

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES**

**Friday, December 12, 2014, 9:00 a.m., room F-216**

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**Present:** S. Bissonnette, B. Diner, D. Gallagher, M. Gribbon, E. Lamoureux, E. Lozowy M. Magnan, S. Newbigging, Z. Orszagh, J. Pan, J. Plante, P. Ross, N. Rudi, I. Stavrianos, A. Wong

**Regrets:** R. Braley, P. Labrinos, M. Rafuse, M. Ricci,

**Non-Members:** M. Passucci, C. Blauer, H. Filippou, D. Moscovitz, A. Gates, P. Kingsmill, T. Ingerman, P. Chow-Wing, C. Hanrahan, M. Sendbuehler, O. Mardas, E. Hatillari

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved by consensus with the following additions:

Under 4. Reports, Announcement and Correspondence; c) Other: iii) Library

Under 6. Varia: a) Last Academic Council Meeting for Peter Ross

**2. Approval of the Minutes of October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

The minutes were approved by consensus.

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

a) Academic Space Committee

Peter Ross announced that Julie Plante was now participating in the meetings of the Space Infrastructure Committee and would be reporting to Council.

Julie Plante reported that she attended one meeting and the main discussion was renovation projects; the preliminary plans for the library were also presented. Julie further reported that MEC was the decisional body.

Eric Lamoureux expressed concern that By-Law 3 was not respected by the College Space Committee.

Peter Ross stated that he will talk to the Director General to ensure that By-Law 3 is respected by the College Space Committee.

Stephen Newbigging stated that teachers' needs should be taken into consideration for renovation projects. More specifically, he expressed the need for more blackboard space.

Julie Plante said she would bring the request to the College Space Committee.

Eric Lozowy added that the new classrooms were designed with teacher consultation, but there was not much teacher participation.

b) Full-Time Teacher Availability

Peter Ross reported that the information was presented at Joints and that the directive will be implemented for full-time teachers starting Winter 2015. The intention is to be-transparent. Teachers wanting to be unavailable during their flexible hours, should request authorization from their Coordinator in advance.

Eric Lamoureux questioned why the item was brought to Council and added that it would be best if the Coordinator was not involved.

Peter Ross answered that the item was presented at Council for information purposes only and further commented that the Coordinator is asked for permission as the representative of the Department.

Nicholas Rudi also commented that authorization from the Coordinator may create conflict.

Stephen Newbigging commented that he does not see a problem with keeping the Coordinator in the loop.

James Pan asked whether the *Teacher Unavailability Form* should be completed prior to the assigning of the teacher schedule.

Thomas Ingerman replied that it is preferable to complete after, but it is something that needs to be considered further.

c) New Anthropology Course

Peter Ross announced that the course was approved.

James Pan wanted to know when the course will be offered.

Thomas Ingerman answered that it is up to the Program to make that decision.

Eric Lamoureux added that the procedure for approving courses needs to be clarified.

**4. Reports, Announcements and Correspondence**

a) Board of Directors

Peter Ross stated that the highlights will be appended to the December 12<sup>th</sup> 2014 Academic Council Minutes in point form.

b) Joint Coordinators

Brandee Diner gave highlights from the October 29<sup>th</sup> and December 10<sup>th</sup> 2014 meetings:

October 29<sup>th</sup>:

- Parking for guest speakers – resolved
- Presentation on Strategic Plan
- Presentation on Library renovation
- Report on Enrollment
- Concerns for Social Science getting course frameworks approved

- Concerns for classroom furniture
  - HR issues in regards to allocations
- December 10<sup>th</sup>:
- Ratification of Joint Coordinators By-Laws tabled
  - Full-time teacher availability
  - HR issues
  - VCSA Model UN presentation; students looking for financial support
  - One main announcement: Alena Perout, new Dean of Social Science, Commerce, Arts, Letters & Music

c) Other Reports

i. VCC Day

Peter Ross reported that VCC Day will take place on January 15 with Erin Millar as the keynote speaker. The Team Challenge promises lots of fun.

ii. By-Law No. 3 Subcommittee

Peter Ross reported that the subcommittee met every 3 weeks and progress was made with the revisions. There was some disagreement whether the term “elected by their peers” is sufficient or whether the term “designated by” has to remain.

The subcommittee will review the changes with the new Academic Dean, and, next, the document will go to Council.

iii. Library

Caroline Hanrahan presented the preliminary plans. The renovated library will be the jewel of Vanier. The use of natural light is a main feature. The plans include 670 study seats and study spaces to accommodate various learning and studying styles. Some Resources and Departments will be moved to this area (The Learning Centre, Access, PDO, IDR). The plans include a Help Desk and a librarian on every floor. The paper collection will be kept at the same size, and compact shelving will be installed provided the engineers approve the structure.

Following are the concerns/suggestions of the AC members:

Nicholas Rudi inquired why The Learning Centre will be moved to the Library to which Caroline Hanrahan answered that it will allow for better coordination.

Julie Plante wanted to know who will occupy the existing Learning Centre area; no definite answer was available. She also mentioned that she was not pleased with having a conference room in the library because it would take up precious space.

Marie Gribbon inquired about noise levels in areas intended for group activities. Caroline informed the members that on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, areas for group activities will be completely enclosed. Marie also suggested planning to meet future needs.

Eric Lamoureux wanted to know if opening up the library would cut into floor space. Caroline Hanrahan answered that the renovated library will have more seats.

Julie Plante wanted to know if there is enough staff to man every floor to which Monique Magnan answered “yes.”

Dale Gallagher had concerns about students with disabilities. She inquired about wheelchair access to the altar area and whether the counter space across the windows was adjustable.

Marie Gribbon shared Dale’s concerns in regards to students with disabilities. She pointed out that having to rely on a librarian to move a book from a shelf is problematic for students with disabilities.

Nicholas Rudi mentioned that the trend is towards electronic books and inquired why we needed to keep a paper collection.

In contrast, Eric Lamoureux felt strongly about the preservation of the paper collection.

## 5. Main Business

### a) CABB (Canadian Animal Blood Bank) MOU (Memorandum of Understanding)

Michael Sendbuehler explained that the Animal Health Department holds canine blood donor clinics. This is beneficial to our students.

It was moved by Brandee Diner and seconded by Alan Wong that Academic Council recommends the formalization of the donation center. The motion was passed unanimously.

### b) Exit Profile Procedures

Patti Kingsmill presented the document.

Julie Plante asked if this was presented to Council for recommendation.

Eric Lamoureux wanted clarification in regards to the reference to “College.” As per the Collective Agreement, the “College” signifies Academic Administration.

Peter Ross said that we could check on the meaning of the “College” but the document was presented for information purposes only.

### c) ECE – Program Grid Change

Cindy Blauer gave a PowerPoint presentation. She said the grid change was based on the recommendations following the program evaluation.

Marie Gribbon asked if at least one Physical Education Course could be added to the Winter semester, but Cindy Blauer replied that the grid was carefully thought out, and a change would be highly unlikely.

It was moved by Eric Lamoureux and seconded by Ioannis Stavrianos that Academic Council recommends the Early Childhood Education grid change. The motion was passed with 13 votes in favor, 1 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

d) Foreign Languages and Cultures – Program Grid Change

Helen Filippou presented the information. She explained that a revision on Vanier's part was necessary following a program revision at the Ministry level and the recommendation from universities that students need to have better grounding. The revisions include:

- 345/705 hours to be devoted to common program objectives
- Language courses reduced from 8 courses to 6
- The levels offered under Russian reduced to 2 due to low enrollment
- A new course –Myths, Legends, Fairy Tales
- Introduction of Translation courses.

Alan Wong pointed out that the inclusion of "Foreign" in the title is problematic as it is exclusionary.

New titles were proposed, but as none seemed appropriate, the title will be re-discussed.

Marie Gribbon inquired about the possibility of Physical Education courses in the Winter.

It was moved by Eric Lamoureux and seconded by Marie Gribbon that Academic Council recommends the Foreign Languages and Cultures grid change pending a more suitable title. The motion was passed with 12 votes in favor, 1 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

e) Insurance and Financial Advisory Services – 410.C0

Michael Sendbuehler explained that this item first appeared on the Academic Council Agenda in 2009. Vanier is the only Anglophone CEGEP authorized to offer the program. All three Business Administration Programs will have a common grid in the first 3 semesters. This is advantageous because a) industry leaders are looking for graduates with fundamental knowledge to train and b) it will be beneficial for students who are young and undecided.

Marie inquired about including Physical Education in the Winter.

Marco Passucci inquired about the Math requirement, and Michael answered that the requirement is the same as Accounting.

Julie Plante recommended that Thomas Ingerman be involved in planning the grid.

Zsofia Orszagh inquired if students from the Attestation Program can join this program, and Michael Sendbuehler replied that this has not been yet considered.

James Pan wanted to know if the College will be hiring new teachers.

Peter Ross replied that new teachers will be hired for semesters 4, 5 and 6. Common courses will be taught by existing teachers.

Peter Ross mentioned Ministry funding in the amount of \$181,000 for equipment and \$55,000 for renovations.

Eric Lamoureux expressed concern that there is no ethics course, and Andrew Gates mentioned that the course exists in the common grid.

It was moved by Eric Lamoureux and seconded by Brandee Diner that Academic Council recommends the Insurance and Financial Advisory Services – 410.C0 Program grid. The motion was passed unanimously.

f) Sequencing of General Education Courses

Peter Ross wanted feedback on sequencing Physical Education, English and Humanities. He explained that it would facilitate the process for the technologies. He suggested creating a small committee including the Faculty Dean, one member from each discipline and Thomas Ingerman to examine the issue.

Caroline recommended that a Pedagogical Counselor be involved.

Marco Passucci recommended an Advisor be on the committee, but Peter Ross said that Thomas Ingerman would represent Advising.

Julie Plante inquired about the timeline. Peter Ross and Eric Lozowy proposed starting plans in the Winter.

Thomas Ingerman stated that it is a huge project.

g) Suggestion for 2015-2016 Academic Calendar

Stephen Newbigging had two suggestions:

- One day each semester be a ped day for students (teachers could plan activities)

Thomas Ingerman said he would see if it was practical and would come back to Council.

Eric Lamoureux commented that it could be problematic for students if more than one of their teachers planned activities.

Nicolas Rudi was in favor of the idea and suggested it take place prior to midterm.

Marie Gribbon suggested planning the day further in the semester.

Susan Bissonnette suggested inviting high school students during that day.

The motion was to add one student ped day per term. The motion was adopted unanimously with 1 abstention.

- Stephen Newbigging's second suggestion was to have 8 examination days with 1 study day before exams as he feels that the exams are too close together.

The recommendation was to ask the College to look into the possibility of having 8 days of exams and one study day.

The recommendation was adopted unanimously with 1 abstention.

## 6. Varia

- a) Last Academic Council for Peter Ross

Julie Plante read a moving speech for Peter Ross.

On behalf of Council, she saluted Peter Ross with a heartfelt thank you.

There was a round of applause.

## 7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05

Respectfully submitted,

Eva Hatillari

**Report- Board of Directors meeting November 25, 2014**

Prepared by Peter Ross for Academic Council.

Items discussed

- Appropriation of \$1,000.000.00 from the surplus towards the Synthetic Field
- Revision of 2014-2015 Academic Calendar
- Financial Statements
- Nomination of Secretary for tenders and other associated dossiers
- Annual Report 2013-2014
- Purchase of land adjacent to the Vanier College Field Station
- Code of Ethics for Board Members
- Mandating the D.G. to negotiate with the Sisters of St-Croix for right of passage
- D.G. contract extension