I call the attention of Faculty Board to the death on August 15th, 2022, of Professor Mel Wiebe, Director of the Benjamin Disraeli Project at Queen’s University from 1982 until his retirement in 2004. An avid sports fan and lover of classic British television, cryptic crosswords, and opera, Mel was among the foremost Disraeli scholars in the world—a man who, “in all his endeavours,” as his public obituary reads, “combined a scholar’s knowledge with the warmest of hearts.” Mel is survived by his wife, Dr. Lola Cuddy, and his son Alexander.

Mel was born and educated in Manitoba, at Lowe Farm High School then at University of Manitoba where he earned a BA in 1960, an MA in 1962, and a Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) in 2007. He also studied at University of Toronto before becoming a member of the English Department at Queen’s in 1965. Mel was recruited to work on the Disraeli Project in 1979, which had begun a few years prior as a collaborative and interdisciplinary initiative of Professors John Matthews, Donald Schurman, and Jock Gunn of the Departments of English, History, and Political Studies, respectively. A momentous endeavour, the Disraeli Project sought to produce scholarly editions of the voluminous correspondence of Benjamin Disraeli, the pre-eminent Conservative statesman of England in the second half of the nineteenth century. Mel and his colleagues were remarkably successful in discovering and collecting previously unknown Disraeli letters, whose total number eventually reached 13,000 from over 300 different sources. In 1982, Mel became the Project’s Director, and it swiftly became clear that this was the scholarly work he was born to do.

Under Mel’s direction, the Disraeli Letters gained an international reputation, becoming one of the University’s great ornaments. Thus in 2020, a review of volume 10 in the journal Parliamentary History declared the project “to be of immense historical significance.” “The edition,” the review lauds, “[is] an exemplar of its kind and has proved to be the bedrock for … Disraeli scholarship, rivalling other great compendia of letters and diaries in its scale, scope, and magnificence.” Volume 10 also won the international Robert Lowry Patten Award for the best recent work in nineteenth-century British literary studies (beating out 277 other qualifying publications); its award citation reads: “This volume continues the impeccable work of previous volumes in the series…. The quality of the annotation is breathtakingly high… The patience, dedication, and meticulous research, as well as the sheer legwork involved, make this a daunting model of editorial excellence. The volume as a whole achieves that unusual feat of combining accessibility with the highest level of scholarship, enabling general readers to enter its world and proving irreplaceable to critics and historians.”

For a time, the Project boasted strong support from both University Administration and external granting agencies, with Mel securing grants from the Mellon Foundation totalling $812,000 along with additional support from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Such support on both fronts, however, waned, especially in the years following Mel’s retirement, and
regrettably the Disraeli Project was closed in 2015 after ten volumes, about halfway to the completion of its task, leaving unedited the letters of Disraeli’s last thirteen years. The Project’s remaining corpus currently exists as the contents of boxes stored, as Mel wryly noted this past June, “in some campus basement awaiting final destruction by flood or damp.”

Thus, as we mourn the loss to the Queen’s Community of Professor Emeritus Melvin George Wiebe—celebrating, at the same time, the model of meticulous scholarship he left us in the Disraeli Project’s ten masterful volumes—we simultaneously mourn the loss to nineteenth-century history that the truncation of the Project to which he devoted so much of his professional life has engendered. Perhaps in Mel’s memory these important records will return to responsible hands and be attended with the scholarly vigor he modelled.

Submitted by Sam McKegney, Head

On behalf of the Department of English and with deep gratitude to Professor Emeritus George Logan, Head of English 1985-94, for his generous reflections on Mel’s legacy and the history of the Disraeli Project.

“I would like to move that this tribute be lodged in the Minutes of Faculty Board and that a copy be sent to Professor Wiebe’s family.”

Moved: S. McKegney  Seconded: P. Fachinger  Motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of September 23, 2022, have been posted.

Moved: M. Hand,  Seconded: S. Mackenzie  Motion carried.

3. Arts and Science Undergraduate Society Report: Yara Hussein

Summer Wrap-up
  ▪ Society wide strategic and budget planning
  ▪ Summer Camps - 8 successful weeks of programming
  ▪ ASUS Orientation - next head Gael will be appointed before the fall break

- Welcome Back Initiatives
  ▪ Queen’s in the Park & Sidewalk Sale
  ▪ Textbook Service - sold textbooks for discounted prices
  ▪ ASUS Mentorship program
  ▪ Successfully held and ran first Poster Sale - first one since 2019
  ▪ Welcome Back BBQ - gave out over 500 free food to hundreds of students

- Kingston City
  ▪ Municipal Elections & student voice - Collaborating with the AMS and the Rector to host a panel of candidates on campus.
  ▪ ASUS Community Engagement Program - Hiring 16 second year-interns
Kingston Home Base - Organization of the year

• Academics
  o Peer tutoring - connecting dozens of students
  o DSC Assembly
  o ASUS Appeals Resource Centre
  o Arts & Science Undergraduate Research Fund (ASURF) applications are officially live, we have over $65,000 in UG Research funding to distribute, open to all Arts and Science students.

• Advocacy
  o Sexual Violence Prevention and Response - working with the Vice Provost’s office to engage student feedback and input with this year’s review of the Sexual Violence policy through the DSC Taskforce and our new SVPR Inter-Faculty Coalition spearheaded by SVPR Director Kerry Roe
  o Week of National Day of Truth and Reconciliation - Equity Commissioner Layla Haddad is using the Reflection Room to host a series of events: reading circles, movie drop-ins

• Looking ahead
  o Good Times Diner - free hot meal service for students resuming this week
  o Life After ArtSci - Alumni Networking Summit November 3rd, 2022

4. Reports

1. Dean’s Report: Details of the Dean’s report can be found at: www.queensu.ca/artsci

• Welcome back
• Successful, more inclusive orientation. Looking forward to working with them this year.
• Today was an inaugural lunch of Black Studies Minors. There will be a conference October 21-22, 2022, organized by Black Studies Program.
• September 30 is National TRC day. University will be closed at 12:00, and 11:30 for FAS
• Events: A number of Campus events: Gender Based Violence and bystander Intervention, Consent Awareness Week at Queen’s. https://www.queensu.ca/sexualviolencesupport/it-takes-all-us
• FAS outstanding scholars: Five FAS scholars have been inducted into the Royal Society of Canada https://www.queensu.ca/principal/university-wide-teaching-awards-celebration and https://irc.queensu.ca/queens-irc-a-winner-at-the-canadian-hr-awards/
• We celebrated this week the University Teaching Awards, with significant representation from FAS.
• Recommendations received regarding the temporary suspension of admissions to the F. Fine Arts Visual Art Program. We are starting a consultative process as set out by Senate Procedures. We want to reassure you that these consultations or temporary suspension is the outcome of consultations. I want to emphasize two points:
  1. We are following the senate guidelines
  2. There will be no alteration to the program for current students.
• The Visual Arts program was reviewed in 2015 in the Cyclical Program Review. Three options were brought forward:
  1. Refine the program
  2. Create a new vision for it
3. Discontinue the program.

- Since 2015 there has been work on the first option, a refinement of the BFA, through consultations and engagements with students, instructors and the Center for Teaching and Learning. Not much progress has been made. This may be in part to COVID. We are now at a critical juncture because the next Cyclical Review is imminent. Vice-Provost has recommended that moving forward in this next Cyclical Review would not be productive. Need to review the recommendations from the 2016 report and consider the position of the BFA in relation to the rest of the Arts and Science. This might include a suspension of admission to the program. A Cyclical Program review cannot take place in a program under suspension. There is a quality assurance review scheduled for 2023 and it is believed that it presents a risk to the program. Any program that has not undergone a CPR in the last 8 years is in violation of the requirement. That is why there is a recommendation to temporarily suspend the admissions to give the university time to create a buffer for the next review and an opportunity to address the problems and renovations to Ontario Hall. We have engaged an external consultant to facilitate this process. Students, instructors and others have been informed of this which will begin in mid-October. A schedule will be released soon.

- Jonathan Rose asked for questions and reminded members that this will be discussed at a subsequent Faculty Board meeting and that this will not be the one and only time this issue will be brought to Faculty Board.

  Q. J. Morelli. Expressed outrage, disappointment and a feeling of being insulted. Does not believe it is being discussed. The Dean has overseen this program for more than a decade, and it is the Dean’s responsibility to have done. This sounds like something immediate and has not allowed for consultation. It feels like death of a thousand cuts and not genuine academic planning. For over a decade the Dean’s office has overseen this program and if it is not viable, it is due to the Dean’s office not doing enough to make it a viable program. How can we have faith in the Dean’s office if they can’t manage the program? It is my understanding that members of Faculty Board in cognate units have submitted proposals to revitalize the program, without even the courtesy of a response. I don’t buy the Dean’s arguments and look forward to a genuine consultative process. I will be standing against it when it comes to Faculty Board and when it comes to Senate. I don’t trust anything that comes out of the Dean’s office if they can’t manage this program.

  A. N. Vorano: Thank the Dean for providing an update on this. There have been proposals and entreaties to the Faculty Office, particularly since I took on the role of Head in the Department of Art History and Art Conservation. I would like to remind everyone that the second point on the Senate checklist on temporary reduction of admission is to ensure that alternatives to temporary suspension have been explored and to explain to affected individuals or groups the feasibility of lack thereof of these alternatives. For those who don’t know the BFA was part of an integrated unit called the Department of Art, and in 2011, because of what the CPR described as “morale” problems, which really broke down into some personal problems that had been festering for some time. The BFA was taken out of Art and has been directly administered since. Over ¼ to 1/3 of the courses required in the BFA are courses in Art History. We would see a reduction of 15-20% in course registrations if this suspension were implemented. This will have an enormous impact on Art History and Art Conservation. We are
not just a peripheral member of this discussion, but in fact we should be the central discussion in terms of the re-departmentalization of this program which is so urgently needed.

2. **Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning) Report**: James Fraser Associate Dean (Academic)
   - Praises great energy on campus, enthusiasm of instructors and students
   - The importance of the impact of COVID, and best practices for units and working with the DSC with respect to the 1st years. Need to bring students into our community. First year students are not in specific programs yet, so it is important to reach out to them. See Attachment A for suggested strategies.
   - Need to worry about accommodations: Exams office is providing support through VENTUS, tech support. Please ask students to “opt in” the classroom accommodations.
   - We’re running our first workshop for assistant professors about their first sabbaticals.

   - Accommodations for students with disabilities: flexible course design to support students with accommodations for disability. She is visiting departments with the message.
   - Just beginning the new recruitment and admissions cycle. Arts and Science is taking a team of 35 members to the OUS recruitment fair in Toronto.
   - Fall Preview returns to in-person in BioSci Atrium and Auditorium. On the 22 of October.
   - The new Digital Calendar Project. Phase 1 and 2 have been accomplished recently. About to being work on Phase 3 which is a kind of skin which is student friendly and mobile friendly.

4. **Association Dean, Graduate Studies**: S. von Hlatky
   - Dr. V Thompson is the Distinguished Professor in Black Studies and Social Justice. Her work is extremely important to transnational feminism and black social movements.
   - This month: TriCouncil grant applications and supporting research community.

5. **2021-22 ASC Executive Curriculum Committee – Minor Report III – Appendix B for approval.**
   

6. **2021-2022 ASC Curriculum Committee – Minor Report IV – Appendix B for information.**
   
   No questions.

7. **Academic Regulation 1 – Academic Integrity – Appendix C – for approval**
   
   J. Stephenson moved that “the revised text for Academic Regulation 1 as per the general principles approved at Faculty Board on 25 March 2022 be approved.
   
   Second: R. Knobel. Carried
   
   Question: J. Benard wants clarification.
Answer: A student sanctioned for Academic Integrity should not be prohibited from other normal remedies students’ access if they then encounter extenuating circumstances. That every student has access to genuine extenuating circumstances.

8. Academic Petitions and Appeals Regulations Sections 1-3 – Appendix D – for approval.
   J. Stephenson moved that “the revised text for Academic Petitions and Appeals Regulations as per the general principles approved at Faculty Board on 25 March 2022 be approved.”
   Seconded: R. Knobel. Carried

9. Academic Regulation 10.3 – Non-Evaluative Grades – Appendix E – for approval
   J. Stephenson moved that “the revised text for Academic Regulation 10.3 as per the general principles approved at Faculty Board on 25 March 2022 be approved.”
   Seconded: J. Benard Carried

10. Academic Regulation 7.1, 8.7, and 11 – Appendix F – for approval.
    J. Stephenson moved that “the revised text for Academic Regulation 7.1, 8.7 and 11 be approved.
    Seconded: S. Straker

11. Academic Regulation 18.4 – Bader College – for approval.
    J. Stephenson moved that “the revised text for Academic Regulation 18.4 be approved.”
    Seconded: S. Straker

12. Timelines and Deadlines for Petitions (Academic Petitions and Appeals – Section 3: Petitions and Appeals on Matters Other than Those Related to Academic Integrity – Appendix H – for approval.
    J. Stephenson will move that “the timelines and deadlines for adding a course after the deadline, dropping a course after the deadline, requesting Aegrotat Standing, requestion Credit Standing, and requesting an extension of the deadline to submit incomplete work or to complete a deferred exam as amended be approved.”
    Seconded: J. Benard Carried

13. Academic Petitions and Appeals Regulation 3.3.1.9 – Petition to Waive a Requirement to Withdraw for three years – Appendix I – for approval
    J. Stephenson moved that “the revised text for Academic Regulation 3.3.1.9 be approved.”
    Seconded: S. MacKenzie Carried

14. Report of the Nominating Committee – Appendix J – for approval
    P. Fachinger moved that “the Faculty of Arts and Science Committee Membership as amended be approved.”
    Seconded: M. Hand Carried

Statement: P. Fachinger. I don’t know if you want me to also talk about the memorandum that was attached to my report, the Memorandum from the University Secretariat concerning the Senate Meeting timing and barriers to service. I would like to draw everyone’s attention to the fact that the
Senate Governance and Nominating Committee on which I serve had two robust discussions on advantages and disadvantages to moving the current meeting time which is on a Tuesday afternoon at 3:30, and because of our concerns, particularly from equity deserving groups (women with childcare responsibilities) who felt that the late afternoon time (3:30) and the fact that the Senate often goes after time, is too late to make it possible for them to serve because day care close at about 5:30. Many clinicians expressed concerns about their situation and that the committee noted that it would be difficult to find a time that would be appropriate for everyone. We would like to encourage Faculty Board members to let the Senate know what they think. Are these times disadvantaging or not? Any suggestions. Please send comments to the University Secretariat at senate@queensu.ca. Thank you.

15. Question Period:

Question: J. Morelli: Two questions for the Dean’s Office for a response later at the next Faculty Board meeting.

1. Which, if any other programs do you anticipate launching a process of temporary suspension of admission and
2. Which programs have had retirements in the last 5 years and have those have been replaced?

Answer: We are following the senate guidelines on this process. Data on retirement is available to all Department Heads who are able to access that through Tableau. At this point we do not anticipate any such around CPR.

Meeting ended at 4:30
J. Mennell, Secretary J. Rose, Chair Faculty Board Faculty Board
Attachment A: from Associate Dean Fraser’s Report.

Question: “Do you have a backdoor to welcome first-year students into your community?”

Responses from U/G chairs and assistants – Sept 2022.

• Possible starting point: try to understand first-yr. students better
  o learn the profile of the students to see what might be attractive to them (e.g. survey first years)
  o Find out how to reach students effectively (it’s not via email!)
• Connecting through courses
  o Encourage all first yr. instructors to change name of “office hours” to “drop-in hours”
  o U/G chair or head visits first year courses to welcome all students
  o Encourage first yr. instructors to inform students about programs and community
• Special events
  o Welcome activity (BBQ, or just snacks)
  o Upper years take first years to Gallery (ARTH)
  o Grad students hold Greek and Latin readings once a week (CLAS)
  o Have grad students and professional graduates back for speaker series (insight for first years re: opportunities after graduation) (MIR/EMPR)
  o Bioscience auditorium textbook sale
  o Pre-major night in the Fall
  o Engaging speaker series/book clubs
  o Speed department dating and/or scavenger hunt
• Homework-help centre (with upper year or TA mentors)
  o E.g. Math Help Centre, Phys Drop-In Centre, PSYC Night (with help from SASS)
• Get DSC to help (or upper-year students)
  o Encourage DSC to find first-yr rep, or create new role “Prospective student facilitator”
  o DSC organized welcome event including 1st and 2nd year (e.g., games outside, Trivia contest using Kahoot)
  o Orientation week groups continue to meet monthly over the year
  o PATH peer advising team (HIST)
• Improve communication
  o Newsletters to first year-class lists
  o U/G chair provides “drop-in” hours to any student interested in discipline
  o Create “prospective student” section on website including info on careers, areas of research, and colloquia. E.g. chem
• Work across units
  o Cognate discipline learning communities team up (i.e., humanities/social science), or join forces by building (i.e. French/LLCU, Watson Hall)
  o Open up events to those outside the department (e.g., advertise particularly accessible/exciting colloquia to other U/G chairs)