

**FACULTY OF ARTS
Minutes of Meeting
November 25, 2014
Robert Vogel Council Room**

Attendance: As per Faculty Appendix Book.

Documents: A-14-4 A-14-5 A-14-6

Order

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

Resolution on the death of Emeritus Professor David F. Norton

201.1 Professor Di Giovanni (Philosophy) presented the following resolution:

“It is with real sorrow that the Department of Philosophy notes the death of an emeritus colleague, Professor David Fate Norton. David was born in southern Michigan, in a farming family, on February 7, 1937. He did graduate work at the University of California, San Diego, from which he received the PhD degree in 1966. After teaching and receiving tenure at the same University, he was invited to join the McGill Department of Philosophy, which he did in 1971. At McGill, besides his teaching, he contributed to the academic life of the Department of Philosophy, Faculty, and University, by occupying, and devotedly discharging a number of major positions, including that of Senator (1974-1977) and Chair of the Department (1996-1998). Among other achievements, he was responsible for reviving the McGill-Queen University Press at a time when it could have gone under.

But David’s academic activities extended far beyond the confines of McGill. Because of his widely recognized expertise in the philosophy of David Hume, he was a Charter Member of the Hume Society and was very active in its development, serving several terms on the Executive Committee. He also served as editor of the *Journal of the History of Philosophy*. Above all, he was charged by the Hume Society to produce an edition of Hume’s *A Treatise of Human Nature*, emended to represent the (now lost) original manuscript, and supported by a critical apparatus that would include the history of the work’s reception from its inception until Hume’s death. This project led to a number of major publications, and culminated in 2007 with a two-volume critical edition of Hume’s *Treatise*. In this editing work, as David never

failed to mention, he was assiduously aided by the expertise of his wife Mary.

David was the recipient of several honours: Member of the School of Historical Studies at the Institute for advanced Studies, Princeton, NJ (1986); Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, University of Edinburgh (1987); Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (1989); at McGill, the Macdonald Professor of Moral Philosophy (1990).

David's many activities were affected, but by no means diminished, by multiple sclerosis, a condition for which he was diagnosed not long after coming to McGill. He retired in 1999, and moved to Victoria, BC. He was named Professor Emeritus in 2000. In 2001, he and his wife Mary established the Norton Fellowship in Philosophy at McGill, and the Indigenous Governance Fellowship at the University of Victoria. He died at Victoria General Hospital on November 8, 2014, from complications of MS.

David Norton made significant and lasting contributions to McGill and to the study of the history of philosophy. He and his work will be remembered. His surviving colleagues will remember him as a loyal and caring friend.

Our condolences go to his widow, Mary Norton."

- 201.2 Dean Manfredi noted that the resolution was unanimously accepted and that the Faculty would forward a copy of the resolution to the family.

Agenda

- 202.1 Professor Di Giovanni **moved** approval of the agenda, seconded by Mr. Sobat. **Carried.**

Announcements

- 203.1 Dean Manfredi made the following announcements:

- On November 20th, The *Cundill Prize in Historical Literature at McGill* announced that **Gary Bass** is the 2014 Cundill Prize winner for his book, ***The Blood Telegram: Nixon, Kissinger and a Forgotten Genocide (Knopf)***. More information can be found at www.cundillprize.com about the current recipient as well as information about past recipients and lectures. On behalf of the Faculty, Dean Manfredi thanked the team at the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada which administers the prize.

The Dean noted that in addition to the book prize, Mr. Cundill and his foundation endowed two \$25,000 per year doctoral fellowships to the Department History and Classical Studies. This was another great legacy of Mr. Cundill to the University.

- Ms. Sandra Topisirovic (Dean's Office) has left the University to pursue a career elsewhere and, for reasons that will be covered under the Report of the Dean, will not be replaced. As a result, requests for appointments with the Dean must be

emailed directly to the Dean. The Dean stated that Ms. Topisirovic was excellent at performing her duties, and, thus made his job that much easier.

203.2 There were no further announcements.

Minutes of Faculty of September 30, 2014

A-14-4

204.1 Mr. Sobat **moved** approval of the minutes, seconded by Professor Everett. **Carried.**

Business Arising from the Minutes

205.1 There was no business arising.

Members' Question Period

206.1 No questions were submitted.

Report on the Actions of Senate - Senate meetings of September 17th, October 22nd, and November 19th

207.1 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>

207.2 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

208.1 Dean Manfredi reported on the following:

Budget:

- By September 30th there was no new information from the Provost concerning the additional cuts to McGill's operating grant for the fiscal year 2015. At a Town Hall held on October 27th, the Provost summarized the cuts and noted the following measures that the University will be taking effective immediately:
 - Freeze on all (external) hires for administrative and support staff positions;
 - Secondary reviews of all requests for job re-classifications of administrative and support staff positions;
 - Postponement of all non-essential equipment and furniture purchases;

- Reduction of travel and hospitality spending to the essential minimum;
- Discontinuance of all in-year contingency allocations except for emergencies and mission-critical urgencies.

These measures should enable us to handle this year's \$15 million shortfall in the operating grant from the Quebec government.

The Faculty will follow the same measures as outlined by the Provost.

- The hiring freeze does not affect the academic hiring process, all searches for academic positions will be honored.
- A number of guidelines have been circulated detailing how the hiring freeze affects external and internal recruitment, there will not be any new postings for the positions of C's and M's.
- There will not be any new M term positions (fixed with end date) but departments can renew the position with the existing incumbent. M staff can only seek new positions in the Faculty of Arts to fill gaps. Departments can hire for vacancies such as maternity leaves, short/long term disability, and for peak periods. If departments feel they have a critical case for hiring, a business case must be prepared for the Principal, Provost, and Vice-Principal, Administration and Finance in order to seek permission to do so.
- MELS expects universities to show a reduction in expenditures in the cost of salaries for administrative and support staff.
- The APO will be meeting with the managerial staff to explain these rules. No operation within Arts should be exempt from these rules.
- For those seeking an appointment with the Dean, it will be best to copy Ms. Jennifer Viens (Dean's Office) with the request in order to keep the Dean's agenda working smoothly.

Town Hall

- A Town Hall will be held tomorrow at 6:15 pm. with the Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS). The subject matter will be MELS reductions to grants to the education sector. Grant programs that fund activities such as those offered by the Arts Internships Office (AIO) will also be facing cuts. As a result, the Arts Internship Office will no longer have grant funding. Discussions have begun with the AUS executives and possible donors to try to solicit funds to cover this loss. The AIO has never been funded by tuition, revenue, or by the general revenue that the University receives. It has always been funded through a separate grant program that was applied for each year and now this grant program no longer exists.

208.2 This concluded the Dean's report.

Report of the Associate Deans

Academic Administration and Oversight

209.1 Associate Dean Lane-Mercier reported on the following:

Space/renovations

- Renovations to Arts West 120 to transform the classroom to a state of the art classroom was on schedule and should be completed by January 5, 2015.
- Six new TA booths will be constructed in Leacock 111 to relieve the pressure in the Leacock Building and elsewhere for TA meetings etc. This was being undertaken as some common spaces were simply not appropriate for confidential meetings. Another purpose of the booths was to give course lecturers a space to use and that they can reserve as needed.
- The Summer Studies budget will be forthcoming next week. The budget remains stable and should be the same amount as in past years.
- The new signage to indicate the changes that took place due to the reorganization and the Leacock renovations was in progress, but this was proving to be a longer process than initially thought.

Library Issues

- A survey about library e-resources was conducted recently amongst Arts academics and the result was that 82 responses were received. Members could still participate in the survey as it was still open at this time. The survey was to determine members choice on whether the library should either fix the problems regarding WorldCat (and if this was the choice then it was the job of Arts to inform the library of the issues Arts researchers, and graduate students as well, have with WorldCat) or that the library should reactivate e-resources that were removed from the Classic Catalogue up until last May. The wishes of Arts members will be communicated to a newly established ad hoc committee in the library via the Humanities and Social Sciences Library Advisory Committee.

Curriculum Issues

- The Co-Chairs of the Curriculum Committee have begun meeting with departments to discuss curricular issues with respect to their programs, such as courses with fewer than ten students enrolled, looking at full year courses (D1/D2 courses) and the problems that these courses create for students, minor concentrations both disciplinary and interdisciplinary and whether or not some minor concentration can be retired or consolidated etc.

209.3

In response to a query on what the policy was concerning the elimination of courses with a certain number students enrolled, the Associate Dean responded that what was being reviewed was, indeed, only for those undergraduate courses with ten or less students. It was noted that this was a dialogue and not a policy and that the larger context was the discrepancy between the number of courses being taught and the capacity of our offerings and resources.

The Dean explained that there is real concern about undergraduate courses with fewer than five students enrolled and the fact that the reality now was our ability to fill the gap of courses that can be taught by temporary teaching staff is diminishing. McGill prides itself on not over-relying on temporary teaching staff and it is more for this reason that Arts was currently going through this curricular

exercise. The Dean reiterated that eliminating courses with too few students in them was not meant to be taken as a policy. The Dean thanked the Co-Chairs for taking the time and effort to visit all the departments in addition to all the other portfolios that they undertake as associate deans.

The Co-Chairs bring department-specific statistics to the meetings in order to help departments see how their courses are performing. After the meetings, departments were being asked to follow-up with the Co-Chairs on what plan of action they may develop for their course and program offerings.

The Dean agreed with the comment made about how proud McGill University can be for not following the route of other universities in Quebec who choose to focus on hiring lesser paid instructors. It shows that McGill thinks that academic purpose is a priority and this was the reason why it is hard for the university to respond to certain government cuts.

In response to a comment about Summer Studies budget, the Dean noted that perhaps undertaking a thorough analysis of the budget could prove that the Arts portion of the budget should be strengthened because of the revenue that is generated by Arts for the University.

Research and Graduate Studies

209.4 Associate Dean Engle-Warnick reported on the following:

- Mellon Postdoctoral program for the humanities was in progress. Sixty applications have been received. A faculty committee will meet to decide on the winners over the next couple of weeks.
- Renewals for research chairs was also in progress. This is an external program called the Canada Research Chair Program, Tier I and Tier 2. There is also a parallel internal program called the James McGill Chair (which is equivalent to the CRC Tier 1) and the William Dawson Chair (which is equivalent to the CRC Tier 2). There are five renewals on the internal program. The grant proposals for these are submitted to the Provost for approval.
- An update on graduate students will be made at the next Faculty meeting.

Student Affairs

209.5 Associate Dean Lach reported on the following:

- APC has approved the move of the late withdrawal fee date to the ninth week of the term, now the deadline date will be in November.
- Members were reminded about the student assessment policies: that instructors must review their course outlines for next term keeping in mind that a) D1/D2 mid-terms are scheduled during the final examination period, b) that papers due are also scheduled during final examination period, and c) that finals are not worth more than 75% of the total mark.
- Due to the hiring freeze some clerical positions in OASIS will not be filled. This will have a tremendous impact on the office and students already seem to be frustrated.
- News from the Office for Students with Disabilities was that instructors will no longer be informed if there will be any students with disabilities writing final

examinations in their courses. This is because of the issue of confidentiality. Academics were concerned about this new policy because they will no longer be able to make themselves available during exams for students with disabilities.

Dean Manfredi pointed out that this was discussed at a Chairs and Directors meeting where the outcome was that Arts was not supportive of this policy. The Dean said that it would be good to have student feedback on this in order to for him to communicate members feelings to the Provost.

The following comments were raised:

- In the past students with disabilities approached instructors on their own to make arrangements with the instructor and now to be told that this was out of the question was insulting. As the instructors, until now, have made themselves available to such students at exams simply to aid these students.
- Concerning the move of the late withdrawal fee date, the date keeps moving to later and later in the term and students are seeing this as a chance to get out of courses if they find they are doing poorly.
- On the other hand, the late withdrawal fee date does provide students with an opportunity to deal with cancelling courses should they find themselves struggling in their personal lives with serious issues etc.
- Nothing is stopping individual students with disabilities from contacting their instructors on their own initiative.

In response to a question, Associate Dean Lach responded that if a course outline is given out that does not have the regulations of the student assessment policy printed on it, students should contact the departmental chair about this and then file a grievance.

It was suggested that a reminder about adding these important regulations on course outlines should be sent out on a regular basis.

209.6 Dean Manfredi thanked the Associate Deans for the reports.

Report of the Curriculum Committee

A-14-5

210.1 Associate Dean Lane-Mercier **moved** approval of the Report of the Curriculum Committee 'en bloc' (as outlined in A-14-5), seconded by Professor Galaty.

210.2 A concern was noted about the program revisions submitted by the Department of Art History and Communication Studies (CC-14-06 to CC-14-08). The proposals did not seem to provide a sufficient rationale for deleting the clusters of fields that the students used to choose from and the proposals did not clarify if additional advising would be available to the students in the programs because of the change.

Associate Dean Lane-Mercier responded that these concerns were not raised at either the Screening Committee or the Curriculum Committee meetings. The Associate Dean noted that some departments seem to be moving in the direction of easing restrictions.

It was agreed that these concerns be forwarded to the department.

210.3 The motion **carried**. Dean Manfredi thanked Associate Dean Lane-Mercier for the report.

Report of the Nominating Committee

A-14-6

211.1 There was no report.

Report of the Activities of the Arts Undergraduate Society

212.1 Mr. Sobat reported on the following items:

- AUS Snax is no longer selling sandwiches as the Memorandum of Agreement was being enforced by the Office of the Deputy Provost for Student Life and Learning.
- The Annual Graduate Schools Fair was successful.
- Positive results have been received from the financial audit.
- The Marketing Committee will be working on a “Know Your Fees” campaign to better inform students of the services available to them.
- Students can bring their papers to the AUS Essay Centre for proofreading on weekdays from 2:30-3:30 p.m., or by appointment.

212.2 The full report can be found by going to

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

212.3 Dean Manfredi thanked Mr. Sobat for the report.

Report of the Graduate Students

213.1 There was no report.

Other Business

214.1 There was no other business.

Adjournment

215.1 The meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.