

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

The April 13, 2018 meeting of Staff of the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, held in R3-048, was called to order at 2:30 p.m. with Professor Cue in the Chair and Professor Akbarzadeh as Secretary.

The Staff Meeting was followed by the Faculty Meeting with Dean Geitmann in the Chair.

Attendance: As recorded on the Faculty Meeting attendance sheet.

Regrets: As recorded on the Faculty Meeting attendance sheet.

The following resolution on the death of Professor Emeritus Bruce R. Downey was presented by Professor Wade and was adopted unanimously by faculty.

Professor Emeritus Bruce R. Downey passed away peacefully on April 4, 2018, following a prolonged illness. He was 78. Following a career of thirty years at McGill, that included terms as Chair of the Department of Animal Science and Director of the Bellairs Research Institute, Bruce retired in 2004.

Born on October 15, 1939, Bruce grew up on a small mixed farm near Pakenham, Ontario. After obtaining a DVM from Ontario Veterinary College in 1963, he worked briefly at a mixed veterinary practice in Smithville (Ontario), and later for the Hamilton District Cattle Breeding Association. He then spent eight years as a Senior Scientist at Ayerst Research Laboratories – first in their Pharmacology Department in Montreal, and then in their Animal Health Division in Chazy, NY, where he worked on the use of prostaglandins and hypothalamic-releasing factors as potential agents for ovulation control in domestic animals. During this time, his collaboration with Macdonald College researchers led to his joining the staff of the Animal Science Department in 1974, with responsibility for the Macdonald Embryo Transfer Unit (known today as LARU, and renowned for its nuclear-transfer and cloning research in goats and pigs). In fact, Bruce spearheaded the many ground-breaking initiatives from that unit: the production in 1973 of only the second embryo-transfer calf, born in North America; the arrival of only the third calf ever to be born from a frozen embryo – aptly named Popsicle – in 1976; and the successful non-surgical embryo-transfer of six calves, on the College Farm, from Macdonald Princess Oleana 3rd (1981). He was also involved in the research that produced the World's first cloned goats at LARU in 1999. With all of this cutting-edge research, Bruce also managed to complete his PhD in 1981, and was, thereafter, appointed as Associate Professor of Reproductive Physiology in the Department of Animal Science. Bruce was promoted to Full Professor in 1990, and to Professor Emeritus upon his retirement in 2004, crowning a 30-year service at McGill.

During his time in the department, Bruce was responsible for courses in Mammalian Physiology, Comparative Anatomy, and Advanced Reproductive Physiology; he was involved in numerous research initiatives, supervising some twenty graduate students along the way, and producing

more than 70 refereed publications. He was particularly active in CIDA projects that allowed him to share his expertise in many parts of the world – China, Egypt, Hungary, Jordan, and Zimbabwe. He served two terms as Chair of the department (1985 – 1995) and finished his illustrious career as Director of the Bellairs Research Institute in Barbados (2001 onward).

Bruce was an avid golfer and, in recent years, took up curling to replace his many years playing ice hockey, mainly on McGill staff teams. He was a former Warden and long-time member of the choir at St. George's Anglican Church, and a member of the Baie d'Urfe Curling Club and the Braeside Golf course in Senneville. He will be greatly missed by Peggy, his wife of 55 years – herself, a former Associate Professor in McGill's Department of Physical Education – his sons Steve, Mike, and Tom, as well as his eight grandchildren Melissa, Andrea, Thomas, Jenna, Katelyn, James, Joel, and Marla.

8.01 Adoption of the Agenda

There were two additions to the agenda under “Other Business”

Announcement – Faculty Club – Professor Whyte

Announcement – MI4 Fund Initiative – Professor Geary

Professor Fyles moved adoption of the agenda, seconded by Professor Jabaji.

CARRIED

8.02 Minutes of the meeting of February 16, 2018.

There were no corrections.

A motion to adopt the minutes was made by Professor Grant seconded by Professor Scott.

CARRIED

8.03 Business arising from the minutes of the February 16, 2018 meeting.

There was no business arising.

8.07 b) Announcement – Tadjia Hall – Professor Whyte

Since Professor Whyte had to leave the meeting early it was decided that he would make his announcement first.

Professor Whyte mentioned that at a Faculty Club Executive Meeting in December, the subject of how to promote Tadjia came up, as well as the realization that a lot of new faculty members are probably not aware of the Club and the benefits of membership. The Faculty Club is a jewel of our Faculty.

Connie is trying to promote the utilization of the meeting rooms at the Club, therefore there is no charge to use the rooms now, just the requirement that the food be catered by the Club. Professor Whyte felt that Tadjia is an excellent location to hold strategic meetings.

The Faculty Club also has two bedrooms that can be rented and faculty should keep it in mind when you have any visiting professors or guests.

In the past the snooker room was used regularly and there was a suggestion that it might be a good idea to revive that tradition.

Professor Whyte stated that his role as the President of the Faculty Club was coming to an end and that Professor Faucher would be taking over.

8.04 Committee Reports to Faculty

a. Academic Program Committee – D1680 - Professor Scott

Professor Scott presented the Academic Committee report, D1680 from the FAPC meeting of March 26th.

Professor Scott explained that the first item was not starred and therefore open for discussion.

This is for a new course in the School of Human Nutrition, namely NUTR 505, Public Health Nutrition. It is effectively a replacement for Nutrition 403, Nutrition in Society, and the School is proposing this for two reasons. One is because the Accreditation Committee has mandated that instruction in public health has to be provided and secondly that the 500 level course will be accessible to students in the Applied Dietetics Credentialing option.

Professor Scott moved adoption, seconded by Professor Geary of a new course in the School of Human Nutrition, NUTR 505, Public Health Nutrition.

Professor Thomassin reiterated what he has said before that the Faculty seems to be moving towards more and more 400 level courses becoming 500 level courses and he feels that in the long run this will harm the academic quality of our programs if we don't start separating our graduate course from our undergraduate courses.

Professor Scott said that they would certainly consider his point that 500 level courses are becoming increasingly common.

Professor Cue called the question. All those in favour of the motion.

CARRIED

Professor Scott moved adoption of course revisions in the Department of Natural Resource Sciences, AGEC 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, and 695.

CARRIED

Professor Scott moved adoption of a course revisions in the School of Human Nutrition, NUTR 683, Human Nutrition M.Sc. Thesis 4 – description.

CARRIED

Professor Scott moved adoption of a course retirement in the School of Human Nutrition, NUTR 403, Nutrition in Society which is the course being replaced by NUTR 505.

CARRIED

Professor Scott moved adoption of a program revision in the Department of Natural Resource Sciences, M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics.

CARRIED

Professor Scott moved adoption of her report.

CARRIED

b. Academic Standing Committee – D1683 – Professor Faucher

Professor Faucher moved that the meeting move into closed session, seconded by Professor Thomassin.

CARRIED

Professor Faucher presented confidential report D1683 for the information of Faculty.
Professor Faucher moved seconded by Professor Clark that the meeting return to open session.

CARRIED

Professor Faucher moved acceptance of his report.

CARRIED

c. Scholarships Committee – D1684 – Professor Fyles

Professor Fyles explained that CIAQ has supported a scholarship for several years and the scholarship has been given out by the faculty. The CIAQ has decided to use the money in a different way and has changed the mechanism by which they wish to distribute their funding in a manner that is inconsistent with the Faculty awards process.

Therefore the Faculty will no longer make the award. The Faculty has agreed to assist in identifying candidates for an awards process run by the CIAQ.

Professor Fyles moved that the CENTRE D'INSÉMINATION ARTIFICIELLE DU QUÉBEC (CIAQ) INC. AWARD will no longer be offered, and will be removed from the Undergraduate Scholarships and Awards Calendar.

CARRIED

8.06 Senate Report – Professor Bayen

Professor Bayen reported on the Senate Meetings of February 21st and March 28th.

A copy of the Senate reports are available in the Dean's Office.

Professor Bayen moved acceptance of the reports.

CARRIED

8.07 Other Business

a. Dean's Report

Dean Geitmann commenced with kudos.

Congratulations go out to Julia Freeman who is a Faculty Lecturer at the School of Environment and Louise Lockhart who is our Nurse from McGill Health Services, for their respective Catalyst Awards given by the Office of Sustainability, Julia for the Faculty Catalyst Award and Louise for the Catalyst Award for Staff.

Kudos to Christine Ha, a U3 student in Nutrition, who received a Gold Key Award in addition to her Scarlet Key Award.

Dean Geitmann congratulated both Professor Michael Ngadi and Professor Marie-Josée Dumont who both received professorships, Professor Ngadi was named James McGill Professor and Professor Dumont a William Dawson Scholar. Both are very well deserved.

Congratulations to all those who hopefully got good news today in terms of Discovery Grants and to Professors Elsa Vasseur from Animal Science, Hamid Akbarzadeh from Bioresource Engineering and Jeff Xia from Parasitology, who received grants from the Canada Foundation for Innovation's (CFI) John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF).

The Bioresource Engineering students had great success at the Canadian Engineering Competition, Nicholas D'Ambrosio and Collin Bleiziffer took first place in the Scientific Communication Competition and Lindsay Cass, Isabella Pietracupa, Melissa Zbacnik-D'Antonio took third place in the Innovative Design Competition.

Three groups of students received placements and prizes at the Dobson Cup as well:

Jamie Lee and Isabelle Lam (remixed) were winners of the Food and Agribusiness Innovation Convergence Award and the Macdonald Innovation and Entrepreneurship Prize.

Sophia Zheng and co-founders (Foodoc) got third place in the Health Science Stream.

Okenna Obi-Njoku and Samuel Ihuoma (JPondE) got third place in Small and Medium Enterprises Stream.

Congratulations went out to Freshman Advisor Alice Cherestes who received the Dean of Students Award (Faculty) for Excellence in Undergraduate Academic Advising.

The Dean went on to discuss various events that have taken place recently.

The Department of Food Science hosted an IFTSA (Institute of Food Technologists Student Association) Meeting & College Bowl Competition which was very successful. Congratulations to the students and Professors that put it together.

Another very successful and inspiring event took place last night. We had a joint 5 a 7 gathering with John Abbott College, the purpose was to help serendipity, some of the best collaborations come from these sort of gatherings. The Dean said she was pleased to see so many people attend the event.

Professor Christopher Regan had organized a roundtable on the new Max Bell School of Public Policy and it was very well attended. The Dean mentioned that our campus has a lot to contribute in terms of content.

Dean Geitmann discussed the Macdonald Master Plan. The Campus Planning Office downtown has been extremely occupied with the Royal Victoria project but they finally found some time to start working on our planning process.

Last week MAPAQ made an announcement regarding a seven year plan for the Bioalimentaire sector. They are going to infuse some money into Agriculture related infrastructure which might be to our advantage.

c) Announcement – Professor Geary

Professor Geary announced that as part of the MI4, McGill Interdisciplinary Initiative in Infection and Immunity Fundraising Campaign, the group got its first \$15-million gift from the Montreal-based Doggone Foundation to establish the McGill Interdisciplinary Initiative in Infection and Immunity. The good news for us is that part of the donation will be funding a collaborative grant between MUHC and one from McGill outside of the MUHC. Our campus is encouraged to apply as we contribute a lot in that area.

8.08 There being no further business the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Professor Scott seconded by Professor Jabaji.

CARRIED

8.09 The Faculty meeting followed with Dean Geitmann in the Chair.

A motion to ratify the business at the Staff Meeting was proposed by Professor Geary seconded by Professor Wade.

CARRIED

8.10 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

CARRIED