was noted that on page 10, minute 510.1, the first line should read: “…the retirement of the Social Statistics Option of the M.A. in Sociology, and the…”. Carried, as amended.

Business Arising from the Minutes

106.1 There was no business arising.

Members’ Question Period

107.1 No questions were submitted.

Report on the Actions of Senate - Senate meetings of April 22, 2015 and May 13, 2015

108.1 Interim Dean Meadwell noted that the report for the Senate meeting held on April 22, 2015 was available to read at: http://www.mcgill.ca/arts/facultystaff/facultymeetings/faculty-meetings-restricted

108.2 With no questions raised about the report, the Dean thanked Senator White for the report. The Interim Dean pointed out that the report for the meeting held on May 13, 2015 would be posted on the web shortly.

Detailed minutes of Senate meetings can be found at: http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/senate-2015-2016.

Report of the Dean

109.1 Interim Dean Meadwell reported on the following:
Arts Profile

109.2 Over the next academic year the Faculty of Religious Studies will be integrated into the Faculty of Arts as the School of Religious Studies. A motion to this effect will be presented to the Faculty Council in its meeting of October 27th. A Memorandum of Agreement that began the formal process of the integration of the Faculty of Religious into the Faculty of Arts was signed by the Provost and the Interim Dean of the Faculty of Religious Studies on June 20, 2015. It followed a positive vote among faculty members in the Faculty of Religious Studies in support of this integration. The Interim Dean said that this integration has been under discussion for many years.

Another change in profile is a University initiative to create a School of Public Policy to be located within the Faculty of Arts. Substantial endowment support for this initiative has been obtained and the Provost’s office and the Faculty of Arts are beginning the process of academic and administrative approval, as well as curriculum planning and preparation. The School will initially offer a Masters in Public Policy. The first cohort of students is planned for
September 2018. The School will have a dedicated Director, and will initially be staffed with four tenure-track joint appointments. These appointments will not be taken out of the Faculty of Arts faculty complement. This is an exciting and innovative opportunity for Arts. While public policy involves many across the university, the School will be part of one faculty and that one faculty is Arts. Updates will be provided as these plans progress.

Tenure-track hiring:

109.3 It is important to acknowledge that the Faculty continues to grow in terms of tenure-track appointments. Thirteen new academic staff members have joined the Faculty this year. Another thirteen searches are currently underway in the Faculty.

Negotiations:

109.4 The University has made a global offer to the Teaching Assistants union. The TAs will be voting on the offer tomorrow and if the offer is voted against at the General Assembly, a subsequent meeting of the TA union will be held to decide whether or not to go on strike. The departmental Chairs and Directors have been informed about the plan of action in the event that a strike does occur and the Dean’s Office will continue to follow up with contingency plans as needed.

The contract for sessional lecturers has now been ratified by the trade union. This is a three year contract. The contract will have consequences for how sessional lecturers are hired in the Faculty. In the past Chairs have had considerable discretion in terms of assigning courses to sessional lecturers, much of that discretion will now be constrained by the collective contract and by the creation of a priority pool from which sessional lecturers must be chosen. The salary structure for the sessional lecturers will also change. The salary will move immediately from $7200 to $7600 per course. By the end of the contract the minimum salary per course will be $8200. More details about this contract and how it will be implemented within the Faculty will be shared with Chairs and Directors and administrative and support staff. Representatives from Human Resources will be invited to meetings to assist the Faculty work out the details of the contract and what it means operationally at the departmental level.

In response to a query on whether or not the increase to sessional lecturers’ salary will result in less courses being taught, Interim Dean Meadwell said that this should not affect the number of courses being taught and that the Provost’s Office has budgeted for the increased costs of sessional lecturers.

Arts Internship Office (AIO):

109.5 This fall Arts will launch a campaign to raise funds to support the operations of the AIO. This campaign was a response to a cut to the grant from the provincial government that supports the operating costs of the Internship Office. The goal will be to raise $3-5 million over the next three to five years. The Interim Dean noted that the AIO is currently drawing on financial support from an initiative from the Arts Undergraduate Society. Last spring, the Arts Undergraduate Society held a referendum asking Arts students to support the AIO by implementing a student charge. The referendum was successful.

Budget:
109.6 As announced recently by the Provost’s Office, budget compressions will continue for the next two to three years before an improvement might be seen. The pressure will be felt now in the ways in which the Faculty financially supports and manages administrative and clerical support for academic staff and students. The Faculty is working on various scenarios on how to deal with this.

109.7 This concluded the Interim Dean’s report.

Report of the Associate Deans

Academic Administration and Oversight

110.1 Associate Dean Lane-Mercier reported on the following:

- Last year the Co-Chairs of the Curriculum Committee met with the departments to look at course enrolments with the aim to retire or rethink any courses with enrolments of ten or lower. These are the statistics for items submitted to the Curriculum Committee for 2014-15: 28 new courses; 12 course retirements; 6 new programs; and, 1 program retirement. It was hoped to reach higher retirement numbers.

  The numbers were already more substantial this year with the following being submitted for the first Screening Committee meeting: 24 course retirements and 1 program retirement.

- As part of an initiative signed last spring between the School of Continuing Studies and North Eastern University in Boston, a cohort of approximately forty freshmen students will attend McGill University for the fall semester. This is a pilot project and the students will be majoring in Biology and Management. They must take cultural courses linked to their stay in Montreal. As a result of this requirement, there are three courses in Arts that they can take: ECON 208; CANS 200; and CANS 301. This is a revenue making project and it is hoped that it will be successful and continue. Updates will be made in the near future.

- The following rooms have been approved and are scheduled for renovations which include new A/V equipment and new classroom teaching technologies: Arts West 215, Arts 145, and Arts 150. Arts 145/150 will become one large classroom with twelve tables with eight moveable seats each. This will be the faculty's first interactive learning classroom.

- Due to space constraints, Leacock 608 will be renovated into three academic offices and not as a seminar room as originally planned. These new offices will be ready for next summer.

- As already announced, Leacock 908 will be made into a lounge that will accommodate all the occupants of the Leacock Building. It will also serve as a meeting room.
• A Feasibility Study was undertaken by the Library last year and three possible scenarios were developed to deal with the dire lack of space in the McLennan and Redpath Libraries, which entail putting collections in storage. Of the three scenarios one has now been chosen and will be made public when the Master Plan for the libraries is launched on October 15th. Members were encouraged to attend the launch as the plans will show how spaces will be transformed. The next step for the libraries was to move into detailed consultations with different units and stakeholders, especially in Arts. Very important to note is that during the consultation process users will be asked for feedback on which collections should be moved to storage and which should not.

• Unfortunately there was no update for the renovations to Wilson Hall. The process has stalled because of queries being made by the Quebec government.

Research and Graduate Studies

110.2 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick reported on the following:

Research

It is the responsibility of the Associate Dean to coordinate the Tri-Council overhead funds which amounts to $180,000 per year. Approval has been granted to hire assistance to restart the grant system program. This office has been waiting for quite some time to move forward with this project so this is great news.

Graduate Studies

The major initiative for this portfolio was a $16 million grant for graduate studies funding for students. There are two tools available in order to improve the level, the conformity, and the length of time that our graduate students are funded: 1) a spreadsheet that shows exactly what funding and the source of the funding that has been provided to each student. This tool will provide perfect access to each student’s situation and it will help the Graduate Program Directors to spread funding around. And, 2) an admissions offer template that Arts will provide; it will indicate all the basic elements needed to do the funding properly. Arts has never had a standard letter before and this one will have all pertinent information that the graduate student is responsible for. This will improve the admissions process a lot.

This is an important time of the year with deadlines for applications.

Three Banting Postdoc applications have been sent to GPS Office. The success rate for Arts is ranked very high. This is a very lucrative postdoctoral fellowship.

The most important fellowship coordinated by this office is the Mellon Fellowship. This year two applications will be accepted. The deadline to apply is November 16th. The Associate Dean noted that Mellon postdoc students do extremely well in the job market.

Student Affairs

110.3.1 Associate Dean Lach provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Disciplinary Process and noted that the Associate Dean of Student Affairs acts as the Disciplinary Officer in Arts.
The slides provided information about the types of offences and the process involved with these offences; the notification of disposition; and, proposed changes to the Student Assessment Policy. The Associate Dean said that she would be attending departmental meetings to ensure that this information reaches all academics.

Associate Dean Lach noted that discussions were taking place concerning the possibility of having a fall reading week. It was not clear at this point how the time will be made up, it could be done by adding extra time over Thanksgiving or perhaps that exams will be written on Saturdays and Sundays. The Associate Dean stressed that plenty of decisions still need to be made concerning this new reading week and what impact it will have on, for example, final examinations.

110.4 Interim Dean Meadwell thanked the Associate Deans for their reports.

**Report of the Nominating Committee**

111.1 Interim Dean Meadwell moved approval of the Report of the Nominating Committee “en bloc” as outlined in document A-15-2, seconded by Professor Straw. **Carried.**

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

112.1 Mr. Gilling said that a detailed report was posted on the Faculty web page prior to the meeting and pointed out the following:
- The AUS Executive was a solid team this year.
- The audit has been completed.
- The largest FROSH ever held took place successfully with over 1400 participants. The event was well-received by staff, the participants, the SPVM, and the Milton-Parc community.
- The AUS Council voted on creating an Accountability Committee responsible for serving as an oversight body for AUS Executives and AUS Executive Work Study Program, and hiring for a secretary general was underway.
- The AUS Essay Centre will be open as of September 29, 2015.
- The Grad Fair will take place on November 3, 2015.
- The AUS website underwent an aesthetic reconstruction in late August. Check out the new and improved website at [ausmcgill.com](http://ausmcgill.com)
- The Arts Lounge has a new microwave, new tables, and newly cleaned couches.

112.2 In response to a question on how the AUS handles the ethical aspect of running an Essay Centre, Mr. Gilling stressed that the tutors do not review any content of student’s papers and pointed out that they only provide assistance regarding formatting, style, structure, grammar, and citation issues.

112.3 Interim Dean Meadwell thanked Mr. Gilling for the report.
Report of the Graduate Students
113.1 Interim Dean Meadwell reported that there was no graduate student representative appointed to this body as of yet.

Other Business
114.1 Professor Wright (History and Classical Studies) encouraged members to attend the exciting event taking place at McCord Museum on October 1, 2015 from 18:00-19:30. The McGill Institute for Health and Social Policy will be presenting the “MEDITHEATRE: Montreal Medicine at Expo 67”. Videos and lectures will take place. Information can be obtained at: http://www.mcgill.ca/ihsp/events/conferences.

Professor Wright also noted that the event is sponsored by the Dean of Arts Development Fund.

Adjournment
115.1 Professor Everett (Lange et littérature françaises) moved to adjourn, seconded by Professor Wright (History and Classical Studies). The meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.