

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

The October 6, 2017 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 acting 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.

2.01 Adoption of the Agenda

There were one addition to the agenda:

2.04 b) Academic Standing committee D1672

Professor Bede moved adoption of the agenda as modified, seconded by Professor Fyles.

CARRIED

2.02 Minutes of the meeting of September 8, 2017

There were no corrections.

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

CARRIED

2.03 Business arising from the minutes of the September 8, 2017 meeting.

There was no business arising.

2.04 Committee Reports to Faculty.

a. Academic Program Committee – D1671 – Professor Scott

Professor Scott reported on the FAPC meeting of September 25, 2017.

Professor Scott moved acceptance of a new graduate level course in the Institute of Global Food Security, (Interdisciplinary Global Food Security) IGFS 611, Advanced Issues on Development, Food and Agriculture.

CARRIED

Professor Scott moved acceptance of a course revision in the Department of Natural Resource Sciences, LSCI 452, research project 2 – change in pre-requisites and restrictions.

CARRIED

Professor Scott moved acceptance of her report.

CARRIED

b. Academic Standing Committee – D1672 – Professor Faucher

Professor Faucher presented report D1672, namely a list of graduating students for the fall Convocation.

Professor Faucher moved, seconded by Professor Bede that:

- a) Faculty accept that the students whose names appear in the attached list of graduating students have met all the requirements for their respective degrees and that their names be presented to Senate for approval in granting the degrees.

CARRIED

Professor Faucher moved, seconded by Professor Orsat that:

- b) The Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences be empowered to add/delete names to/from the list of graduating students if new information brought to her attention requires a change in the status of an individual student.

CARRIED

Professor Faucher moved acceptance of his report.

CARRIED

2.05 Senate Report - Professor Bede

Professor Bede reported on the Senate Meeting of September 19, 2017.

A copy of the report is on file in the Dean's Office.

Professor Bede moved acceptance of her report.

CARRIED

2.06 Other Business

a. Dean's Report

The Dean commenced with kudos.

Marc Samoisette was named the McGill Safety Ambassador for 2017. Marc was recognized for his commitment to a safe work environment.

Congratulations to Dr. Mélanie Guigueno, a Post-Doc in the Department of Natural Resource Sciences, for winning the Royal Society of Canada's 2017 Alice Wilson Award (NSERC nomination).

Congratulations to both individuals.

Dean Geitmann mentioned that at the last Deans' meeting with the Provost, one of the items discussed was the budget. The Quebec Ministry of Education looks back and does a recounting of registered students. It looks like McGill had fewer students than the allocated budget with the result that there will be claw back from the government. We are not sure at this point how much that will be.

Dean Geitmann reported that we had the USRA Poster event on September 11th and that Principal Fortier attended the event. The Dean met with the Principal prior to the event and arranged for her to meet with Gordon Hickey, Chair of the Faculty Planning Committee.

We also had a visit from Jean-Claude Poissant, MP for La Prairie as well as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Federal Minister of Agriculture. Thanks you to everyone that took the time to meet with Mr. Poissant.

On September 28th we had our annual A. Jean de Grandpré Distinguished Speaker Series and featured guest panelists Professor Elena Bennett of the Department of Natural Resource Sciences, and Nathalie Zinger, Executive Coordinator, Conservation Engagement, Nature Conservancy of Canada. The lecture was moderated by the Dean. The event was held down town and not many people from our campus attended. The conclusion is that we definitely need to move this event back to the Macdonald Campus.

The Dean mentioned some upcoming events:

As mentioned at the last Faculty meeting, Homecoming will be held on October 14th – everyone is invited to the various activities taking place. This is a very important event for our alumni and they love to meet with current staff and students. There will be TEDx type event in the morning. The Dean hoped that everyone would try to make it for at least part of the day or in the evening for the BBQ. AT 7:30 p.m. there will be a cash bar and dancing after the BBQ. It's a great opportunity to interact with alumni.

On behalf of Professor Madramootoo, Dean Geitmann announced that there would be a World Food Day Distinguished Panel discussion on Monday, October 16th at 10:00 a.m. in the Faculty Lounge.

b. Enrolment Statistics – Fall 2017 - Professor Fyles

Last year we had a huge influx of freshman students, the number is lower this year by 3^{1/2} %. It's not enough to be particularly worried about but we are paying attention to it. Some programs have lower numbers, some are stable and some have higher numbers.

Last year, based on the strong numbers, a decision was made not to accept any new students in the winter semester. This year we have decided to open up January admissions which should bring in around 30 to 35 students.

Professor Fyles said that this gives us an opportunity to talk about recruitment. Nancy Lewis is very active and does most of the recruitment but we do recruit from our freshman program so it is important to pay attention to that program.

There will be an Open house on the down town Campus on October 29th. Professor Fyles encouraged everyone to pitch in and participate whenever the opportunity arises.

Ms. Major mentioned that we were at capacity at the moment and wondered where we would put more students if we had to raise our enrollment any higher.

Professor Begg asked what the male/female ratio was amongst the student population to which Professor Fyles responded that it was 58% female.

Professor Begg said as much as she disliked bringing up the subject she felt she had to. The fact that we have a 58% population of women and only three washrooms on the main level was troubling at best. The line ups at the washrooms get longer and longer and she felt that it was time we broached the subject and look into converting the men's washroom into a women's washroom and have the men go to washrooms on other floors.

2.07 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Professor Bede seconded by Professor Faucher.

CARRIED

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

Dean Geitmann read out a tribute to Gary O'Connell who passed away.

Wednesday, October 4, 2017, Gary Frederick O'Connell passed away peacefully at home with his family by his side. Gary had been recruited from his position as Senior Auditor on the down town campus in 1992 to become our Director of Academic and Administrative Services. He quickly became an integral part of Macdonald Campus. He was an indispensable resource of expertise and knowledge and he cared deeply about the Campus, staff and students. As sparing as he was with his words, he was always available to provide guidance, listen to complaints such as those by students about the shuttle bus, and he seemed to be able to miraculously pull money out of a hat for worthy projects. He helped all academic administrators on this campus to find their way through or at least cope with

the labyrinth that is the McGill budget and finance system. He was 65 and had intended to retire next year.

His life was devoted to Leslie, his wife and best friend of 40 years. Gary has three children whom he cherished, Lindsay, Christopher and Timothy. Lindsay O'Connell is a staff member of the Faculty. On behalf of McGill and of all the members of the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, I express our deepest condolences to the family.

A motion to ratify the business at the Staff Meeting was proposed by Professor Scott seconded by Professor Fyles.

The Dean wished everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend.

CARRIED

2.09 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 15h25.

CARRIED