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**Faculty of Education**  
**Faculty Council**  
**MINUTES**  
**January 31, 2024 – 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**  
**Room 233**

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Present:

*Elected members:* Professors Allison Gonsalves; Benoit Gentil; Celena Scheede-Bergdahl; Rachel Langevin; Ms. Danielle Foster; Miss Wellysanè Minyangadou Ngokobi; Ms. Andee Shuster

*Non-elected members:* Interim Dean Talwar; Professors Sheryl Smith-Gilman; Caroline Paquette, Marie-Hélène Pennestri, Limin Jao, Stephen Shaw and Gordon Bloom

*Regrets:* Professors Tyler Churchward-Venne, Shannon Williams, Ms. Veronica Bergsten

**CHAIR'S REMARKS**

- In view of the tuition increases there will be budget ramifications consisting of short-term and long-term phases.
- Short-term phase:
  - The University is reducing expenditures for non-essential items.
  - No staff cuts are anticipated in the short term.
  - Zero enrollment and low enrollment courses (below 10 students) may be retired but they can be reinstated if need be. The dean will be reaching out to chairs about this in approximately one month.
  - There is a freeze on hiring and new program development (except programs with external funding. External funding programs will still have to be reviewed and they will require approval).
- The Provost and President are working on a long-term plan, the details are not yet available.
- **QUESTIONS:**
  - Will creating concentrations within existing programs be frozen?  
Sheryl Smith-Gilman will check with Cindy Smith, Course and Program Officer, PEVPA Office.
  - Can new staff be hired for new programs with external funding?  
Dean Talwar responded that, in the short term, we will need formal approval by completing and submitting a document to Prof. Chris Buddle, Associate Provost, PEVPA Office, followed by other approval steps. The department has to prepare a business case to show that the new program will generate revenue. Academic hires are frozen with the exception if it is in the agreement with the donor, and, if the donor is covering the salary.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF JANUARY 31, 2024**

B. Gentil moved R. Langevin seconded the motion to approve the agenda.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2023**

S. Smith-Gilman moved and S. Shaw seconded the motion to approve the Minutes of December 6, 2023.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **CONSULTATIONS & REPORTS**

### **ASSOCIATE DEAN ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

#### **ESSAC (Enrolment & Student Affairs Committee)**

- SAA policies have been reviewed and updated.
- Students who are registered with SAA must have documented medical forms submitted with a diagnosis. Communication with SAA office is important for any complex inquiries.
- Students can apply for temporary accommodations with valid documentation/rationales (i.e. death in family; illness with hospital stay etc...).
- New forms for communication have been in use this semester. It is the student's responsibility. The student should go through SAA Office and the student should advise the instructor. All questions should be addressed to SAA Office.
- Students should not be asking the instructor for accommodation for requests such as note-takers etc. It is the student's responsibility to find a note-taker after notifying the SAA Office.
- Student Safety Abroad Policy has been under review and will be updated (emanated from experiences with COVID pandemic (2020-2021). There are big safety and travel concerns.
- McGill has a travel registry that is mandated for students travelling outside of Canada for a university sanctioned activity (e.g. internships, co-ops, research, field course with instructor etc...). The policy draft is going to Senate. Units can keep in touch with McGill's ISS (international student services) with any inquiries.

#### **II, ABR and EDI Faculty Leadership Council**

- A task force has been working on updating McGill's employment equity act. The revisions were submitted to the Minister of Labour in December 2023. The revisions are built around 3 pillars: removal of barriers to hiring; meaningful consultations and regulatory oversight (ensure law is implemented).
- Some suggestions were proposed for equity hiring improvements and establishing an employment equity commissioner. (Increased hiring of Black & 2SLGBTQI employees).
- Once the government has accepted, McGill will have the go-ahead to collect the necessary data. Further considerations will be had around consultations.
- It is a Positive move that the university is thinking this way and moving forward.
- Black History Month (beginning February 1st) many events have been planned. If any specific event being organized in the faculty, please inform Karen [Diop](#).
- Retention of Black faculty: Provostial delegates are being arranged; Senior Black faculty members to mentor new Black faculty members.
- Emmanuelle Lapointe, Architect Engineer, and the team from Ancillary Services have been working for over a year on establishing gender inclusive bathrooms across McGill. The goal is to have at least one per building. Burnside Hall has a new gender inclusive bathroom with multi stalls.

#### **ALF Forum (Academic Leadership Forum)**

- Last week Academic leaders across McGill had a virtual meeting with the Provost to get a clearer explanation of the impact of recent Quebec government measures.
- Non-resident students will be affected by the tuition increase from \$9000 to \$12,000.
- Claw back to the Quebec government has increased. \$4,900 more imposed on international

Students.

- Current students not included in any of the new measures nor are MA & PhD degrees.
- A \$3000. McGill Scholarship will be given to Canadian out-of-province students for this year-uncertain if it will continue.
- FALL 2025- Francization measures will come into play for all students entering in 2025 from outside of Quebec.
- 80% of operating budget comes from student enrollment.
- Budget planning has been ongoing - 2025 budget underway as well.
- Cutbacks include hiring freeze, reduction of Administration Staff, control of expenses.
- At the next ADEREQ meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup>, the Deans will be discussing many new policies being presented regarding teacher education as well as CAPFE re-institution according to the Ministry.
- There will be a discussion with representatives from the Ministry at the February 2<sup>nd</sup> TMU meeting regarding the above.

#### **PASL Update**

- Sheryl Smith-Gilman will update the Chairs.
- Final assessments can be the same week as exams as per TLS and the Committee, but students need 15 days notice. The ruling that no assignments could be given the last 10 days of school has been lifted.

#### **ASSOCIATE DEAN RESEARCH & INNOVATION**

##### **OSR Checklists**

- Reminder to send OSR checklists to Offering and plan accordingly, especially when there is a contribution.
- **QUESTION:** A request to define what an in-kind contribution is and to send clarifying information to the Chairs was made.
- Marie-Helene Pennestri informed Faculty Council that Andee Shuster is working on a section of the Faculty Website for research.
  - If you have a grant as a contribution, it still has to be approved.
  - It depends on the grant you are applying to when using an in-kind contribution.
  - Applicants should verify all this info with Offering before they ask for Chair's approval.
  - It was suggested a workshop about in-kind contributions would be helpful.
  - The Dean suggested early academics should contact Marie-Helene Pennestri for guidance well in advance to review and make changes before obtaining signatures.

##### **2024 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences**

McGill will host the 2024 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences and in this context, the Faculty of Education will host the Canadian Society for the Study of Education Conference (CSSE), June 12-17, 2024. The CSSE will be held on main campus and not in the Education Building. The programming, room bookings etc is done by the organizer.

- The Faculty is organizing three events:
  - 1- Alumni reception (Ariel Swan)
  - 2- Research Symposium (Faculty members)
  - 3- Graduate Poster Session (students – there will be a dedicated time for our graduate students to present)

- Our theme is navigating educational challenges, fostering students' success and resilience: Areas: empowering education; Indigenous education; leadership in education; mental and physical health in education; promoting justice, equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging in education; sustainable education, students' well-being; and technology and innovation in education.
- We would like to showcase the diversity of the Faculty's expertise, so presentations from all departments are welcome.
- Degane Sougal will be putting out a call for volunteers once we are aware of the scheduling etc. Registration fee will be waived for volunteers.

### **Graduate Studies**

- Graduate Funding Allocation, Admissions Targets & Graduate Awards/Fellowships will be ready this week. Departments will submit their plan to the Dean's office for approval. Marie-Helene Pennestri will schedule a meeting with each Department and work collaboratively.
- GPS: Different tools available to support our recruitment.

## **ASSOCIATE DEAN ADMINISTRATION**

### **Updates on Construction Projects**

#### **Pending:**

- Education Building Garage delayed. The garage will then open for permit holders only once sensors are activated. Reminder of the equipment is hoped to be functioning by mid-February or sooner for all other users. Dates are tentative.

#### **Active Projects:**

- Currie Gym 305/6 and 408/9 Classrooms.
- Education 3rd Floor Active Learning Classroom – Final touches to design – presentation of layout
- Gender-friendly stalls on the 3rd floor.
- The new active classrooms on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor are equipped with projectors and will work well for small classes of 5 to 10 students.
- Office space on the third floor will not be lost but during renovations access may be difficult.
- The capacity in active classrooms is 8 to 11 students per table or ~50 to 80 students.

#### **Future Projects:**

- Classroom bundles on the list for renovation: [613, 624, 629, 539], [431, 433, 434, 437], [211, 216]. Suggestions welcome for active classrooms, hybrid classrooms and other needs.

#### **Classroom technology:**

Please make sure to always report problems to IT by opening a ticket (via classroom phone or online) and inform [buildingdirector.education@mcgill.ca](mailto:buildingdirector.education@mcgill.ca) of the issue so that we can follow-up as well.

## **LIAISON LIBRARIAN AND COORDINATOR**

### **Fiat Lux & McGill University Collections Centre Update:**

As mentioned in the December 6<sup>th</sup> Faculty Council meeting, the McLennan-Redpath Library is preparing for the Fiat Lux project (which is anticipated to start in 2025) by moving the library's collection to the Collections Centre. Since the last meeting:

- The 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the McLennan Library is projected to close on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024.  
If there are items you require from the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, and providing they have not been packed yet, submit a [Library Pickup Request form](#) *immediately*.

Once books have been packed, they will not be accessible until all items of the Library collection have moved, which will be sometime in March-April 2024. Once each floor reopens, additional furniture will be added to optimize seating in the Library.

#### **Winter 2024 Update:**

If you have not yet submitted your course reserves request for the Winter term, make sure you submit them now. If you require additional assistance with your course reserves, or if you would be interested in having a Library workshop, please feel free reach out to your liaison librarian. The Liaison Librarians for the Faculty of Education are:

- Sharon Rankin, Education (general)
- Emily Kingsland (returning from maternity leave January 31<sup>st</sup>), Educational and Counselling Psychology
- Veronica Bergsten, Kinesiology & Physical Education

#### **EGSS**

- **EGSS President's Resignation** was effective January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. PGSS and EGSS have been notified and next steps are being discussed.
- **Wellysanè Minyangadou Ngokobi** attended Faculty Council representing EGSS.
- **RECESS** Letter (see [here](#))  
EGSS and EDUS have been notified and have met. Next steps are being discussed.
- **Upcoming awards and events:**
  - a. Professional and Research Development awards, Round 2: Deadline Feb. 17, 2024
  - b. Perseverance awards (need-based); 3 MA, 3 PhD: TBD
  - c. Annual conference (March 21-22)
    - Theme of conference: Education for Peace and Social Justice: Theory, Research and Praxis
    - The Art Show component will be led by Melissa Ledo with an art show at the end of the conference.

#### **EDUS**

- **Education Career Fair** will take place on Wednesday, February 7 from 12-4 PM in the SSMU Ballroom. Fifty employers are coming, an increase from last year.
- **Grad Ball** will take place April 20<sup>th</sup>. Ticket prices are not yet set. Tickets will be available for non-Education students, but the priority goes to graduating Education undergraduates.

- **PedTalks:**
  - Most recent Pedtalk: *Teaching with our whole selves: channel our gifts and challenges to foster engagement, community, and connection in the classroom.* Hosted by Rachel Thorne
  - Upcoming PedTalks: PedTalk on Climate Justice/Sustainability with Justus Wachs, PhD Student and EDGC 335 complementary course instructor
- **Program Events:**
  - Program representatives have been planning many events for their cohorts to promote community within the faculty.
  - Past events: paint & sip, “Donut Stress” during teaching internships, collaborative study sessions.
  - Upcoming bonding event coming next month among U2s in all programs.
- **Other Initiatives:**
  - Wellness packs: Valentine’s Day themed items for students to destress during midterms.
  - Beginning stages in valedictorian selection. The deadline is at the end of March.
  - McGill24 Trivia participation. Trivia topic: “Famous Teachers in Media.”
  - A U3 B. A. Education in Global Contexts representative position has been added to EdUS council.
- **Tuition Hikes:**
  - EDUS is working on ways to show solidarity against the tuition hikes including wearing red squares to show their support. There are no plans for a strike at this point against the hikes.

## VARIA

- A request was made if the reports for Faculty Council could be shared before the Faculty Council meeting.  
As per our [Constitution](#), a call for Agenda Items has to be sent out at least ten (10) days prior to the Faculty Council meeting. The draft agenda for Faculty Council is approved five working days prior to Faculty Council and the reports are not prepared that far in advance.
- McGill24 takes place on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Meeting adjourned @ 2:15 p.m