

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE
FACULTY BOARD
A meeting of Faculty Board was held on
Friday, April 16, 2020 at 3:30 p.m.

Land Acknowledgement

Tribute to Professor G. Smith, 1941-2021. By M. L. Adams, SKHS

Professor Smith came to Queen's in 1969 to teach American History. He worked in the Department of History for 31 years before moving, in the fall of 2000, to what was then the School of Physical and Health Education. Geoff was a historian of US foreign policy; his book *To Save a Nation* was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. He was a long-time president of the Peace History Society. But he also loved sports, coached the Queen's men's basketball team, and taught the history of North American sport – great preparation for a move to Phys Ed, which was both a bit of a coup and a wild blessing for our School. He retired from Queen's in 2006.

Since Professor Smith died two weeks ago, dozens and dozens of tributes to him have appeared on Facebook, posted by Queen's alumni, talking of him as a "favourite teacher," a terrific basketball coach, "the best prof at Queen's," and someone who made a huge impact on students academically and personally. Many of the writers mention the influence Professor Smith had on their careers and ways of viewing the world. I have been especially struck by how many of them have said they try to reflect Professor Smith in their own work as teachers. I think he would be really proud of this legacy. His own exceptional teaching skills were recognized by the Frank Knox Award and several departmental teaching awards in Phys Ed. Both *The Journal* and, I believe, *Maclean's* magazine called him the best professor at Queen's.

It's hard to resist taking the time available to me here to use his example as a critique of some of the things we see happening around us today at Queen's and other universities. I am certain Professor Smith would want me to do so. His approach to teaching was the antithesis of what would today be called best practice. He was totally old school. No technology. No learning objectives. No rubrics. He was known to play golf in the classroom, to teach while wearing costumes, to leap onto tables, to bring his beautiful yellow dogs to class.

Geoff lectured: big lectures full of wide sweeping ideas presented in full paragraphs with a narrative arc and no slides or itemized take-aways. People who were not registered in his courses used to show up just to hear him. Geoff helped students to challenge their own beliefs, and to question the status quo. He encouraged them to dissent! He did not believe in hand-holding. He had high expectations, wanting students to think hard and to write well. He saw students as full of potential. The theatre in his teaching – and there was a lot of it – was designed to provoke, to shake things up, to make it impossible for students to be passive in relation to their own learning or to the structural harms that proliferate around them. Geoff refused the reduction of education to job preparation. He understood from experience how education could bring meaning to a life and could help prepare students to live bigger lives and see and understand their connections with others.

I've been thinking a lot about the different kinds of contributions Geoff made to the university. He pushed for better ways of doing things – and against the introduction of worse ways of doing things. He was a voice at student demonstrations, a thorn in the side of a constantly growing administration. (As someone said after I spoke at his funeral the other day – there used to only be 2 VPs at Queen's). Geoff was a public connection between town and gown.

He brought his wit and his intellect to regular columns in the *Whig Standard*. He was a prolific writer of letters to the *Globe and Mail*. He offered unwavering support to Queen's basketball teams and took

delight in attending and contributing to all manner of campus events. Geoff showed up. He paid attention. He instigated!

He was a student-oriented, community-minded, activist Queen's professor. He was a fabulous colleague who pulled his weight and made it easier for his colleagues to pull theirs. For generations of students, staff, and faculty, Geoff was legendary for the way he made Queen's better. And yet – there is not these days much support at Queen's (or any university) for professors like him, who decline to use their talents – and Professor Smith's were prodigious – simply to turn the hamster wheel of scholarly production or to work to the requirements of impact-metrics. One can just imagine how a discussion would go today about his merit score! He complained strongly about the corporatization of the university, and I have been wondering this week what he would make of the betrayal of public trust we have seen unfolding around our colleagues at Laurentian.

Professor Smith taught his last class, we think, in 2008. The room was full. He was chuffed. As he brought his lecture to a close, he looked out at his audience. Big dramatic pause. These were going to be the last words of the famous professor! We all waited.

“Take care of each other. Everything in moderation. Don't forget to floss!”

That was him. Queen's was beyond lucky to have him.

Moved that the tribute be included in the Minutes:

Moved: J. Rose, Seconded: M.L. Adams. Motion carried.

1. Consent Agenda:

- a. Adoption of the Agenda
- b. Approval of the Minutes The minutes of March 26, 2021 have been posted.
Moved: J. Morelli, Seconded: J. Mingo. Motion carried.

2. Business Arising from Minutes of March 26, 2021

None

3. Reports

- a. Dean's Report: Details of the Dean's report can be found at: www.queensu.ca/artsci
 - Thanked M.L. Adams for her tribute to G. Smith and in particular the closing remarks.
 - Indicated that it has been a remarkable year, as we have had to engage with, and have been affected by ambiguity, creativity, loss, resilience, skepticism, commitment, care, violent racism, sexism, poverty, and we have had to do this and deliver and engage with learning, research, teaching, and service. It's been a year since March 13, and we've delivered over 100 courses remote and online. Students, staff, and faculty have had to engage with completely different ways of thinking and experiencing learning. There has also been important collegial governance through Faculty Board, increased engagement with our student government that have been critical to us moving forward. Wendy Craig and her team of graduate students assessing and responding to COVID.
 - Strength and importance of the Strategic Plan to moving forward, especially with respect to Indigenous Studies and Black Studies
 - Facilitating and Creating pathways for equity-deserving undergraduate students, graduate students, pre-docs and Post-docs
 - Thanks everyone who has worked to facilitate the activities of the year

- Q. D. Beauchemin. Would like additional information about the MITACS global links. It is not clear what is happening next. Can the projects be done virtually? Travelling has been suspended. Can students do this remotely or is it automatically postponed for a year?
- A. S. Regan. MITACS global links developed last year are still ongoing. There is another round coming in about a month. Students can travel or do the projects remotely.
- Q. D. Beauchemin. A completely different question. Remote teaching is apparently not an option according to QUFA general meeting. Why did we do the timetabling then? Where is this coming from? Could we please have some clarification.
- A. J. Atkinson. We need to hold tight for now. Heads can make decisions about workload. We will wait and hear, and timetabling will remain as is.
- Q. From Chat, F. Heidar-Zadeh: Where is the link to MITACS on the website.
- A. Dean Crow: We'll get that up.
- Q. R. Knobel: Concerned about Laurentian. Can we do something to help?
- A. J. Stephenson: We are working on a variety of things to provide flexibility: transfer students, letters of permission. If you receive any inquiries from students from Laurentian, please send them to her or C. Coupland in Admissions. We will look at them case by case.

Dean Crow: Universities are doing everything to make it easy for students to find placements.

- b. Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning) Report c. Associate Dean (Academic)
- We are in the midst of exams, and there is a much lower need for help. We are getting better.
 - ASCX 200, 300 and 400 (Experiential Learning courses) have now come to a close. ASCX 200 is on problem solving, ASCX 300 is on Implementation Strategies. Sends her sincere thanks to all the members of the team. These are client-based innovation entrepreneurial for-credit opportunities. Promote cross disciplinary problem-solving, where we could work with the community. The winner of the ASCX 300 culminated in the award of seed funding for Emily Talus who wrote a children's book for elementary teachers to use in the classroom, called Let it Bloom (it's actually going to be a series of books) designed to give tools to children to navigate their own mental health. ASCX 400 saw some great projects and presentations as well.
 - There will be Summer support for OnQ. Contact W. Beyer. There will be a student available as well in early August.
- Q. D. Beauchemin: She understands that the e-campus competition was over, but can you provide some information now
- A. J. Atkinson: There is still an embargo until they do their press release. ArtSci had 16 or 17 successful projects. We'll tell you as soon as we can.
- c. Associate Dean (Academic) Report
- No real report. Just wanted to remind everyone that Student Services is here to support you. Please reach out to: asc.academic@queensu.ca

d. ASUS Report: David Niddam-Dent

- The next ASUS team will be Alyth and Brandon, aided Sean as of May 2021
- Just finishing everything up, especially the financial wrap up.
- There was a DSC meeting, and they hope to bring the forum back in the future.
- Some AMS data on remote learning:
 - 50/50 about whether remote learning was successful
 - 25% of students would like some remote portions after the pandemic while 75% said no.
 - 66% of student disagree with traditional exams, 34% think take-home exams are good
 - 75% felt remote proctoring causes anxiety, 66% experienced technical issues
 - 45% felt there was insufficient course information provided for them to make decisions
 - 14% were unsatisfied with the timetables
 - Good to have the later drop dates, however, the early financial penalties were deemed unreasonable
 - 80% thought textbook costs were deemed unreasonable as well
- Positive assessment looking back on this past year, and named several aspects in particular
- Wants to advocate for real conversations and collaboration going forward.
- Thank you to DSCs, faculty, deans, student services teams

Q. D. Beauchemin: Really liked the meeting with the DSCs. Please keep this going forward.

J. Rose thanked David Niddam-Dent for all his hard work over the last year.

4. Report of the Nominating Committee: Appendix A – for approval

J. Hosek will move “that the Faculty of Arts and Science Committee Membership attached be approved.”

J. Hosek suggested an amendment: “list be amended to include J. Legoas (School of Religion) as a new member of the Curriculum Committee and M. Olmstead (Psychology) as a new member of Senate, and that the amended document be approved.”

Moved: J. Hosek, Seconded: D. Beauchemin. Motion carried

5. ASUS Student Affairs Research S. Lijiam and C. Venevongsa and E. Florentino will present.

- Student Mental Wellbeing and COVUD 19 PowerPoint presentation delivered by C. Venevongsa. Access to PowerPoint will follow.
- Financial Accessibility and the BIPOC student experience. The PowerPoint included two projects: a) Financial Accessibility and B0 BIPOC. Access to PowerPoint will follow.

6. Curriculum Committee Omnibus Report Part IV – Appendix B – for approval M. Chen will move “that the Omnibus Report Part IV be approved.”

Moved: M. Chen, Seconded: M. Hand. Motion carried

7. Report of the Academic Orientation Committee – Appendix C – for information J. Mennell will present.

No questions.

8. Question Period

J. Hosek gave a shout-out to the online Contagion Cultures Talk series this year. Will be doing it again next year, and asks if anyone wants to participate next year, they can contact her.

9. Other Business

Dean Crow wanted to thank ASUS for the report and to state that she thoroughly enjoyed working with David and Matt this year and is looking forward to working with the new Executive next year. She wishes all students well with their final papers and exams.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

J. Mennell, Secretary

J. Rose, Chair Faculty Board Faculty Board