

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

TO: Members, Fine Arts Faculty Council

FROM: Helen Athanassiadis, Secretary, Fine Arts Faculty Council

DATE: February 5, 2016

Please be advised that the next meeting of Fine Arts Faculty Council will be held on **Friday, February 12, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.** in EV 2-776.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of January 15, 2015
4. Business arising from the Minutes
5. Chair's Remarks
6. Question Period
7. Appointments (FFAC-2016-02-D1)
8. Presentation: Alan Shepard, President - 9:30 – 10:00 am
9. Presentation: Concordia's 2015-16 Community Campaign - 10 – 10:10 am
Valerie Roseman, Development Officer, Community Programs, Advancement and Alumni
10. Academic Affairs
 - 10.1. Curriculum Changes for the Department of Art History (Dossier: ARTH-10) (FFAC-2016-02-D2)
 - 10.2. Report of the Associate Dean, Academic Affairs (FFAC-2016-02-D4)*
11. Planning and Academic Facilities
 - 11.1. Report of the Associate Dean, Planning and Academic Facilities (FFAC-2016-02-D5)*
12. Research
 - 12.1. Report of the Associate Dean, Research (FFAC-2016-02-D6)*
13. Committee Reports
 - 13.1. Board of Governors Report – (none)
 - 13.2. Senate Report – Prof. Ricardo Dal Farra
14. Other business
15. Next Meeting – March 11, 2016
16. Adjournment

* These documents will be distributed at the meeting.

Concordia University
Minutes of the Meeting of the Meeting of the Faculty of Fine Arts Council
January 15, 2015
9:30 am – 12 pm
EV2.776

Present: R. Duclos (Chair), L. Adams, B. Bartolomé Herrera, J. Blinkhorn, J. Butler, A. Cappelluto, K. Caruso, M. Corwin, C. Cucuzzella, G. Dionne, R. Dunk, J.-M. Edwards, C. Hammond, S. Johnston, E. Little, E. Murphy, E. Mongerson, F. Morelli, L. Oades, S. Panet-Raymond, D. Pariser, J. Potvin, E. Regler, C. Russell, D. Saenz, Y. Silverman, E. Simon, M. Sussman, P. Visentin, A. Whitelaw, A. Zhao-Djokic

Regrets: H. Athanassiadis, G. A. Baldassare, I. Kraulis, G. Schwartz

Guest: D. Howes

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: (D. Pariser / E. Little)

“that the agenda for the meeting of December 11, 2015, be approved as amended.”

CARRIED

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of December 11, 2015

MOTION: (E. Simon / L. Oades)

“that the minutes of the meeting of December 11, 2015, be approved with a minor correction.”

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. Presentation by David Howes, Director, Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture, on HUMA and new initiatives (FFAC-2016-01-D7)

- The Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture (CISSC)’s Research Currents (RC) webpage currently lists 25 research currents at Concordia. The CISSC is hoping to add 15 more entries this year and it is soliciting suggestions. Please follow this link to consult the list of CISSC Research Currents: <http://www.concordia.ca/offices/sgs/individualized/research-currents.html>. Proposed research currents should be sent to Mark Sussman, Associate Dean, Academic Affairs.
- The CISSC has a \$5,000/year fund to support collaborative happenings such as public lectures, symposia, exhibitions and other events, and there will be a call for proposals in mid-May.
- The center supports four interdisciplinary working groups to promote new research collaborations, each year. There are three slots open for next year and a call will be going out in mid-February.

- The CISSC provides funding for exploratory research projects, workshops and lectures, in ethnic and social diversity. Up to four travel stipends of \$1,500 each, are available per year. Please consult the CISSC Notices page for a list of upcoming calls and events: <http://www.concordia.ca/artsci/cissc/news/notices.html>
- Upcoming conferences were announced.

6. Chair's Remarks

The Dean devoted her Chair's Remarks to a presentation, discussion and critique of the ideas, directions, and philosophies that have come out of the IdeaLabs and which she will be presenting to the Provost, VPs, and Deans as the Fine Arts strategic directions. A discussion ensued. A snapshot of the blackboard as presented by the Dean and of the blackboard as amended following the discussion, is attached to these minutes.

7. Question Period

There were no questions.

8. Appointments

There were no appointments.

9. Approval of the motion to endorse the Co-Curricular Record Reform proposal (FFAC-2016-01-D8)

MOTION: (M. Sussman / M. Corwin)

"Having heard the proposal of the Co-Curricular Record Reform at the December 11, 2015 Fine Arts Faculty Council, Fine Arts is, in principle, in support of this initiative. There are, however, some unanswered questions, including but not limited to what the CCR covers, what is excluded, and what are the mechanisms for the verification process. We applaud the efforts in moving the reform forward and encourage that these efforts continue."

CARRIED

10. Academic Affairs

10.1 Curriculum Changes (none)

10.2 Report of the Associate Dean, Academic Affairs (FFAC-2016-01-D4)

Report distributed. Questions/comments may be directed to Mark Sussman at mark.sussman@concordia.ca

11. Planning and Academic Facilities

10.1 Report of the Associate Dean, Planning and Academic Facilities (FFAC-2016-01-D5)

Report distributed. Questions/comments may be directed to Ana Cappelluto at ana.cappelluto@concordia.ca

12. Research

11.1 Report of the Associate Dean, Research (FFAC-2016-01-D6)

There was no report. Questions/comments may be directed to Anne Whitelaw at

anne.whitelaw@concordia.ca

13. Committee Reports

14.1 Board of Governors Report (Prof. Haidee Wasson reported)

14.2 Senate Report (no report was submitted)

14. Other business

There was no other business.

15. Next Meeting – February 12, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

16. Adjournment

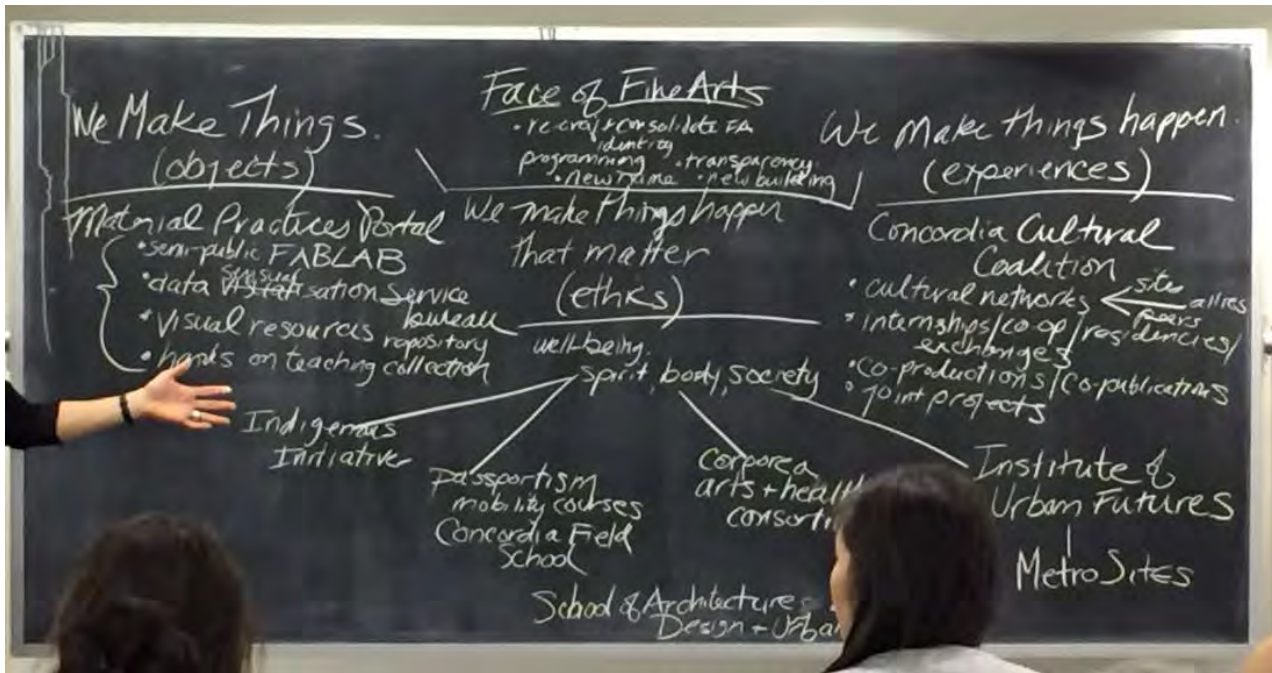
The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Submitted by E. Murphy

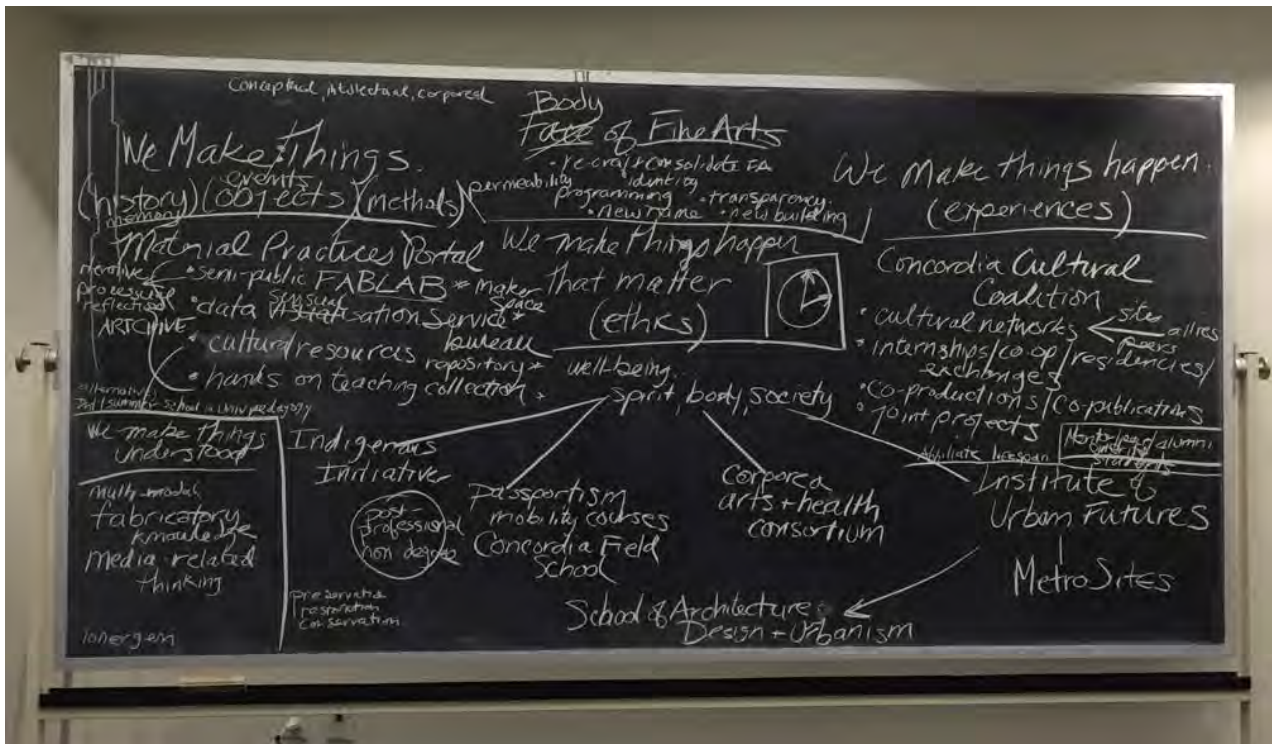
January 19th, 2016

Chair's Remarks (attachment)

Face of Fine Arts - Presentation Blackboard



Face of Fine Arts – Presentation Blackboard – Post Discussion



Appointments to be ratified

Evaluation Committee for the Vice-President, Research & Graduate Studies

Martha Langford, Department of Art History

Advisory Search Committee for the Provost & Vice-President, Academic Affairs

Anne Whitelaw, Department of Art History

Evaluation Committee for the President & Vice-Chancellor

Johanne Sloan, Department of Art History

Appointments for Council's Information Only

SSHRC Master's Committee

Bill Vorn, Studio Arts - from January 1, 2016 to May 31, 2019

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Rebecca Duclos, Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts

FROM: Mark Sussman, Associate Dean, Academic Affairs

DATE: January 14, 2016

SUBJECT: Curriculum dossier, Department of Art History –ARTH-10

The Faculty of Fine Arts Curriculum Committee has reviewed and unanimously approved the ARTH-10 curriculum dossier from the Department of Art History. We hereby submit this dossier for review at Faculty Council on February 12, 2016.

This dossier introduces a new individualized graduate-level course: ARTH 654 Annotated Review of Sources and Documents. The course has been running in a provisional way as a pilot program and the department wishes to formally implement it as part of the 21 course credit requirements of the program.

There are no resource implications involved.

With thanks for your consideration.



Mark Sussman, PhD

Associate Dean, Academic Affairs

Faculty of Fine Arts

mark.sussman@concordia.ca

514.848.2424 ext. 4604

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Mark Sussman, Associate Dean, Academic and Student Affairs

FROM: Dr. Cynthia Hammond, Chair, Department of Art History

DATE: December 21, 2015

SUBJECT: Graduate Curriculum changes, Art History (ARTH-10)

Dear Associate Dean Sussman (Mark),

We want to propose four curriculum changes in total to the MA in Art History Program. These changes are part of a broad re-thinking and streamlining of this program that has been underway for approximately five years, with focused change taking place in the last two years. Our aim in making such change is threefold: to identify coherent milestones for in-program students; to create optimal conditions for two-year program completion and; to ensure that our program expectations are in keeping with the expectations of competitor programs across Canada. We have confirmed that this mandate is in accordance with University-wide directives for graduate program change, as communicated by the School of Graduate Studies (SGS).

When we initially sought the counsel of SGS about our desire to make changes, Dr Paula Wood-Adams, then interim Dean of SGS, advised us to begin by testing our ideas in a provisional way, as a pilot project, to allow us to test the efficacy and success of our proposals, while enabling us to consult and make modifications as we went along. Accordingly, we have held numerous consultations with full-time faculty, students, and staff about the impact and benefits of the changes. We are now ready to officially implement the following changes to the program.

1) We propose the introduction of a new, individualized course: **ARTH 654 Annotated Review of Sources and Documents**, with a value of three credits.

ARTH 654 will be the responsibility of each MA student's supervisor and will take the form of an independent study. As such, the course has **zero resource implications**, and it **has zero effect on our seminar offerings**. Art History already offers an independent study course (ARTH 647), which, during the pilot phase mentioned above, was the course code we used for the purposes of having each student create an Annotated Review, an important part of the thesis process in our discipline. However, ARTH 647 is a blanket code used for a wide variety of independent study options. We need a specific course code for the specific purpose of what we want to be the mandatory Annotated Review. Creating a new course code is thus crucial for the purpose of differentiating between a general independent study option, and the specific independent study requirement of the Annotated Review.

According to our new “milestones” degree model, students spend the first summer term in the program reading and reporting on the texts and archival holdings that will be the basis for their thesis research. As noted above, the provisional implementation over the past few years of the “Annotated Review of Sources and Documents” has reaped extremely satisfactory results. The Department has observed repeatedly how students now enter their second year in the program with more focus, speed, and self-assurance. They are also more informed about the scholarly field to which their thesis will contribute, are more prepared to engage meaningfully and thoughtfully with key authors and foundational texts, and are simply more ready to begin writing the thesis itself.

We would now like to formally implement this course code as part of the official twenty-one course credit requirements of the program. In accordance, we therefore propose to edit the “MA Courses” section in the Graduate Calendar description by adding this mandatory ARTH 654 individualized study course code.

2) In accordance with item 1) we propose to revise the “Requirements for the Degree” section in the Graduate Calendar description to indicate the additional required individualized course, ARTH 654.

3) We propose to shorten the length of the required written MA thesis, from 16,000-20,000 words to 10,000-12,000 words, in order to match the current requirements of MA programs at McGill, UBC, York, and other universities across Canada. Students continue to benefit from working closely with a supervisor on a sustained writing/research project, while the tighter focus and shorter length is more suitable for a two-year program.

4) We propose to edit the “MA Courses” section in the Graduate Calendar description regarding the ARTH 655 Thesis Seminar, to clarify that the 3 credits for ARTH 655 is accorded only once the student has delivered their Thesis Presentation during the second year of the program. This change is to provide potential students with a better understanding of what the Thesis Seminar entails and the role it plays in the program as a whole.

Sincerely,



Dr. Cynthia Hammond, Chair
Department of Art History
Concordia University

PROGRAM CHANGE: Requirements for the Degree (Courses)Proposed Undergraduate or Graduate Curriculum ChangesCalendar for academic year: 2016/2017
Implementation Month/Year: September 2016

Faculty/School: Fine Arts
 Department: Art History
 Program: Master of/Magisteriate in Arts (Art History)
 Degree: MA
 Calendar Section/Graduate Page Number: Fall 2015-16

Type of Change:
 Editorial Requirements Regulations Program Deletion New Program

Present Text (from 2015/2016) calendar	Proposed Text
<p>Courses. ARTH 655 is a required course for all students; this is a pass/fail course. A maximum of 3 credits may be selected from a discipline other than art history with the approval of the graduate program director. The graduate program director or the student's supervisor will assist the student in choosing seminars. Course scheduling is undertaken with the needs of both part-time and full-time students in mind.</p>	<p>Courses. ARTH 655 is a required course for all students; this is a pass/fail course. A maximum of 3 credits may be selected from a discipline other than art history with the approval of the graduate program director. <u>The program includes 2 required courses: ARTH 655 Thesis Seminar (pass/fail) and ARTH 654 Annotated Review of Sources and Documents (3 credits). The remaining 5 seminars are to be chosen from the Department's yearly seminar offerings. Exceptionally, with the approval of the graduate program director, students can register for 1 seminar (3 credits) in another discipline or at another university.</u> The graduate program director or the student's supervisor will assist the student in choosing seminars. Course scheduling is undertaken with the needs of both part-time and full-time students in mind.</p>
<p>Rationale: This new individualized study course will now be one of the official requirements of the MA program. The Annotated Review of Sources and Documents is intended to strengthen the student's foundational knowledge of their designated research field, and prepare them for writing the thesis. Each version of this course is unique, being designed by the supervisor and student to identify the authors and texts the student will critically engage with in the thesis. Having summarized the argument of each text and compared their theoretical/methodological perspectives, the student is in an excellent position to begin the thesis-writing at the start of Year Two in the program. We introduced the Annotated Review as a pilot project five years ago, as part of our systematic streamlining of the MA program. The School of Graduate Studies had suggested that we not introduce a curriculum change until we were certain of its success; the Department of Art History is indeed convinced that this has been very successful, and we are thus ready to officially introduce this change. The Annotated Review is one of the main milestones of the program, which allows students to move efficiently through the program and graduate in a timely manner.</p>	
<p>Resource Implications: None.</p>	

PROGRAM CHANGE: Requirements for the Degree (Thesis)

Proposed Undergraduate or Graduate Curriculum Changes

Calendar for academic year: 2016/2017
Implementation Month/Year: September 2016

Faculty/School: Fine Arts
Department: Art History
Program: Master of/Magisteriate in Arts (Art History)
Degree: MA
Calendar Section/Graduate Page Number:Fall 2015-16

Type of Change:

Editorial Requirements Regulations Program Deletion New Program

Present Text (from 2015/2016) calendar	Proposed Text
<p>Thesis. Each student must submit a thesis (16000 to 20000 words) prepared under the supervision of a department thesis supervisor who will examine the thesis along with two other scholars.</p>	<p>Thesis. Each student must submit a thesis (16000 to 20000 <u>10000 to 12000</u> words) prepared under the supervision of a department thesis supervisor <u>full-time professor</u> who will examine the thesis along with two other scholars.</p>
<p>Rationale: This shortened MA thesis corresponds to comparable changes that have been made to Masters in Art History Programs across Canada in recent years. The thesis still entails rigorous research and a sustained writing project, but the text that students produce is akin to a publishable scholarly article. In this way we are streamlining our program, making it more feasible for students to finish within the recommended 6 terms (2 years), as outlined in the Time Limit Academic Regulations. We are also responding to the School of Graduate Studies' recommendations about maintaining a competitive MA program with a high completion rate.</p>	
<p>Resource Implications: None.</p>	

COURSE CHANGE: ARTH 654 New Course Number:

Proposed Undergraduate or Graduate Curriculum Changes

Calendar for academic year: 2016/2017
Implementation Month/Year: September 2016

Faculty/School: Fine Arts
Department: Art History
Program: Master of/Magisteriate in Arts (Art History)
Degree: MA
Calendar Section/Graduate Page Number:Fall 2015-16

Type of Change:

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Course Number | <input type="checkbox"/> Course Title | <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Value | <input type="checkbox"/> Prerequisite |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Course Description | <input type="checkbox"/> Editorial | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Course | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Course Deletion | <input type="checkbox"/> Other - Specify: | | |

Present Text (from 2015/2016) calendar	Proposed Text
	<p>ARTH 654 Annotated Review of Sources and Documents (3 credits) Each student registers for this individualized study course with their supervisor, normally in the summer term following the first year of study. This course must be completed before the student begins writing the thesis. Supervisor and student meet to determine the list of foundational scholarly texts and/or archival materials to be addressed in the thesis project. The student is responsible for a series of annotations, together with an essay that synthesizes the annotated material (total word count approximately 6000 words).</p>
<p>Rationale: This new individualized study course will now be one of the official requirements of the MA program. The Annotated Review of Sources and Documents is intended to strengthen the student's foundational knowledge of their designated research field, and prepare them for writing the thesis. Each version of this course is unique, being designed by the supervisor and student to identify the authors and texts the student will critically engage with in the thesis. Having summarized the argument of each text and compared their theoretical/methodological perspectives, the student is in an excellent position to begin the thesis-writing at the start of Year Two in the program. We introduced the Annotated Review as a pilot project five years ago, as part of our systematic streamlining of the MA program. The School of Graduate Studies had suggested that we not introduce a curriculum change until we were certain of its success; the Department of Art History is indeed convinced that this has been very successful, and we are thus ready to officially introduce this change. The Annotated Review is one of the main milestones of the program, which allows students to move efficiently through the program and graduate in a timely manner.</p>	
<p>Resource Implications: None.</p>	
<p>Other Programs within which course is listed: None.</p>	

COURSE CHANGE: ARTH 655 New Course Number:

Proposed Undergraduate or Graduate Curriculum Changes

Calendar for academic year: 2016/2017
Implementation Month/Year: September 2016

Faculty/School: Fine Arts
Department: Art History
Program: Master of/Magisteriate in Arts (Art History)
Degree: MA
Calendar Section/Graduate Page Number:Fall 2015-16

Type of Change:

- | | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Course Number | <input type="checkbox"/> Course Title | <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Value | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prerequisite |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Course Description | <input type="checkbox"/> Editorial | <input type="checkbox"/> New Course | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Course Deletion | <input type="checkbox"/> Other - Specify: | | |

Present Text (from 2015/2016) calendar	Proposed Text
<p>ARTH 655 Thesis Seminar (Pass/Fail)</p>	<p>ARTH 655 Thesis Seminar (Pass/Fail) (3 credits) This course is designed to introduce students to the intellectual and professional aspects of graduate school and academia, such as writing a thesis, conducting research, engaging with art historical theory and methodologies, giving a conference paper, applying for grants. Credit for this pass/fail seminar is accorded once the student has delivered their Thesis Presentation during the second year of the program. ARTH 654 is a prerequisite to ARTH 655.</p>
<p>Rationale: This description is intended to provide potential students with a better understanding of what the Thesis Seminar entails and the role it plays in the program as a whole.</p>	
<p>Resource Implications: None.</p>	
<p>Other Programs within which course is listed: None.</p>	

Report for Faculty Council – February 12, 2016
Ana Cappelluto, Associate Dean, Planning and Academic Facilities

Facilities projects

- **Ongoing/Active (Project Management)**
 - #2012-113 MFA Gallery Visibility Project
 - **Project completed – opening held on February 5, 2016**
 - #2015-047 Refurbishment of VA323 including upgrade to equipment (Summer 2016)
 - Project will include new seating, lighting, AV equipment.
 - **Architectural drawings are underway.**
 - The Art Consignment Shop
 - **Winter 2016 opening on February 11, 2016 from 5 to 7 p.m.**
 - Location: Hall Building mezzanine H224
 - <http://www.concordia.ca/finearts/cunews/main/stories/2015/11/05/eme-rging-artists-at-new-art-consignment-shop.html>
 - Environmental Health and Safety
 - Presently evaluating WHMIS training for all undergraduate students. Anyone working alone with hazardous materials must have WHMIS certification.

Fine Arts Research Facilities

- Ongoing/Active
 - Equipment (laser cutter, 3D printer) now located on 8th floor and part of CTC Rapid Prototyping and Maquette shop. Access for graduate students and faculty has begun. Limited access for undergraduate class projects has already been scheduled for this semester – anyone interested in obtaining access for future undergraduate class projects is requested to fill out the online form. <http://fa-researchfacilities.concordia.ca/undergraduate-access-request-form/>

CDA projects

- **In progress:** The purchase of a camera and tripod for documentation purposes, colloquia, guest speakers, FOFA gallery events, is in process, and will be available on loan from the EV depot in April.
- **In progress:** 5 new AV fixed installations in the VA - 2 CATS and 3 Studio Arts spaces are completed. Five additional Studio Arts spaces will be upgraded by August 2016.

Report of the Associate Dean, Research

12 February 2016

Prepared by Anne Whitelaw with Lyse Larose and Donna Caputo

I. External Grants

This month we saw (and are seeing) a number of applications for SSHRC Connection Grants and Insight Development Grants. The next SSHRC deadline is in early May for the next round of Connection grants.

OVPRGS Internal Funding Programs

Monday was also the deadline for the Winter application round for the OVPRGS internal grants (ARRE, Seed/Accelerator Team/Individual and Facility Optimization Programs). We had a number of submissions to all three programs and the Faculty Research Committee will be adjudicating them in March.

2. INTERNAL RESEARCH AWARDS

2015/2016 Petro-Canada Young Innovator Award Program and University Research Awards

We are now soliciting nominations for the 2014-15 Petro-Canada Young Innovator Award and University Research Awards.

The Petro-Canada Young Innovator Awards (PCYIA)

These awards recognize, promote, and support outstanding and innovative emerging researchers whose work contributes significantly to the training environment of the University and has an impact on society at large. This annual award is intended to support researchers at the launch of their scholarly careers, and enable them to carry their research forward. The competition is open to all subject areas related to Concordia's Strategic Research Plan. The award will be attributed to each of the two strategic research clusters identified and described in the plan: "The Person and Society" and "Technology, Industry and the Environment". The recipients will each receive \$10,000 and hold the title of Petro-Canada Young Innovator for one year.

University Research Awards

Six (6) awards will be given to Concordia faculty members in recognition of exceptional achievements, contributions to the advancement of knowledge, building a productive training environment for students, and increasing visibility of Concordia through research and creative activities. The competition is open to all subject areas related to Concordia's Strategic Research Plan. One award per category (detailed below) will be attributed in each of the two strategic research clusters identified and described in the plan: "The Person and Society" and "Technology,

Industry and Environment". The recipients will receive a \$5,000 prize and hold the title of Concordia University Research Fellow for one year.

The internal faculty deadline for receipt of nominations and supporting documentation is **March 7, 2016**. Detailed information about the awards and nomination forms will be circulated to faculty.

3. CURCs

The Faculty Research Committee recently met to assess nominations for the Concordia University Research Chair program. We received three nominations in the Tier 1 category and two nominations in the Tier 2 category. The discussion was lively and very engaged and the shortlisted candidates will be forwarded to the University Research Committee for review and final adjudication. We hope to have an announcement by the beginning of May.

4. Graduate Studies / Awards

The 2016-17 Graduate Pre-Allocated Awards were distributed to the GPDs in mid-January. Funds from the School of Graduate Studies increased over last year, but this reflects a significant rise in the number of awards allocated for International Fee Remissions. This allocation of funding does not reflect the needs of the Faculty of Fine Arts and the Associate Dean Research was successful in obtaining additional funds to attract top doctoral students. The Faculty of Fine Arts maintained the same allocation as last year. Graduate student funding is a hot topic at Concordia right now and the Associate Deans Research from all four faculties are meeting with SGS Dean Paula Wood Adams and President Shepherd in March to outline our concerns and discuss ways of improving our support for all graduate students. If you have any suggestions, please contact me.

Allocations for the *Fine Arts Travel Award* (to support graduate student travel) were recently circulated to the GPDs/Departments, and we look forward to receiving departments' lists of recipients following internal competitions. As last year, we have opened up the program to include travel for research as well as for the presentation of a student's work through conference presentation, exhibition or performance.

5. Concordia Undergraduate Student Research Award (CUSRA)

Once again, the OVPRGS and the Provost's Office have circulated a Cal for Proposals for the Concordia Undergraduate Research Award. Application deadline for proposals to department chairs is **February 19, 2016**, with the ranked nominations from each department due to my office by **March 16, 2016**.

Notes from the Senate Meeting of January 15, 2016

Ricardo Dal Farra

1. In his opening remarks the President informed Senate that Provost Benoit-Antoine Bacon will be leaving Concordia later this spring to assume other academic responsibilities at Queen's University in Ontario. In that respect the President also mentioned that he expects to have a new Provost by August of the current year. Dr. Shepard also took that opportunity to make a reference to the rumors of his own departure from Concordia, clarifying these are only rumors and he is not leaving.

The President also talked about the ALERTUS application, used to receive emergency notifications on smartphones and university owned computers, encouraging everyone to download the software and register to use the system. <http://www.concordia.ca/news/news/stories/cunews/main/stories/2016/01/12/alertus-helps-you-stay-safe-and-connected-on-campus.html>

Dr. Shepard reminded Senate that the Teaching and Learning Winter Festival, Winterfest 2016, will be running at Concordia from January 22 to February 12. He also highlighted some of the latest Concordia accomplishments.

2. The Provost announced the renewal of the Concordia Undergraduate Student Research Awards (CUSRA) program. Now in its fourth year, this program provides undergraduate students with experience in research, participatory research or research-creation work. In summer 2016, Concordia will make available 75 awards to students across all faculties.
3. There was a request for information on the budget report. The Provost answered that there were presentations to each Faculty Council and the President remarked that there were also several presentations given to Senate.
4. The Annual Report, 2014-2015, from the Office of Rights and Responsibilities (Document US-2016-1-D10) was presented. It was underlined that the Office emphasis is always on informal methodologies for conflict resolution.
5. There was an update concerning the Strategic directions, including aspects such as "How do we design a next-generation university?"
6. The meeting was adjourned after a final question period, when the President answered about the possibility of a reading week in the Fall, replying that it is being considered.