

ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, December 16, 2022, 1:00 p.m.

Remote Meeting: Teams

Present: Neerusha Baurhoo, Rose Bloom, Elana Cooperberg, Natalia Delgado Avila, Brock Hanly, Maggie Kathwaroon, Haritos Kavallos, George Khouri, Peter Labrinos, Estelle Lamothe, Carmelina Macri, Sandi Mak, John McMahon, Toby Moneit, Zsofia Orszagh, Kelly Purdy, Krista Riley

Regrets: Aurora Flewwelling-Skup, Ilinca Magdalinoiu

Quorum : Yes

Invited : Lisa Fiorentino, Eric Lamoureux, Lilian Liganor, Loris Peternelli, Sylvie Tardif, Grace Valiante

Others: Christina Cichon, Mark Cohen, Robert Cookson, Helen Filippou, Caroline Fodor, Sofia Golman, Marie-Sophia Grabowiecka, Marie Gribbon, Julia Hall, David Hoida, Karl Laroche, Hugo Leonardo Casanova, Mark Longpre, Gregory Longtin, Hakim Loudyi, Erin MacLeod, Isabelle Moncion, Alena Perout, Heather Roffey, Maxim Salonine, Anna Schiavi, Lihua Tang, Lora Terlizzese, Maria Zamfotis

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of the Agenda

Prior to the approval of the agenda, the addition of the item “Committees” under Varia was requested by T.Moneit.

The agenda was approved by consensus.

3. Approval of the Minutes of November 18, 2022

The minutes of November 18th, 2022 were approved by consensus.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Roles and responsibilities of Academic Council (John McMahon, 10 minutes)

The Director General and Interim Academic Dean, John McMahon, presented this item. He defined the role and purpose of the Academic Council, which consists of providing recommendations to the Board of Directors on all academic matters. Moreover, this body is governed by the By-law 3 and is a legal body. This means that recommendations need to be informed and thoughtful since this input is crucial to the functioning of the College. He reminded members that due to its important role, council procedures need to be clear and respected to ensure the efficiency and functionality in the council’s decision-making process. Additionally, respect and open-communication are critical in facilitating productive and proactive discussions during council meetings.

The Council Vice-Chair, B. Hanly, added that the dynamic should be collaborative where rules and procedures are important but some flexibility may also serve the conduct of council. B. Hanly invited members who have procedural questions or concerns to raise them with him. Furthermore, he stressed the importance of rigorous inquiry and focusing on academic policy and decision making.

5. Main Business

i. Items for Consultation

ii. Items for Recommendation

a) Social Science in English and French 300.C1 program revision (Loris Peterneili, 30 minutes)

This program revision was presented by L. Peterneili and he shared a presentation electronically with members. Following the context of revision of the Social Science program grid, changes will be made in the Bilingual DEC program including; 60 additional contact hours, a new introductory methodology, 15 hours added to the history competency, changes with discipline course including an introduction and two enrichment courses as well as an introductory competency for each discipline.

Feedback was provided by the Social Science department as they established the grid. The PSI office was instrumental throughout the revision process, notably D. Hoida and M. Salonine, as well as the Academic Advising team, Deans and the Cegep Saint-Laurent team.

L. Peterneili presented the program overview, exit profile and outlined the major differences compared to the Social Science grid. The idea is to consolidate both English and French to open doors to universities in both languages.

R. Bloom asked about the impact of Bill 96 on the program and clarification on the grids that were presented. L. Peterneili answered that for Bill 96 it adheres to the requirements. E. Cooperberg, Dean of Academic Development and Research, added that the bilingual DEC conforms entirely to Bill 96 and won't need to be revised.

Concerning the grid, L. Peterneili explained that some discrepancies were found in the grid with Saint-Laurent concerning credits. This led to operational challenges in terms of graduation and transmission issues. S.Tardif, Dean of Academic Systems and Registrar, thanked L.Peterneili for addressing and resolving the issue concerning the credit discrepancy.

A motion was presented during the meeting:

Academic Council recommends the program Social Science in English and French (300.C1) to the Board of Directors for approval.

Moved by K.Purdy

Seconded by C.Macri

The motion passed unanimously.

b) Double DEC program revision: music/social science; science/social science (Lilian Liganor, Grace Valiante, Lisa Fiorentino, 30 minutes)

This program revision was presented by L.Fiorentino, L.Liganor, and G.Valiante. They took the time to acknowledge and recognize the hard work of the PSI team; P.Kingsmill, M.Salonine and K.Reily who lead the charge on the Double DEC program revisions.

L.Fiorentino touched on the program revision process and explained the cohort demographic as well as recognizing the demands of doing two DEC programs in a three-year timeframe.

G.Valiante presented the changes in the grid for Social Science and Music which focused on the social science part of the grid, no changes were made to the music program grid. For the revision process, consultation and feedback was given by the Music, Social Science and General Education departments, the PSI office, the Academic Advising team and the Deans.

M.Kathwaroon asked about the type of student who takes this program and what they usually do after graduating

L.Fiorentino responded that it is usually to keep their doors open and that generally they are students who use it as a launching pad for professional music studies as well as furthering their academic studies.

L.Liganor presented the changes in the grid for Social Science (Commerce option) and Science. She noted a transitional delay as the Social Science program will be implemented in Autumn 2023 while the Science component of the double DEC will be revised in Autumn 2024. She went over the social science grid and added that the balance of hours was a major factor and consideration was given to the science course constraints due to their specific course sequences.

N. Baurhoo asked why the science courses were not included in the presentation.

L.Liganor replied that since the science courses remain as status quo, they only included the courses which were revised. They presented the full grid to members by request.

Two separate motions were presented during the meeting:

1. Academic Council recommends the program Social Science and Music Double DEC to the Board of Directors for approval.

Moved by K.Reily

Seconded by E.Cooperberg

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Academic Council recommends the program Science and Social Science Double DEC to the Board of Directors for approval.

Moved by E.Lamothe

Seconded by R.Bloom

The motion passed unanimously.

c) Liberal Arts Revision: Profiles (Eric Lamoureux, 30minutes)

This program revision was presented by E.Lamoureux and he shared a presentation electronically with members. He provided some background information on the program and explained the revision process. The program has a unique structure with series of required competencies and a set of optional competencies. The changes are concentrated to the optional competencies as Liberal arts students do not get complementary courses. Instead they have 5 concentration courses that can come from the Social Science disciplines. E.Lamoureux took the time to acknowledge the work and help of pedagogical counsellor P.Kingsmill through the entire process.

One of the issues being addressed with the Liberal Arts grid is that it is not fully approved and often creates competencies discrepancies when graduating students. E.Lamoureux covered the 4 profiles and their competencies and noted that this would address the competency issue. He also raised potential concerns and changes that can occur due to Bill 96.

M.Kathwaroon asked if liberal arts students have access to complementary courses.

E.Lamoureux replied that they do not, instead they take the 5 concentration courses.

J.McMahon added that this is an example of the concerns with Bill 96, as the Ministry of Education is focusing on complementary courses as a potential means to fulfill the requirements of the law. Moreover, there are concerns about programs such as liberal arts that do not have those courses. Questions remain about the specific requirements and we will need to be prepared to address them.

P.Kingsmill added that there might be a way to work around that issue.

A motion was presented during the meeting:

Academic Council recommends the Liberal Arts profile grids to the Board of Directors for approval.

Moved by R.Bloom

Seconded by K.Purdy

The motion passed unanimously.

d) 2023-2024 Academic Calendar and List of Considerations (Sylvie Tardif, 15 minutes)

S.Tardif presented this item to members and went over the details of the Academic Calendar. Furthermore, she outlined the important dates which impact the academic sectors. Members discussed at length the academic calendar, more specifically the PED day and Study Break, expressing their concerns in terms of continuity in student attendance, the necessity of having a break in the semester, overall impacts on pedagogy and student success as well as the need for consultation in the community.

S.Tardif thanked all members for their feedback and comments, she proposed to delay voting on this item until the next meeting and taking the time to revise and consider the feedback.

Members agreed with the proposal.

e) Challenges of Academic Dean (John McMahon, 20 minutes)

This item was presented by J.McMahon and he shared the document electronically with members. He clarified that the challenges listed in the document do not need to be approved right away as modifications and additional modifications can be recommended by the Council. He went over the hiring timeline for the new Academic Dean and stated that the challenges document would be used during the interview process of potential candidates.

The Vice-Chair, B.Hanly, proposed to create a sub-committee to take the time to draft and revise those challenges. Members expressed their approval of the proposal and some volunteered to join.

M.Kathwaroon raised a concern on ethical grounds asking if members sitting on that sub-committee could apply for the position. She added that it would be important that those who put their names forward declare that they do not have an intention of applying. J. McMahon clarified that there is no issue with any member being part of the committee and applying thereafter since the application process is completely confidential and members could still apply notwithstanding any previous committee work.

A motion was presented during the meeting:

Academic Council strike a committee to review and revise the Academic Dean hiring process challenges to present to the Board consisting of:

Rose Bloom – Faculty

Kelly Purdy – Administrator

Krista Riley (or Zsofia Orszagh) – Professionals

Peter Labrinos – Support Staff

Maria Zamfotis – Student

The motion passed unanimously.

6. Reports, Announcements and Correspondence

a) Bill 96 information, implementation of EUF (John McMahon, Elana Cooperberg, Sylvie Tardif, 30 minutes)

The Director General shared some updates with members concerning the Bill 96 and the EUF implementation details. There will be some modifications that will be announced soon but most will not have a significant impact. One of the changes is the third competency in French. The college will have the opportunity to grant an equivalency if a student's French level is deemed sufficient. Additionally, the three-course requirement might be delayed until Winter 2025. There is a commitment to provide additional financial resources and the eligibility certificate will not be required; instead it will be obtained through the Ministry's database. Finally, the priority clause for Ayant Droit will not be applicable until winter 2024. These changes show that the Ministry of Education has been listening to the demands and feedback provided by the English colleges.

H.Casanova asked to clarify the modification for the implementation of the EUF.

E.Cooperberg presented the EUF implementation action plan for Winter 2023, she went over the timeline, the actions that will to be taken and the various groups involved.

Members shared their concerns over the potential lack of time to properly discuss and provide recommendations adding that updates can be provided to allow for informed feedback to be given. In addition, questions were raised on the existence of collaborative groups which encompass the English colleges that can work together to facilitate some of the operational and logistical challenges.

E.Cooperberg responded that there is a window for revision which is around a month to allow for changes and revisions. She reiterated that the work has not be done yet and only the initial planning has begun. The Director General added that various sub-committees in the Ministry of Education and amongst English colleges were created to work on addressing those challenges and coming up with viable solutions. Moreover, S. Tardif has been serving as defacto Academic Dean during the Anglo-Deans meetings to ensure continuous communication and collaboration.

7. Varia

a) Committees (Toby Moneit)

T.Moneit presented this item and shared some concerns over the multiple committees under the Academic Council. More importantly she stated that there have not been any updates or even meetings in some cases with certain committees. Moreover, she pointed out a continuity issue when it comes to committee work as members sit on them for a year and rarely meet. Essentially, T.Moneit proposed to take the time to improve and revise the procedure and process for committees to ensure they are efficient and committed to their mission and overall mandate.

M.Kathwaroon proposed to bring this back as an item for discussion as there are many additional comments and feedback that could be considered.

K.Purdy thanked T.Moneit for bringing up this item as these are important concerns to address and she shared some challenges with recruiting to get a full committee membership.

8. Adjournment

The Vice-Chair, B.Hanly, thanked all members for their work and wished everyone Happy Holidays and a restful break.

The meeting adjourned at 4:28pm

Respectfully submitted,
Ghita Elazizi