

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Tuesday, December 3, 2013
Leacock Council Room – L232**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book.

DOCUMENTS: S-13-12, S-13-13

Dean Grant announced that Anna Cerrone, Faculty of Science, and Jennifer Viens, Faculty of Arts, were present to sell tickets for Centraide to win a holiday basket.

Dean Grant called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Prof. Mucci **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gyakum, that the Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

(2) MINUTES OF OCTOBER 15, 2013 S-13-12

Ms. Curry **moved**, seconded by Prof. Mucci, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

(3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

(4) REPORT OF COMMITTEE

- **Academic Committee** S-13-13

The Academic Committee approved the following on Tuesday, October 29, 2013 and Tuesday, November 26, 2013:

SECTION A: NEW COURSES

(1) MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY

MIMM 384	Laboratory Course in Microbiol	Molecular Microbiology Lab	
	3 credits		AC-13-15
MIMM 385	Laboratory Course in Immunolog		AC-13-16
	3 credits		

404.1 Associate Dean Hendren said that the above new courses, MIMM 384 and MIMM 385, were created as a result of splitting MIMM 386D1/D2 into two courses. She mentioned that the title of MIMM 384 had been changed to avoid duplication.

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

The motion carried.

(2) CHEMISTRY
CHEM 332 Biological Chemistry **AC-13-18**

3 credits

404.2 Associate Dean Hendren said that in order to maintain accreditation by the Chemical Society of Canada, a new course in biological chemistry, CHEM 332, was required for most of the Chemistry programs (relevant programs to be considered below). Students taking CHEM 332 would not be allowed to take BIOL 200 or BIOL 201.

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

The motion carried.

(3) Physiology
PHGY 488 Stem Cell Biology **AC-13-25**
3 credits

404.3 Associate Dean Hendren said PHGY 488, an additional course offered to U3 students in Physiology programs, will be taught by a new professor. PHGY 488 will provide an opportunity for more choice in the programs. Students cannot obtain credit for both PHGY 488 and ANAT 416.

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

The motion carried.

(4) BIOLOGY
BIOL 509 Methods in Molecular Ecology **AC-13-30**
3 credits

404.4 Associate Dean Hendren said that BIOL 509 will be taught by a new professor, and it will allow students to become familiar with advanced methods used in molecular ecology.

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

The motion carried.

(5) GEOGRAPHY
GEOG 325 New Master-Planned Cities **AC-13-32**
3 credits

404.5 Associate Dean Hendren said that GEOG 325 is a new course to be taught by a new faculty member.

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

The motion carried.

GEOG 489 Independent Research in Geog **AC-13-33**
3 credits

404.6 GEOG 489 is a new course created in response to the need to clearly identify research courses and reading courses. GEOG 489 will qualify as a research course for the Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List (DMURL). GEOG 490, currently both research and reading, will be modified later on in the meeting.

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

The motion carried.

GEOG 512 Adv quant meth in soc fld rsch **AC-13-35**
3 credits

404.7 Associate Dean Hendren said that GEOG 512 is one of the many quantitative-methods courses proposed by different units.

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

The motion carried.

GEOG 520 Agric., Envir.,& Food Security **AC-13-36**
3 credits

404.8 GEOG 520 is a new course on food security, and the first such course to be given on the downtown campus.

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

The motion carried.

GEOG 525 Asian Cities in the 21st C **AC-13-37**
3 credits

404.9 GEOG 525 will be taught by a new faculty member, also teaching the newly approved course (above) GEOG 325.

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

The motion carried.

(6) PHARMACOLOGY & THERAPEUTICS

PHAR 598 Honours Pharma Research Proj. **AC-13-38**
6 credits

404.10 Associate Dean Hendren said that PHAR 598 is being created as an Honours-specific research project course.

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

The motion carried.

(7) EARTH & PLANETARY SCIENCES

EPSC 460 Independent Reading Project **AC-13-40**
3 credits

404.11 EPSC 460 is being created to replace the reading component of the recently revised course, EPSC 482 (approved at the Faculty meeting of October 15, 2013).

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

The motion carried.

EPSC 513 Climate and the Carbon Cycle **AC-13-43**
3 credits

404.12 EPSC 513, a new course dealing with climate and the carbon cycle, will be taught from a geological perspective.

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

The motion carried.

(8) COMPUTER SCIENCE
COMP 307 Principles of Web Development **AC-13-44**
2 credits

404.13 Associate Dean Hendren said that this is the first course dealing with this topic.

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

The motion carried.

SECTION B: COURSE CHANGES

(1) MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY
MIMM 386 D1/D2 Lab in Microbiology&Immunology **AC-13-17**
Course Retirement
6 credits

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Mr. Ng, that the course be retired.

The motion carried.

(2) GEOGRAPHY
GEOG 315 Urban Transportation Geography **AC-13-31**
Course Description
3 credits

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

The motion carried.

GEOG 490 Independent Readings in Geog **AC-13-34**
Title, Description, Prerequisites, Calendar Information
3 credits

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

The motion carried.

(3) EARTH & PLANETARY SCIENCES
EPSC 470 Undergraduate Thesis Research **AC-13-41**
Description, Calendar Information
6 credits

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

The motion carried.

EPSC 480	Honours Research Thesis Description, Calendar Information 6 credits	AC-13-42
----------	---	-----------------

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

The motion carried.

(4) COMPUTER SCIENCE

COMP 601	Thesis Literature Review Credit Weight, Title, Description 2 credits	AC-13-45
----------	--	-----------------

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

The motion carried.

COMP 698	Thesis Research 4 Credit Weight 10 credits	AC-13-46
COMP 699	Thesis Research 5 Credit Weight 12 credits	AC-13-47

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

The motion carried.

SECTION C: NEW PROGRAMS

None

SECTION D: PROGRAM CHANGES

(1) MCGILL SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT

B.Sc. Environment Program:
- Atmospheric Environment & Air Quality domain **AC-13-14**

404.14 A required course had been retired, thus decreasing the domain-required credits, and as a result, the complementary course credits have been increased by three. Additional Complementary Courses have been added to the domain.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

(2) CHEMISTRY

- Honours in Chemistry	AC-13-19
- Honours in Chemistry – Atmosphere and Environment Option	AC-13-20
- Honours in Chemistry – Materials Option	AC-13-21

404.15 The above Chemistry Honours Programs were being revised due to the creation of the new course, CHEM 332, in order to maintain accreditation. The required course credits have increased by three, but the complementary course credits have been reduced by three, so the total credit weight of the programs will not change.

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

The motion carried.

- Major in Chemistry **AC-13-22**
- Major in Chemistry – Atmosphere and Environment Option **AC-13-23**
- Major in Chemistry - Materials Option **AC-13-24**

404.16 Associate Dean Hendren said the Major Program in Chemistry is currently a total of 59 credits: 53 required credits and 6 complementary credits. By introducing a new required course, CHEM 332 (approved above), there are now only 3 credits of complementary courses, and there is no requirement for taking these courses at the 400-level and above. After some discussion at Academic Committee meetings, it was agreed that the Department of Chemistry should examine its Major programs with regard to requiring 400/500-level courses. However, because of the accreditation issue, the current program changes should be moved forward on the approval path.

404.17 Associate Dean Hendren said that it had been agreed that the Department of Chemistry would either justify why 400-level or higher courses can't be included in the program, or better still, devise a way to introduce 400- and 500-level courses in the program.

404.18 The changes to the Major in Chemistry – Atmosphere and Environment Option, and the Major in Chemistry - Materials Option, were similar in terms of reducing the number of credits of complementary courses.

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

The motion carried.

(3) PHARMACOLOGY & THERAPEUTICS
Honours Program in Pharmacology **AC-13-39**

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Mr. Krett, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

(4) COMPUTER SCIENCE
M.Sc. Program in Computer Science **AC-13-48**

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

The motion carried.

(5) ANATOMY & CELL BIOLOGY
- Honours Program in Anatomy & Cell Biology **AC-13-49**
- Major Program in Anatomy & Cell Biology **AC-13-50**

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

The motion carried.

SECTION E: OTHER (For Information)

- Feedback for Teaching and Learning Services

404.19 Associate Dean Hendren said she had been asked to provide feedback to Teaching and Learning Services about general concerns regarding teaching. The issue had been discussed at an Academic Committee meeting, and now she would like Faculty members' comments. One issue that had been raised at the Academic Committee meeting was the shortage of rooms for mid-term exams, and the shortage of lecture rooms in general.

404.20 Dean Grant said he was concerned about teaching students how to study. At the Academic Committee meeting, a member had brought up the possibility of students having the option before graduation of learning in the context of small groups.

404.21 Dean Grant asked members whether they thought there should be a concerted effort to obtain better rooms for mid-term exams and to organize them better. A particular problem was accommodating large classes for mid-term exams. A possible solution might be to see if the gym could be made available during one week in the middle of the semester. Members agreed that it would be a good idea for the Dean, the Associate Dean (Academic) and the Director (Advising Services) to move forward on this.

404.22 Points raised by members included:

- A defined time period for mid-term exams may not be appropriate for every student and every course. It was noted that there are more rooms vacant on Fridays.
- Within any course there are students at various levels with various conflicts, including big assignments.
- The problem is most severe for courses with very large numbers of students.
- Mid-term exams could be held during the weekends. Some members thought this was possible; others did not.
- Weekends should be left for studying.
- It would be problematic to book all large exams during the same week.
- Having multiple exams in one day would be problematic.
- Mid-terms should be held prior to the Withdrawal deadline in order for students to obtain feedback.

Dean Grant thanked members for their comments.

(5) DEAN'S BUSINESS

There was no Dean's business.

(6) REPORT ON ACTIONS OF SENATE

Please note that the entire Minutes of Senate are available on the Web at <https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/senate-2013-2014/senate-meeting-documents-2013-2014>

Senate meeting of September 18, 2013 will be reported by Prof. Graham Bell at the next Faculty of Science meeting.

Senate Meeting of October 16, 2013 – Prof. Gregory Dudek

Joint Senate-Board Meeting of November 12, 2013 – Prof. Peter Grütter

Topic: Mental Health

The Principal welcomed attendees explaining that mental health is one of the most important factors affecting the success of our students, staff, faculty and the entire McGill community.

Lynne McVey (CEO Douglas Mental Health Univ. Inst.) gave an interesting presentation on how the University learning environment can help. She pointed out the stigmatization of mental health issues: would you hire a grad student who has a gap in her CV due to a) being a cancer survivor or b) having had mental health problems, such as depressions.

Mental illness is a biological and genetic disease, an illness like any other. 'Depression is a flaw in chemistry, not character'. However, 46% of academics believe that mental illness is used as an excuse for poor behavior.

We need to make bigger efforts in de-stigmatizing mental health issues. A broad social movement is needed, analogous to breast cancer movement (50 years ago breast cancer was stigmatized, now we all wear pink ribbons and run for the cause). We need more than an awareness initiative at every level of society. <http://Rightbyyou.ca> is an initiative to get government to fund prevention – suicide is the #1 cause of non-accidental death among youth in Canada: 173,000 will try to take their own lives every year; every year we lose more than 750 Canadians to suicide.

Roundtable discussions based on hypothetical case studies. Questions that we had to ask ourselves were: What is wellbeing in a university? How can McGill address a particular situation (case study example)? What are we missing? What could have been done? What can we do to improve the environment? How can we create a healthy environment for faculty and students?

The Deputy-Provost (Student Life and Learning) concluded with the statement that we will be considering possible follow-up coming out of the discussion.

- 406.1** Dean Grant said that he felt very strongly that getting treatment as soon as possible was extremely important. He encouraged everyone to be on the alert for anyone who might be having problems. For faculty and staff, the Employee Assistance Program was available; students should contact the Office of the Dean of Students. Students could also contact the chairs/directors of departments, Director (Advising Services) Nicole Allard and Associate Dean (Academic) Laurie Hendren.
- 406.2** Director Allard said that she serves on the Mental Health Working Group and that recommendations would be coming soon.
- 406.3** A member mentioned that due to cutbacks in Student Services, resources have been reduced.
- 406.4** Another member emphasized that the mentor program was very effective. He said that the most stressful time was not actually the first year, but rather the transition from first to second year, when students could no longer live in student residences.

Senate Meeting of November 20, 2013 – Prof. David Harpp

There were 86 Senators to hear the Chair at the beginning of a nearly 3.5 hour meeting--- reflect on the following meetings, which she attended for the first time as McGill Principal:

the American Association of Universities (AAU), the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) and the U15. The first saw serious funding challenges. The AUCC meeting focused on mechanisms to attract skilled immigrants to Canada, including international students. The U15 meeting concentrated on ways to increase the global competitiveness of Canadian universities and discussion on a proposal for consideration by the federal government in budget 2014.

She called on the Deputy-Provost (Student Life and Learning), Professor Ollivier Dyens, to provide an update on McGill's response to an off-campus incident concerning sexual assault involving three students.

Questions and Motions by Members

1. & 2. Question Regarding Class Scheduling Parameters

Senator Moore asked questions about class scheduling that determines not only the use of classrooms at McGill but also when faculty members will teach. **Why has the university chosen to solve a classroom access problem by impinging on the freedom of faculty to organize their time around research, and will it not create a bigger problem among the professoriate than the one it is meant to solve?**

Later, Senator Lu asked a five part question:

In combining the responses to both questions, the Deputy-Provost answered Senator Moore's question as follows:

There seems to be a misconception that the introduction of the Class Scheduling Parameters serves solely to resolve the challenges that Enrolment Services encounters when scheduling classes. The issues that have surfaced over the last three years probably existed earlier, but were not widely apparent because of the siloed manner in which class scheduling occurred. These are:

- Inequity among instructors – Some instructors have complained about unfairness because their classes are routinely relegated to the margins of the day and week and have suggested that this is, in part, due to unreasonable requests for teaching block offs by other colleagues. Examples communicated to Enrolment Services include blocking off all Mondays and Fridays, or blocking off all mornings or all afternoons because a colleague lives out of town. Cultures vary across departments regarding the way these conflicts are resolved.

Senator Moore asked Senator Dyens if a top-down approach was the best manner to solve class scheduling issues. Senator Dyens replied that the current system is the most ideal way to do so.

Senator Lu said the vast majority of units blocked off at least 10 hours per week, which appeared reasonable to her since professors are available to teach for the vast majority of the week. Ms. Massey replied that 24 departments blocked off an average of at least 14 hours per week, while 9 departments blocked off an average of 20 hours or more per week.

The Provost added that campus-wide scheduling, in part, results from the provincial government's requirement that 70% of classes be filled to 70% capacity. The Quebec government implemented this rule to ensure that universities were using their existing spaces efficiently.

Given the level of discussion, the Chair suggested that Senate could hold an open discussion on this topic if it so wished.

Colleagues are recommended to the minutes of Senate for a full discussion. **The answers were extremely long and detailed and did not really solve the question other than to acknowledge that Senator Moore had indeed carried out due diligence in his duties as Chair**

Question Regarding Employment Equity

What progress has been made in meeting the goals set out in the Employment Equity Plan following the Federal Contractors Program 2010 compliance review?

Senator White answered with much detail as well as to the question asked by another Senator. Colleagues are referred to the minutes for the answers.

It was noted that the SEDE office is facing a significant cut to its budget and has an ambiguous place in the University's structure. She then asked a question which the Chair requested be submitted at the next Senate meeting.

1. Open Discussion: Charter of Quebec Values

The Chair initiated the discussion by reminding Senate that in September, as part of the consultation on the proposed Charter of Values. Senator Jutras proposed simplifying the University's protest statement and it was adopted as follows:

Be it resolved that while the McGill Senate supports the secular spirit of Bill 60, it strongly objects to the restrictions on the right to wear religious symbols, as described in the draft legislation, which run contrary to the University's mission and values.

2. Key Performance Indicators

Dr. Pierre Moreau, Executive Director (Planning and Institutional Analysis), presented this item for Senate's information.

4. 450th Report of the Academic Policy Committee

The Provost delivered this report for Senate's approval and focused his presentation on the proposed Policy on Research Centres.

Be it resolved that Senate approve the proposed Policy on Research Centres for further recommendation to the Board of Governors for final approval.

5. Report of the Nominating Committee

With regard to the proposed revisions to the terms of reference of the Steering Committee, Senators discussed the addition of a Dean, to be appointed by the Provost, on the Steering Committee. Some Senators proposed removing this addition from the Steering Committee's terms of reference. The Provost clarified that the Nominating Committee had considered this very carefully and decided that since a majority of members on the Steering Committee are elected, including an ex officio position on the Committee for a Dean would not disrupt the Committee's balance and would provide a Faculty-perspective view on the Steering Committee.

Senate approved the revised terms of reference for the Senate Nominating and Senate Steering Committees, as recommended in the Report of the Senate Nominating Committee

Senate approved the terms of reference for an Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Livestreaming of Senate Meetings as contained in the Report of the Senate Nominating Committee

6. Annual Report from the Senate Committee on Physical Development

Mr. Robert Couvrette, Associate Vice-Principal (University Services) delivered this presentation for Senate's information. The fire at Macdonald was discussed along with universal design along with comments about bicycle gates at the Milton Gates. It should be noted that these have been removed.

7. Annual Report from the Committee on Enrolment and Student Affairs

Senator Dyens presented this report for Senate's information. There were no questions.

8. Annual Report of the Committee on Student Discipline

Senator Costopoulos delivered this report for Senate's information. He mentioned that the Office of the Dean of Students is open to suggestions of how granular the report should be without compromising students' identities.

9. Report of the Board of Governors to Senate

The Secretary-General, presented this report on behalf of Senator Price for Senate's information.

10. Report of the Joint Board-Senate Meeting

The Secretary-General delivered this report for Senate's information, highlighting the high turnout for, and stimulating discussion at, the event.

(7) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD

There were no members' questions.

(8) OTHER BUSINESS

408.1

Dean Grant reminded members about the upcoming Faculty of Science Christmas party, to be held on December 12, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. in Thomson House. He said that Santa Claus would be at the party, and mentioned that there were many young professors with small children. Dean Grant encouraged everyone to come to the party.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.