
MAUT Council Meeting

MINUTES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

McGill Faculty Club 12:00 noon

Present:

Executive: B. Lennox, K. Hastings, A. Shrier, A. van den Berg

Council: T. Mawhinney, K. Siddiqi, H. Durham, D. Covo, T. Moore, R. Sieber, M. Nahon, K. Siddiqi, A. Kirk

Regrets: D. Lowther, C. Ragan, A. Saroyan K. GowriSankaran, J. Cooperstock, E. Shor, N. Kamran

MAUT Staff: H. Kerwin-Borrelli, J. Varga

RB Lennox called the meeting to order at 12:16 pm.

1. Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Minutes

Council reviewed the Agenda. There were some changes. The VP External's report on CAUT and FQPPU issues would be addressed after Elections. D. Covo will comment on the new draft of the *Policy on Safe Disclosure*. With these changes, H. Durham moved to accept the amended Agenda. Seconded by M. Nahon. The Agenda was approved.

The Minutes of the Council Meeting on March 24/15 were circulated and corrections made. K. Hastings moved to accept the Minutes, as corrected. Seconded by A. van den Berg. Unanimously approved.

2. Business Arising

a. Conflict of Interest Document

RB Lennox noted this document was discussed at the recent meeting of the President and President-Elect with the Principal and Provost [March 31/15]. The lengthy and complex document has been described as overzealous and invasive. The Administration sent a clarifying note to academics on April 15/15 that a revised version would be forwarded. RB Lennox has contacted the VP Research to request an update on this revision.

b. Newsletter

RB Lennox noted the upcoming Newsletter would incorporate C. Samuel's information on the McGill Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures. In a review of recent MAUT activities, he will also mention A. Moores' update on a coordinator position in the Provost's Office which has been set up to attend to child/elder care issues. A formal announcement is expected from Associate Provost L. White's Office's A. Shrier asked Council to send their reports to the Office and once received, these will be forwarded to Gen Gore for processing for the next Newsletter.

c. Working Group on By-Law on *ad hoc* Consultation with MAUT

K Hastings reported on the proposed *By Law on ad hoc Consultation with MAUT*. A major point was that all requests for consultation must first come through Council. The By-Law has a preamble and a section on principles and process.

K Hastings moved ...

That MAUT Council adopt the By-Law on ad hoc Consultation with MAUT (Appended to these Minutes).

Seconded by A. van den Berg.

Some points of discussion included:

- This document would be binding on the Association to explain what consultation with MAUT entails.
- The By-Law outlines the internal process: (a) a proposal would come first to Council for approval; and (b) a final consultation document would be recorded in the posted Minutes.
- The President or any member approached for consultation and /or endorsement can respond with the By-Law which outlines what constitutes consultation with MAUT.
- Informal or social meetings during which policy changes could be discussed are not considered consultation with MAUT. The By-Law terminology is specific and rules apply across the board.
- This document will apply to internal requestors, as well as those external to McGill.
- Council may refuse MAUT's participation in a consultation request.
- Consultations are expected to be carried out in good faith.
- If transgressions occur, the transgressor will be given an opportunity to respond and/or retract and if nothing is forthcoming, this will be noted in the Newsletter.
- At the outset, Council would consider (a) if the consultation is extensive or (b) if it is merely a discussion item. This would be decided on a case by case basis.

The motion was approved unanimously.

d. Collegiality Committee

K Hastings noted the Collegiality Committee had not met in over a year and the Committee had no appointed or elected chair. He initially suggested that MAUT appoint A. Saroyan, VP Internal, as interim Chair, which would give the committee members the opportunity to agree with this proposal or elect a chair from among its members. K Hastings noted that when committee members were contacted, B. Gillon and Joan Hobbins elected to step down. The remaining members are: S. Algieri, P. Caines, T. Hébert and G. Mikkelson. Subsequently, the Committee members elected G. Mikkelson as Chair. The committee possibly exists to include A. Saroyan as a committee member. The committee is scheduled to meet in September 2015 and is encouraged to recruit more female members to ensure gender balance.

K. Hastings moved that Council appoint the following members of the Collegiality Committee for the 2014-2015 academic year:

G. Mikkelson, (Chair), S. Agieri, P. Caines, T. Hébert, and A. Saroyan.

Seconded by H. Durham.

K. Siddiqi proposed that MAUT complete the committee membership sooner than September 2015 and to recruit a sixth member shortly. He referred to the gender balance and that female professors are often underrepresented on committees. T. Mawhinney suggested that MAUT send out ListServ and Newsletter requests for candidates.

The motion was unanimously passed.

e. Policy on Safe Disclosure

D. Covo commented that a revised draft on the *Policy on Safe Disclosure* would be presented by Associate Provost L. White at the next Senate meeting. RB Lennox commented this could be publicized in the Newsletter.

3. VP External

a. CAUT Academic Freedom Fund Contribution

A. van den Berg moved...

That MAUT Council approve annual \$5K contributions to the CAUT Academic Freedom Fund [AFF] for the 2015/16 and 2016/17 academic years. This practice will continue in 2017 and beyond, subject to an annual review by Council.

Seconded by A. Kirk.

The motion was passed unanimously.

4. Elections

K. Hastings reported the 2015 MAUT Elections went well and there were no tie votes. There was only 1 vote between the last two Council candidates. The following Councilors have been elected for two year terms: 2015-2017: S. Algieri, C. Riches, E. Shor, R. Sieber and D. Titone. M. Richard was elected for a one year term: 2015-2016. K. Hastings commented there was a good gender balance among newly-elected members. The acclaimed Executive for the 2015-2016 academic year are: T. Hébert as President-Elect, K. Hastings as VP Finance, A. Shrier as VP Communications; A. Saroyan as VP Internal and A. van den Berg as VP External. The returning Executives are D. Lowther as President and RB Lennox as Past-President. [Update: RB Lennox has resigned as Past-President as he was appointed Dean of Science on May 21, 2015.]

The 2015 Election results will be announced by R. Janda, Chair, Nominating Committee at the Spring General Meeting. He has contacted all candidates to inform them of the election results.

5. Spring General Meeting – April 24, 2015

Council discussed the structure of the meeting. As happened last year, the reports from the Executive and Chairs of the Librarians' and Retirees' Sections will be published on the website. At the meeting, Executives and Chairs will make brief comments referring to their PowerPoint presentations.

These open discussion topics and presenters were decided for the SGM.

- 1) Family Care Developments at McGill, positions created for Child and Elder Care - Update with Audrey Moores
- 2) Career development and mentoring - Updates with A. Kirk and A. Shrier

Council noted there should be high level questions per topic to elicit responses from the audience and that MAUT would need to have recent data for these presentations.

6. VP Internal

a. Terms of Reference – Committees

A complete set of Tors for the Standing Committees is expected to be presented at the Joint Council Meeting in May 2015.

7. VP Communications

a. Newsletter update

Al Shrier reported that the next Newsletter is expected to be launched on April 17th, 2015.

Al Shrier noted that J. Varga will complete the updates to the MAUT Constitution. The Communications Committee will work on getting the webpage updated.

8. VP Finance

There was no report.

9. Other Business

There was no Other Business

10. Adjournment

RB Lennox called for the meeting to be adjourned. Unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Appendix 1 – By-Law on *ad hoc* Consultation with MAUT

Preamble

MAUT supports collegial governance and open communication and welcomes invitation from University administrators or other parties within or without the University to participate in consultations leading to policies and practices that affect McGill academic staff, the University community, or the broader community.

This By-Law concerns *ad hoc* requests for consultation with MAUT. It does not concern participation of MAUT representatives in established bilateral or multilateral University governance committees, as these are separately governed by the MAUT Constitution and/or University Regulations.

Principles and process

An *ad hoc* consultation with MAUT is an interaction between the requestor and MAUT Council. Council may choose to address the substance of the question itself, with or without seeking additional input*, or to assign another body (for example, an *ad hoc* committee) or person to do so on its behalf and report back to Council on the outcome.

An *ad hoc* consultation with MAUT must include several steps, minimally: 1) a request for consultation made to the President, 2) a Council decision whether or not the request merits a consultation with MAUT**, 3) a Council-designated/approved MAUT internal mechanism to consider the substance of the question, and 4) a written consultation output recorded in the Council Minutes.

We recognize the difference between cases where:

- 1) MAUT’s opinion on a subject is sought as an open question, in which case MAUT is the author of the consultation final document, namely the MAUT response.
- 2) a proposed policy or similar document is submitted to MAUT for its input, in which case MAUT is not the author of the final document.

In cases where MAUT is the author of the consultation final document, that document will be recorded as a Council Motion recorded in the Minutes, and the information will be transmitted by the President to the requesting party.

In cases where MAUT is not the author of the final document, but is providing input on a document authored by another entity, a Report on the Consultation will be prepared by Council, or other MAUT body or person assigned by Council to carry out the consultation, and this will be discussed at Council and entered into the Council Minutes. This Report on the Consultation will include the following information:

- Whether Council or other assigned MAUT body or person was satisfied that the consultation was carried out in good faith by the requesting party.
- Whether MAUT-suggested modifications had been incorporated into the document following the consultation.
- Whether these modifications were substantive or minor
- A summary of the most substantive such modifications.
- A summary of substantive points on which MAUT-suggested modifications had not been incorporated into the revised document.

* If Council decides to address the substance of the request itself, it may, during its deliberations, seek input from other sources, for example, relevant experts or committees, within MAUT or without, or the MAUT membership.

** If Council decides that a request does not merit consultation with MAUT or is accompanied by time constraints that unduly restrict MAUT's internal consultation processes, it may refuse any MAUT participation, or it may delegate one or more individuals to engage in informal discussions with the requestor. These informal discussions however, may not be termed "consultation with MAUT" by the requestor. The President will inform the requestor of Council's decisions including, where relevant, the vocabulary restriction.