

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

The November 14, 2014 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 Bede as Secretary.

The meeting commenced with a presentation by Ms. Wendowsky, from University Advancement, regarding The McGill Commitment and Philanthropy.

The Staff Meeting was followed by the Faculty Meeting with Dean Madramootoo 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 Edward McKyes was presented by Professor Orsat and adopted unanimously by Faculty.

Resolution on the death of Professor Edward McKyes P.Eng.

Professor Edward McKyes passed away at his home on the Macdonald Campus on May 27, 2014, in his 70th year.

Professor Edward McKyes was born in November 1944 and he pursued his high school education in the Montreal area. Ted joined McGill University to pursue all his three degrees; B.Eng (Honours) in 1966, M.Eng in 1967 and PhD in 1969, all from Civil Engineering. After graduation, he was appointed as a sessional lecturer in Agricultural Engineering and in Civil Engineering. He became assistant professor on a joint appointment between the two departments in 1972. He chose to join the department of Agricultural Engineering as a full time member in 1975. He became Associate Professor in 1976 and Full Professor in 1982. His areas of expertise are widely recognized in the field of soil mechanics, soil dynamics, soil compaction and tillage. In addition he had a great passion for off-road power and machinery.

Ted became the Chair of the department at a young age of 33 years and during his ten-year tenure, he contributed to a rapid expansion of undergraduate and graduate student enrolments, and the department witnessed a tremendous growth in research intensity through funding and publications. Furthermore, Ted served as an Associate Director of the Center of Drainage Studies, which later changed its name to the Brace Center for Water Resources Management.

Ted is recognized as an outstanding teacher both by students and colleagues and he obtained the university teaching award in 1994, recognizing his contribution to teaching. He was also a

much appreciated academic advisor. His research activities not only attracted funds from different agencies, but also provided a practical approach to promote conservation tillage methods and a unique design for injecting liquid manure into the subsoil. He also made significant contribution to alleviating soil compaction by understanding machine-soil-interactions. He authored two books titled "Agricultural Engineering Soil Mechanics" and "Soil Cutting and Tillage" published by Elsevier along with many research papers. His work is recognized through several awards by his peers.

Ted's experience and expertise in soil mechanics, civil engineering, structural engineering and agricultural engineering were always in demand both locally and internationally. He contributed to agricultural development in the Caribbean and Africa through inter-University development programs.

Ted's wit and wisdom were second to none and he was loved by colleagues, students, friends and family. He lived a fast life; we miss him immensely. Ted was a brilliant teacher and engineer, an inspiration to his students and an open-hearted friend. He loved music and was a gifted pianist.

Ted leaves behind his devoted wife Clarisse; his sister Margaret; and countless colleagues, students and friends. He was the beloved father of Michael, Charles, Eddy and Tina; and stepfather of Natasha, Alexandra and Raphael.

Mr. Enright made a tribute to the late Mr. Marcel Couture.

It is with regret that I inform Faculty that Marcel Couture passed away at his home in St-Lazare in October. Many of you knew Marcel as Director of Diploma Program - later the Farm Management and Technology Program and as Associate-Dean, Community Relations from 1985-2005.

Marcel graduated from the Diploma Program in 1965, and went on to work as a regional supervisor for the Dairy Herd Analysis Service, the forerunner to Valacta. He then resumed his studies at Mac and completed his BSc (Agr) in 1972. Following a stint as Quebec Regional Manager with CANFARM, a division of Farm Credit Corporation, he completed his Master at the University of Guelph.

He again returned to Macdonald in 1976 as a Faculty Lecturer in the Agricultural Economics Department, and as Assistant Director of the Diploma in Agriculture Program. Marcel assumed directorship of the Program in 1985, and took on the position of Associate-Dean Community Relations the same year.

Marcel tirelessly promoted this Faculty across the province, and in particular in the halls of government. Throughout the agricultural community he was affectionately known as "Mr. Macdonald". He was highly involved in all aspects of alumni life at Mac, and was recognized for his contributions with the McGill Distinguished Service Award in 2004 and the Mastery for Service Award in 2005.

We would like to extend an invitation to everyone to join the FMT staff and Marcel's family to celebrate his life on December 2nd in the Faculty Lounge, from 4-7 PM.

3.04 Adoption of the Agenda

There was one addition to the agenda:

3.09 d Graduate Enrollment – Professor Strachan

Mr. Wees moved adoption of the Agenda, as modified, seconded by Dean Madramootoo.

CARRIED

3.05 Minutes of the meeting of October 10, 2014.

There were no corrections.

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

CARRIED

3.06 Business arising from the minutes of the October 10, 2014 meeting.

There was no business arising.

3.07 Committee Reports to Faculty

a. Academic Program Committee – D1603 – Professor Scott

Professor Scott presented document D1603.

Professor Scott moved adoption of program revisions in the Department of Food Science and Agricultural Chemistry, Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Food Science. Additional courses have been added to the complementary course set.

CARRIED

Professor Scott moved adoption of program revisions in the School of Dietetics and Human Nutrition, M.Sc. Human Nutrition, Applied (Dietetics Credentialing).

CARRIED

Professor Scott moved adoption of the report.

CARRIED

b. Academic Standing Committee – D1604 – Ms. Roulet

Professor Roulet moved that the meeting move into closed session, seconded by Professor Fyles.

CARRIED

Professor Roulet presented confidential report D1604 for the information of Faculty.

Professor Roulet moved, seconded by Professor Stromvik, that the meeting return to open session.

CARRIED

Professor Roulet moved acceptance of her report.

CARRIED

3.08 Senate Report – Professor Stromvik

Professor Stromvik reported on the October 22nd Senate Meeting.

Professor Stromvik moved acceptance of her report.

CARRIED

3.09 Other Business

a. Dean's Report

The Dean commenced by discussing the financial situation at McGill. As you know, in September we learned that the government grant provided to McGill for FY2015 would be \$15 million less than anticipated. We were also told to expect further cuts to funding for FY2015, to be announced before February 2015. This second cut was announced on November 12, 2014: there will be an additional reduction in funding of \$31.6 million across the network of Quebec universities. For McGill, this means an additional cut of approximately \$5 million, resulting in a total unanticipated shortfall for FY2015 of approximately \$20 million.

The Provost sent a memo which the Dean shared with the Chairs, there could be further cuts. There is no intention at this time to cut back on the ongoing academic recruiting but there is a freeze in the hiring of management, administration and support staff. The news is not very good and reinforces what Nadia Wendowsky presented on philanthropy. The new dean and faculty will have to be engaged very aggressively in philanthropy, selling the Faculty to donors, it will be the only way to pay for all the added things that we see taking place on the campus today. On the note of philanthropy the Dean said that he was very proud that the development office has managed to raise more than was set and exceeded their fundraising goal, and this is after the 2008-2009 financial crisis. The Dean has been working with the Macdonald Stewart Foundation to put up a donor wall in the atrium link. Many of the names that we see on the list have unfortunately passed away but we have to cultivate the next wave of donors. We have probably

picked all the low hanging fruit and it's going to be harder going forward but the Dean said he was confident in our ability to do so.

The Dean thanked staff and students for participating in the Student Life and Learning consultation. There was a lot of very good and positive feedback which the Dean was sure that Ernst and Young is going to be take into advisement. We will have to keep our fingers crossed that we can realize the financial costs of the building. It's not going to be an easy task but is doable.

Mr. Chattel-Launay asked if we are likely to see further measures being implemented in respect to more cuts. The Dean replied that he is putting the budget together and he has not been instructed to make any percentage cuts.

Professor Weiler wondered if we should not have some special lectures to engage alumni. The Dean felt that the Food for Thought lectures did a good job of that already and that many alumni come from far away to the lectures.

On the subject of philanthropy, Professor Buddle said that the scholarships reception is a great opportunity for donors and alumni to interact with the students and really boosts the spirit overall and helps in the effort of getting additional scholarships. Professor Buddle thanked everyone that participated.

b. Announcement - Information Technology Committee – Professor Solomon

Professor Solomon mentioned that the Information Technology Committee had met recently and there was a couple of things he wanted to bring back to faculty. The committee had been approached by people within the faculty who were facing constraints with teaching software licenses and wanted help with negotiating licensing deals so that students can get the software on their own laptops. The committee approached central IT down town and the result is that it is possible. Anyone needing help with getting additional software licenses should approach Professor Solomon or send him an email and he will prepare a list for down town to see what could be done.

The other topic that came out of the IT Committee meeting is that there is a mobile video conferencing unit located in the Dean's office and that it is available for use to all faculty. Anyone needing to use it can contact Joanne Ten Eyck.

c. Fall 2014 Enrolment Statistics – Professor Buddle

Professor Buddle reported on the document that was circulated earlier, consisting of the fall enrolment statistics.

Professor Buddle highlighted the fact that enrolment of 1392 in the degree programs including FMT is the same level as the year before which was the highest level ever. Last year we had a slight drop but we have recovered from that. The largest growth has been within the freshmen

program primarily in regards to international students interested in the B.Sc. Nutritional Science degree. Bioresource Engineering has also seen a nice growth trajectory. One area we need to work on is the B.Sc. (Ag. Env. Sc.), the numbers are quite low compared to the last few years, we need to ensure the messaging is the best that can be. Professor Buddle mentioned that he was meeting with Kathleen Massey in the near future to discuss enrolment targets.

Mr. Chatel-Launay wondered if it was possible to get a breakdown on the U3 students to see how many were U3 or U4 or U5 as he felt it was a good idea to see how many students were finishing on time and if not why. Professor Buddle felt that it would be useful to look at the completion rate and that he would look into adding that data to the statistics in the future.

Professor Orsat pointed out that the Bioresource Program is a four year program.

Professor Major felt that more students were taking longer than three years to finish their programs and Professor Buddle explained that the reasons for that vary, many students go on an exchange program or internships mid-way through which changes things a little bit.

d. Graduate Enrollment – Professor Strachan

Professor Strachan informed faculty that he would be presenting a similar report for graduate enrolment next December and wanted everyone to be aware of a few things. Graduate enrollment overall is looking good but we trending towards a decrease in Master's thesis students and an increase in non-thesis students. PhD student numbers are holding steady.

We should be asking questions as to the type of graduate student we are looking for or recruiting, this is done on an individual basis but perhaps it should be done at the unit level. What are the factors influencing these decisions? Are funds for graduate students being used appropriately? Are there things we should be doing differently? These are all open ended questions that should be discussed at the unit level.

On the discussion of completion rates, one of the things that is worrisome is that PhD students are taking longer to finish and at present the PhD 7 is the highest it has ever been.

The number of students per faculty member averages four but there is a great variance. Despite the issues with uApply the numbers of graduate students is way up across the board.

Professor Strachan reiterated the best use of available funds and that it is meant primarily as a recruiting tool to attract the best and brightest.

Professor Weiler was appreciative of Professor Strachan's openness and asked when the GEF allotment comes through because notoriously it comes too late for recruitment purposes. Professor Strachan replied that one of the sources of the funds are Endowed Fellowships and Scholarships that are bundled with the GEF's and the amount we receive depends on how much the endowment is earning. Professor Strachan said that they are working on a new system which

hopefully will be communicated better. The Graduate Program Directors should have this information and hopefully will share the information within their units.

- 3.08 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Professor Stromvik seconded by Professor Fyles.

CARRIED

- 3.09 The Faculty meeting followed with Dean Madramootoo in the Chair.

The Dean mentioned that the coffee break event of this morning was very good, there was a good mix of academic and support staff in the room and based on the success we will repeat this event.

A motion to ratify the business at the Staff Meeting was proposed by Professor Dumont seconded by Professor Biswas.

CARRIED

- 3.10 There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m. on a motion by Professor Waterway seconded by Professor Solomon.