

Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Council held on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. via the Zoom Conferencing Application.

1. Welcoming Remarks

The Acting Dean and Chair, Professor Jim Engle, called the meeting to order. There was The Chair explained that the Agenda will be carried out in a different order so as to present and expedite approvals as efficiently and effectively as possible. T

Faculty of Arts

The Chair explained that the McGill Writing Centre comes with a fully changed staff, comes fully changed with regard to financing and its staff. The matter was discussed in the February meeting of the Faculty Council and its documents were attached for everyone's review.

The Chair asked that the move for approval be made for the Transfer of the McGill Writing Centre to be approved. Kristi Kouchakji moved and Sarah Braune-Ottendrasec seconded the motion.

The floor was opened for questions or comments regarding the motion

Questions were asked regarding some points in the Memorandum of Understanding with regard to recruitment of staff and why it needs to be limited and the attachment of the Writing Centre to one of the ASCs. This would generate more work, but no added staff mentioned.

The Chair explained that the move for approval be made for the Transfer of the McGill Writing Centre to be approved. Kristi Kouchakji moved and Sarah Braune-Ottendrasec seconded the motion.

Let it be resolved that the Arts Faculty Council accept the Report of the Curriculum Committee of March 30, 2021 –

that there seems to be confusion by PGSS on how these committees are filled used in part by incongruous timelines between when the students are named and available and the “committee levels” noted that the Curriculum Committee is one of the busiest committees, and cancelling even one or two meetings can hold up program changes or revisions approval for an entire year. Thus, he is not in favor of cancelling

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Anthropology's Graduate Program Director, Eduardo Kohn, and Ismael Vaccaro both spoke to this matter. They confirmed that this was just one option for students interested in joining the department as well as following the trend of what is going on in the University. The program had been on the books, but fell into disuse. Its reinstatement will allow the program to be implemented as it was originally envisioned, as an alternative to the thesis option.

A question was raised about the heavy weight of the research paper, 24 credits in the thesis option. Profs Kohn and Vaccaro responded that this MA option is designed to be completed in one year without having to do any field work. To replace field work there is a sequence of courses that must be taken across three semesters. The Associate Dean noted that the thesis program involves 21 credits for the thesis as well as additional thesis preparation credits, for a total of 33 credits. Thus the research paper represents a significantly lower credit commitment. The other significant differences are that the Thesis option assumes two years of study including field work, whereas the Non-Thesis is envisioned as a one-year program.

Graduate representatives asked if the Department of Anthropology will offer more graduate courses to ensure the non-thesis option can be completed. They asked if the Curriculum Committee was presented with a clear plan to approve. The Associate Dean noted again that the program reinstatement had already been approved by Council two years earlier and thus it was assumed such questions had been addressed prior approval.

The Chair thanked everyone for their contribution. With no further comments or questions, the proposal was put to a vote:

Be it resolved that the reinstatement of the Anthropology MA Thesis Program proposal was approved by the Arts Faculty Council in a separate vote. Do you approve?

Yay: 44

Nay: 6

Abstentions: 25

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, the Faculty Council approved the reinstatement of the Anthropology MA Thesis program proposal.

1.3. Report of the Nominating Committee

Associate Dean Fronda presented the Nominating Committee Report. He informed the floor that there have been frequent consultations to update and revise the Terms of Reference of these various committees and that a number of the committees will also be dissolved.

He then motioned for the vote to approve the Nominating Committee Report. Luis Alonso moved and Dane Desrosiers seconded the motion.

The Chair opened the floor for comments or questions.

A recommendation was made the Faculty Council meeting could be used to present the importance of graduate student

PGSS representatives pointed out that a list of ideas were being compiled to be discussed with Associate Dean Fronda on how to improve communication and ways to streamline the process. The Chair noted that they would be looking forward to receiving the suggestions.

With no further comments or questions, the poll was opened to the floor to vote.

Be it resolved that

These awards were extremely competitive. Chairs were thanked for their detailed letters of recommendation.

Awards to the graduate students will be announced at the next Faculty Council meeting. Some of the awardees were unable to attend this meeting.

The Chair thanked the Associate Dean and congratulated the awardees.

2021 H. NOEL FIELDHOUSE AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED TEACHING WINNER

Amélie Quesnel Vallée – Departments of Sociology and Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health

Professor Quesnel Vallée has consistently demonstrated over the nearly sixteen years of her career at McGill all the hallmarks of distinguished teaching: she is a superb communicator, translating complex sociological concepts into relatable insights; she is constantly striving to innovate and adopt new methods that encourage active learning, which results in a lasting imprint of the material learned; and perhaps most importantly, she inspires students both trust in and challenge themselves, to work towards a more equitable society, and to cherish and cultivate curiosity. By exposing students to real research situations, she contributes to demystifying the research process in academia and makes it more relevant to their daily lives. Furthermore, Professor Quesnel Vallée not only constantly updates her course material, but she also regularly introduces innovations, such as concept mapping, in her teaching approach that are informed by best pedagogical practices. Her primary goal is to develop students' understanding of the forces that shape social institutions such as health systems and how these in turn affect population dynamics and social inequalities in health.

Great teachers are those who are a source of inspiration for students and who have a profound and long-lasting impact on them. They are those who students remember years after they graduated as having significantly influenced their way of thinking and who have often been a turning point in their lives. The letters of nomination for Professor Quesnel Vallée span the breadth of her teaching at McGill, from recent students who witnessed her capacity to innovate and touch lives in the face of the greatest challenge our generation has had to surmount, all the way to students who took her classes from as far back as 2006 (her first semester of teaching) and who are now established professionals in their fields. I need say no more.

2021 DISTINCTION IN RESEARCH

Heidi Wendt – History and Classical Studies / School of Religious Studies

volumes with Oxford and Edinburgh and three special journal issues, as well as 22 articles and book chapters, in addition to her invited conference papers ~~articles~~. All this in fewer than 10 years.

The quality of Professor Wendt's work is widely recognized in leading journals. At the Temple Gates has been described as "splendid," "courageous," and as having "the potential to transform the way that scholars think about religion in the Roman world." One mark of her influence is that she is regularly asked to review important new books across her ~~fields~~-for top peer-reviewed journals. Another is the frequency with which she is invited to give guest lectures ~~at leading religious studies and classics departments internationally~~.

Professor Wendt's research productivity also redounds upon the quality and character of her supervision and teaching. There is no junior colleague in either History and Classical Studies or in Religious Studies as uniformly appreciated as a scholar, teacher, and colleague as is Professor

The Chair opened the floor for questions and comments. There were none.

3. Report of the Activities of the Arts Undergraduate Society

Chip Smith reported on behalf of the AUS pointing out that the AUS is wrapping up ~~the~~ year final expenses and preparing for the audit. He also informed Faculty Council members that this will be his last report for their Executive, since the new Executive will be on board as of May 1, 2021.

President -

May 15 and June 15, 2021.

8. PGSS is offering a series of free yoga and meditation videos: <https://pgss.mcgill.ca/en/online-yoga>
9. The By-Election for the 2021-2022 PGSS Academic Affairs Officer is in progress. Voting will take place online from 12:00pm on April 13 to 11:59pm on April 20, 2021.
10. A COVID-19 info session will be held on May 13. Information is available online.

The Chair thanked Kristi for the report and her hard work as a PGSS Representative.

The floor was opened for comments and questions. There were none.

5. Chairs Remarks

The Chair reported that there was only one item to add regarding the budget. The \$7M shortfall ended up being very manageable for the University because Quebec maintained support for higher education funding. In addition, faculties have worked hard to keep their costs down. There is potential for the situation to be just as good for next year.

The Chair also touched on the hiring freeze policy that the University instituted over the past year and reminded everyone that the Faculty is unable to hire any new admissions staff.

