

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Tuesday, January 16, 2007
Leacock Council Room - L232**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book.

DOCUMENTS: S-06-22, S-06-23

Dean Grant called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Dean Grant said that this first meeting of the new year would be bracketed by research presentations at the start, and by the Beginning-of-Term Reception at the end.

Pre-Agenda Presentations:

Research presentations were given by the following recently hired professors:

- Prof. Michael Riedel, Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences
- Prof. Benjamin Forest, Department of Geography
- Prof. David Stephens, Department of Mathematics & Statistics

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Prof. Bennewitz **moved**, seconded by Prof. Moore, that the Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

(2) MINUTES OF DECEMBER 5, 2006 S-06-22

Prof. Barrette **moved**, seconded by Prof. Panangaden, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

(3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

(4) REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

a) Academic Committee S-06-23

The Academic Committee approved the following on Tuesday, December 12, 2006:

SECTION A: NEW PROGRAMS

AD HOC MAJOR PROGRAM IN PHARMACOLOGY AC-06-61

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Baker, that the ad hoc program be adopted.

The motion carried.

SECTION B: MAJOR PROGRAM CHANGES**BIOLOGY/PHYSIOLOGY/PSYCHOLOGY**

- Major Program in Neuroscience

AC-06-60

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Levine, that the program changes be approved.

The motion carried.

SECTION C: NEW COURSES**PHYSIOLOGY**

PHGY 425

Analyzing Physiological Sys.
3 credits**AC-06-58**

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Zuroff, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

PHGY 560

Light Microscopy-Life Science
3 credits**AC-06-59**

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Moore, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

SECTION D: MAJOR COURSE CHANGES**PHYSIOLOGY**

PHGY 209

Mammalian Physiology 1
Changes in prerequisites and description
3 credits**AC-06-54**

PHGY 210

Mammalian Physiology 2
Changes in prerequisites, restriction, and description
3 credits**AC-06-55**

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Barrette, that the above changes be approved.

The motion carried.

PHGY 311

Channels, Synapses & Hormones
Changes in title and prerequisites
3 credits**AC-06-56**

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Barrette, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

PHGY 314

Integrative Neuroscience
Changes in restriction and prerequisites
3 credits**AC-06-57**

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Barrette, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

SECTION E: MINOR COURSE CHANGES (For Information Only)

Report on Minor Course Changes

AC-06-50

SECTION F: MINOR PROGRAM CHANGES (For Information Only)

Report on Minor Program Changes

AC-06-P2

504.1 Associate Dean Hendren mentioned that the Department of Biology had made explicit what had previously been a hidden prerequisite, and she encouraged other units to avoid hidden prerequisites.

SECTION G: OTHER (For Approval)

Associate Dean (Student Affairs) Henry Leighton:

(a) SUPPLEMENTAL/DEFERRED EXAMS

504.2 Associate Dean Leighton explained that when a course was given in both the Fall and Winter term, the Winter term exam was sometimes used as a supplemental for Fall term students. This could cause problems because the material and instructor may not have been the same in the two terms, and because it increased students' exam load.

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ronis, that where a course is offered in both the Fall and Winter terms, the Winter term final exam not be used as a Supplemental/Deferred exam for the Fall term course

The motion carried.

(b) BULLETING COURSES IN CALENDAR

504.3 Associate Dean Leighton explained that some faculties had done away with bullets in the Calendar, but that he felt bullets were still useful. If Faculty passed a motion supporting bullets, this would aid in retaining bullets in the Calendar.

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Moore, that bulleting and unbulleting of courses continue to be used in the Science section of the Calendar.

The motion carried.

(5) REPORT ON SUS PEER TUTORING

505.1 Mr. Spencer Ng, Science Undergraduate Society V.-P. (Academic), named the SUS Peer Tutoring Coordinators, and described their roles:

- Claudia Hui, Director
- Susanna Yim, Tutor Coordinator
- Michele Retrouvey, Tutee Coordinator
- RJ Doonan, Feedback Coordinator

- Julie Huang, Administrative Coordinator
- Spencer Ng, SUS V.-P. (Academic) Resource Person

- 505.2** Mr. Ng gave a presentation on the Peer Tutoring Program.
- 505.3** Mr. Ng said that the goal of the SUS Peer Tutoring Program was to provide free, accessible and high-quality tutoring in McGill Science courses. The Program had begun in September 2002, and had involved over 900 tutors and tutees since that time.
- 505.4** Mr. Ng described the organization of the Program, including the means of promotion, recruitment and matching of tutors with tutees, the means of obtaining feedback on the Program, and the ways in which tutors involved in the Program were being recognized.
- 505.5** The Program had recruited a record 60 tutors and 114 tutees for Fall 2006. It had introduced 12 new weekly tutorial sessions, which had resulted in a tutor-tutee match rate of 98%.
- 505.6** Mr. Ng provided some statistics on the Program, and listed the Program's goals for Winter 2007: to increase tutor recruitment; to diversify the types of tutors, tutees and courses; to work towards a 100% match-up rate; to redesign the Peer Tutoring website; to increase recognition of tutor contribution; and to focus advertising on CEGEP students.
- 505.7** The Dean thanked Mr. Ng for his presentation, and said that the Peer Tutoring Program was a great initiative of the SUS. It would have made a big difference to many students.

(6) DEAN'S BUSINESS

(a) Announcement of Third PGSS Representative to the Faculty of Science

- 506.1** Dean Grant announced a third graduate representative for Faculty of Science meetings: Mr. Arthur Green, Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Geography.

(b) How Should Space be Allocated?

- 506.2** Faculty moved into the Committee of the Whole with Associate Dean Burns as Chair.
- 506.3** Associate Dean Burns introduced the topic. He said that there were different types of space and different qualities of space, and that with turnover of professors, reallocation of space was constantly occurring. The Dean's Office was therefore very much involved with the issue of space. Governments allocated funds for maintenance based on a particular formula which took account of the different needs of different fields, e.g., mathematics versus chemistry. With changing personnel and changing research needs, space audits were a means of determining whether space was being used efficiently.
- 506.4** A pertinent question was whether space should be allocated to units based on a particular formula. If so, which factors should be incorporated into the formula? The number of professors? Number of graduate students? Number of undergraduate students? Number of undergraduate students serviced by a unit but based in another unit? Should the formula be research-based? Other factors? Perhaps there was no correct answer to the question, but it was important to obtain the opinion of faculty members.
- 506.5** Dean Grant said that the Project Manager for the Faculty of Science, Barbara Ouimet, was currently doing a space study, and had produced a 20-page preliminary report,

listing such factors as the number of professors, number of students, and the number of wet and dry labs.

506.6 Among the points raised were:

- That safety had become a prime issue over the last number of years, with, for instance, it now being considered highly desirable that separate office and laboratory space be provided for students, which was obviously more expensive.
- That students should remain close to laboratories in order to keep watch over their experiments.
- The possibility of "hotelling," i.e., providing shared office space for students, rather than individually assigned office space. However, it was pointed out that this was not a popular option.
- That the provision of containment hoods as a safety feature for microbiological work was very expensive and very space-consuming.
- That certain programs required teaching-lab space, and that different research fields required different levels of service support, sometimes including animal-care facilities.
- That there was a need for large classrooms and computer laboratories.
- That for teaching laboratories badly in need of renovations, funds were available from the University Safety Office.
- That as part of the upcoming research-based undergraduate education initiative, the Faculty had proposed to renovate all the undergraduate laboratories, both wet and dry, as well as other facilities.
- That allocation of space should have a degree of flexibility, and not be based on the rigid application of a formula.

506.7 Associate Dean Burns said that as a Faculty of Science representative on the University Safety Committee, members should feel free to contact him with any concerns about funding for safety issues.

506.8 In closing, Associate Dean Burns asked whether there was any one particular type of space that all units required. Office space? Research space? Teaching-laboratory space? Student space? He said that members should feel free to contact him on the issue of space for their units.

(7) REPORT ON ACTIONS OF SENATE

Please note that the entire Minutes of Senate are available on the Web at <http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/minutes/>.

- Senate Meeting of October 11, 2006:

Report Prepared by Prof. Whitesides, and Read by Prof. GowriSankaran

*Dean Martin Grant presented a resolution on the death of Emeritus Professor Elton R. Pounder of the Physics Department.

*The Principal's remarks included mention that the 2006 Times Higher Education Supplement listed McGill as number 21. McGill is the only Canadian university in the top 25 on this list and is in the top 10 of the "publicly funded" universities. She emphasized the public appetite for quality measures, commenting that McGill prefers to present itself on a per capita basis, since some lists are biased in favour of large institutions reporting absolute numbers.

*Under the Questions part of the agenda, Prof. Lewis raised the issue of space reallocation. He presented a 3-part question from himself and Prof. Oxhorn that pointed to two instances in which space reallocation had apparently been done without sufficient

consultation with the groups involved. The phrasing of the question was noteworthy for its pointed tone relative to the style in which questions have typically been presented to Senate in recent years. For example, part 3 asked, "Can he (the Provost) explain to us why he believes that a top-down, consultation-free approach to decision-making at McGill is preferable to the approach that we thought we operated under?"

Provost Masi's response berated the tone of these questions at great length. Eventually he defended the manner in which the space decisions had been made. Student Senators questioned him about various space reallocation decisions that had had impact on space for student groups. Clearly space for student groups is a sensitive issue at McGill.

In his discussion, Provost Masi mentioned, as a side remark, that the Senate Nominating Committee now benefits from electronic support for tracking the participation and availability of professors for service on Senate committees.

*Dean McClean and Provost Masi responded to a question concerning fees for private music lessons for students in the Schulich School.

*The 383rd report of the APPC was received.

*The Provost presented a report from the Nominating Committee. In particular, Prof. Hurtubise of the Dept. of Mathematics and Statistics was appointed as a representative of Senate on the University Tenure Committee of the Faculty of Arts; Prof. Henry Leighton, Associate Dean, Science, for Student Affairs, was appointed to the Advisory Committee on the Selection of a Dean of Students.

*Vice-Principal Yalovsky presented the 2005-2006 Financial Report to the Board of Governors. Our deficit is increasing rapidly: 17 million this year, raising the total deficit to 41 million. Retirements have lagged predictions, so recruiting will slow down. CFI requires matching funds, so big projects strain our operating budget.

He touched on funding problems coming from Quebec, and on deferred maintenance costs. He voiced guarded good news that the MELS funding grant from Quebec will accelerate the elimination of the Ajustement McGill from 15 years to 8 years.

In the ensuing question period, student Science Senator Finn Upham asked for the definition of a "publicly funded" university. Also, there were several questions about the pension fund. With regard to fees for international students, it was explained that the university views these favourably, subject to adequate financial aid funding. Responding to further questions about the definition of publicly funded universities, the Principal stated that the term generally refers to universities that have a contractual agreement with a government whereby funds from the government are provided in some enrolment-based manner.

*Prof. Morton Mendelson, the new Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning), presented the Report of the Task Force on Student Life and Learning.

Recommendations fell into several broad areas:

that McGill be "student centered", as understood in the context of a research oriented university; that a senior administrative position for student advocacy be created (already done); that academic advising and mentoring be improved (reduction of red tape, improved provision of information and guidance); that better resources for students be provided (e.g., base funding and safe space for graduate students; for undergrads, more financial aid and informal meeting spaces); and that the learning community value diversity, multiculturalism, and collegiality.

A 30-minute Committee of the Whole followed, chaired by Law Dean Kasirer. Responses to the report generally praised it, although sometimes criticizing it for lack of detail. In particular, Prof. Roulet asked for clarification of the roles of advisor and mentor. Senator Upham challenged the university to continue its search for balance between research and student priorities. Prof. Robaire stressed the importance of research experience for undergraduates.

Prof. Mendelson noted that the administration will respond to the report in two phases, first in 2007 winter term, and then in more detail in fall 2007. Some recommendations have funding consequences which remain to be elaborated.

*Reports from the Committee on the Coordination of Student Services and from the Board of Governors were received.

- Senate Meeting of December 6, 2006:

Report Prepared by Prof. Lin, and Read by Prof. GowriSankaran

- The Dean of Arts presented a resolution on the death of Bruce Trigger, Anthropology.
- Questions
 - Droits des étudiants francophone à McGill (M. Bouchard): Mendelson noted McGill's response is in the white paper. Feedback to students on evaluation does not need to be provided in French, as long as it is done in a timely manner. Students should advise professors of the intention to submit in French. There are also possibilities of joint programs with francophone universities such as the UdeM.
 - Re-appointment process for professors (Prof. GowriSankaran): The Provost replied there are no immediate plans to revisit the re-appointment process.
- The Provost presented some Budget considerations with questions after the presentation.
 - He noted the deficit forecast for FY 2006-07 is \$17.3M. It does not pay to be too frugal with Quebec City, as additional funding may be provided to relieve deficits. The projected deficit is an increase over the past 2 years, and is approved by the BoG. McGill does not want to be out of line with other universities, and at the same time does not want to be leading the pack.
 - There is a projected 3% increase in UG/G student enrolment in areas where this can be supported.
 - There are no clawbacks of CRCs in 2006-07-08. McGill may get new CRCs, depending on how many are filled at McGill and other factors. McGill will not generally convert McGill/Dawson positions into CRCs. This will be done only if the CRCs will be lost otherwise.
 - Early retirement settlement applies only to staff before they reach 65 (gray book). Post-65 retirements are examined on an individual basis, taking into account factors such as teaching duties and budget considerations.
 - The budget allocation to Faculties already takes into account the projected deficit, and thus Faculties should not over-expend. In case of over-expenditure, Faculties may earn forgiveness if there has been a good fiscal track record and valid reasons (e.g., unanticipated changes, unfair allocation).
 - The \$1.5M allocation to the support staff within Faculties are done by the Deans, and not by the central administration.
 - The \$2M for graduate student support is to cover DFWs, and to cover top-ups for recruitment of new students.
 - The cleaning and greening of McGill is still a priority.
 - On scholarships for UG students, the Provost noted McGill already attracts the best students, and scholarships are tied to tuition fees as 30% of the latter will go to scholarships. There is no allocation from McGill to UG research; research funds from granting councils are used by professors to fund such research.
 - \$1M is for classroom/lab renovation. This is a small amount, but represents a trade off among priorities.

- Religious holidays: There is no verification of observance of students.

507.1 Dean Grant profusely thanked Prof. GowriSankaran for reading the above two Reports.

(8) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD

There were no members' questions.

(9) OTHER BUSINESS

- Academia Week – Announcement by Mr. Spencer Ng

509.1 Mr. Ng, V.-P. (Academic), SUS, announced that for Academia Week, which would start on January 29, 2007, the keynote speaker would be Dr. Suzanne Fortier, President, NSERC. Dr. Fortier would be speaking at 7:00 p.m. on January 29. He invited faculty members and students to attend.

509.2 In reply to Prof. GowriSankaran who asked about an extensive space audit done in Burnside Hall about three years previously, Dean Grant said the material had been passed on to Barbara Ouimet.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.