

**FACULTY OF
ARTS AND SCIENCE**

Arts and Science Faculty Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday, March 12, 2021

OPEN SESSION

Present: P. Sicotte, I. Lacelle, J. Muir, F. Anwar, M. Barker, E. Bloodgood, W. Brake, A. Bensmihen, W. Bukowski, P. Caignon, J. Capobianco, B. Caron, A. Champagne, S. Chlopan, R. Courtemanche, C. Daniel-Hughes, S. Dayanandan, E. De Martinis, C. DeWolf, J. Didur, M-F. Dion, M. Gagnon, J. Grant, J. Hansen, C. Hyndman, A. Johnson, M. Kenneally, S. Kennedy, M. Kissock, I. Kraulis, P. Leroux, D. Liakin, D. Linetsky, K. MacDonald, K. Manning, C. Martel, T. Matraxia, P. Morden, H. Muhammad, P. Pawelek, M. Penney, V. Pepin, C. Richardson, R. Saha, F. Scala, D. Secko, M. Sharma, Mahesh Sharma, S. Sheikhnezhad, A. Swiffen, T. Tower, C. Townsend; L. Vileno, M. Wesolowski

Regrets: E. Faure, M. Rashid, A. Whitelaw, P. Wood-Adams

Guests: G. Carr, W. Cheaib

Documents Circulated and/or Considered at the Meeting

ASFC 2021-2M	Minutes of the meeting held on January 29, 2021
ASFC 2021-2M-A	Department of Health, Kinesiology and Applied Physiology, EXCI-27
ASFC 2021-2M-B	Department of Sociology and Anthropology, SOAN-39

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called by P. Sicotte at 10:00 am.

2. Territorial Acknowledgement

P. Sicotte stated the territorial acknowledgement.

3. Approval of the Agenda

ASFC 2021-2M-1 It was moved and seconded (M-F. Dion/J. Grant) that the agenda be approved.
Carried, unanimously

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held Friday, January 29, 2021

ASFC 2021-1M-2 It was moved and seconded (P. Caignon/D. Secko) that the minutes be approved.
Carried, unanimously

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was none.

6. Visit from Dr. Graham Carr, President and Vice-Chancellor, Office of the President

Dr. Carr stated that it's impressive how well we have all handled and navigated this past year. He hopes that this term is rolling out more efficiently than how it went in the fall. Many of the issues that were sources of anxiety these past couple of terms he is hoping that the University has been able to address them as best as possible. Many people are developing different strategies of coping with what we are experiencing however, we need to remain mindful that this isn't easy for some and we need to stay sensitive.

The upcoming fall term is still unknown however, we are starting to think about strategies of return to campus. It's a bit of a theoretical exercise at this point as we need more clarification and guidance from public health in regards to what kinds of restrictions and expectations will be in place. Priorities for the fall are having some classes in person, certain on campus activities and essential services available to students. We are hoping for greater clarity within the next three to six weeks which will help us make a more definitive plan for September. The main issue is what will the social distancing measures will be. The fall term will be a hybrid however, we are trying to have as much in person activities and teaching as possible.

The situation for international students remains confusing. We would like to be in a position to give a clear message to them as soon as possible however, the message now is expect to be in Montreal for the fall term, especially graduate students but there are still ongoing discussions within the University.

Dr. Carr opened the floor to questions from members of the Faculty Council. Topics such as professors being considered as front line workers, staff expectations, in person gatherings, University debt accumulation, choice of teaching remotely or in person, office hours and ventilation were discussed.

Dr. Carr stated that these frustrations and challenges are better than the challenges we faced last March and April. All the work that has been done and is continuing to be done is very much appreciated and we are impressed with what has been accomplished this past year. The University has had many successes since last March and we have outperformed a number of other institutions. Concordia University continues to be a destination University for students and that is due to all the hard work you and your colleagues have put in during the past twelve months.

7. Remarks of the Chair

Dean Sicotte thanked everyone for engaging with Dr. Carr and voicing your comments and concerns. Many of these concerns and challenges should be brought to the attention of P. Caignon.

The budget submission at the faculty level is currently being worked on. There have been many conversations going on over the last few weeks between Associate Deans and Directors. The main concern is trying to figure out why we are in a deficit despite attempts to fix it in the recent past. There are many threads that are being identified that need to be pulled to better understand the budget situation. One of them is the question of remissions which is being worked on by J. Didur and chairs. Another issue is resource implications with respect to curriculum changes or new programs.

Dean Sicotte mentioned that at the moment we do not know how many tenure-track hires we will have for the upcoming year. A memo was sent to all Chairs that the University will work with a three year plan for planning tenure-track hires moving forward. This is not a set three year plan, it is more of a sliding plan as priorities may change so flexibility is needed. This is important as it gives a chance to create synergies and collaboration between departments and it may lead to hiring clusters.

Tenure-track hires are in full swing and some units already have signed contracts with their new hires. LTA hires are ongoing and if you have questions about these please contact J. Didur and I. Lacelle. There are nine searches for Chairs/Principals happening this year and are going well.

Dean Sicotte mentioned that I. Lacelle is currently working on a staff mapping project. S. Kuit, the department administrator from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology is helping I. Lacelle with this project.

The first EDI working group for the FAS is meeting this afternoon. Dean Sicotte will report back on this at the next all chairs meeting. If your unit has an EDI committee please let us know so they can join the FAS committee.

The anti-discriminatory workshops are being planned and will roll out shortly. A number of representatives from the University are meeting with the Black Student Union.

8. Question Period

Topics such as budget cuts, impacts of curriculum changes, changes to the fall term, School of Health and other topics were discussed.

9. Consent Agenda

a. Undergraduate Curriculum

Department of Health, Kinesiology and Applied Physiology, EXCI-27, ASFC-2021-2M-A

Department of Sociology and Anthropology, SOAN-39, ASFC-2021-2M-B

Dean Sicotte asked to remove both Undergraduate curriculum changes from the consent agenda and this was approved by all in attendance.

R. Courtemanche mentioned that the EXCI-27 curriculum changes mention the addition of laboratories in certain courses which has a monetary impact.

ASFC 2021-2M-3 **Carried, unanimously**

R. Courtemanche mentioned that the SOAN-39 curriculum changes have no resource implications however, the changes are that slot courses are now coming into the regular calendar roles.

ASFC 2021-2M-4 **Carried, unanimously**

10. Other Business

T. Tower mentioned there is a great opportunity for PhD students to promote their research and to learn how to write for the Conversation.

<https://www.concordia.ca/cuevents/main/2021/03/17/write-about-your-research-expertise-for-the-conversation-phd-candidates.html>

11. Notices of Motion

There were none.

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting of Faculty Council will be held on Friday, April 16, 2021.

13. Adjournment

ASFC 2021-2M-5 It was moved and seconded (R. Courtemanche/M-F. Dion) that the open session be adjourned at 11:40am.
Carried, unanimously