

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

The September 8, 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 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.

Ms. Nancy He, MCSS, VP Academic, introduced herself as the new MCSS Faculty representative.

1.01 The following resolution on the death of Professor Terry Wheeler was presented by Professor Driscoll and adopted unanimously by faculty.

Terry Wheeler (1960-2017)

The McGill community was saddened to learn of the death of Professor Terry Wheeler on July 25, 2017 in Pointe-Claire, QC. Dr. Wheeler is survived by his parents Harriet and Gary Alcock, sisters Sharon, Carolyn, Allison, Kathy, father Allan Wheeler and girlfriend Julia Mlynarek.

Dr. Wheeler obtained his B.Sc. in Biology from Memorial University in 1985 and his M.Sc. in Parasitology from the University of Guelph in 1987. He completed his Ph.D. in Entomology at the University of Guelph in 1991 and went on to post-doctoral studies at Carleton University before taking up his position in the Department of Natural Resource Sciences and as Director of the Lyman Entomological Museum in January 1995. Dr. Wheeler's lifelong love of natural history led him to develop his lab at the Lyman to be a place where the disciplines of taxonomy, phylogeny and insect ecology meet. He had a particular focus on flies, one of the most diverse orders of insects in the world, and so he travelled across Canada and the world in search of them. Dr. Wheeler recently had research projects that focused on Arctic Canada, peatlands and suburban green spaces in Quebec, and the forests of Central and South America. In 1999, he won the C. Gordon Hewitt Award, awarded by the Entomological Society of Canada, and he was the Society's President in 2015-2016.

Dr. Wheeler was one of the top-rated professors at McGill and a key player in the development of the McGill School of Environment. He used wit, humour and logic, not just to teach students about science but how to be scientists, and students appreciated his approach. Dr. Wheeler won a number of teaching prizes: the Macdonald Campus Award for Teaching Excellence, the Principal's Prize for Excellence in Teaching, and the Alan Blizzard Award from the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education.

Dr. Wheeler was also a strong mentor and friend to his many graduate student advisees over the years, and he was a loved colleague to his friends in the Department of Natural Resource Sciences and throughout McGill University and at academic institutions, museums and collections, across the world. He was very active on social media, especially Twitter, and was able to use these platforms to reach out across the world to keep interest in science, especially entomology and natural history, strong.

The McGill community expresses its sincere condolences to Dr. Wheeler's family and friends and remembers with fondness and gratitude his many contributions to McGill University and the Lyman Entomological Museum in particular.

1.02 Adoption of the Agenda

There was no additions to the agenda.

Professor Monardes moved adoption of the Agenda, seconded by Professor Singh.

CARRIED

1.03 Minutes of the meeting of May 12, 2017

There were some minor corrections. On page 10 it should say, "the Dean was invited by **Novalait**". On page 11, it should say, the Provost will visit our campus **on** the 18th" and in the same paragraph, "there are no curators at **either** the Herbarium nor the Lyman Museum"

A motion to adopt the minutes was made by Professor Driscoll seconded by Professor Orsat.

CARRIED

1.04 Business arising from the minutes of the May 12, 2017 meeting.

There was no business arising.

1.05 Committee Reports to Faculty

a. Academic Program Committee – D1667 – Professor Scott

Professor Scott reported on the FAPC meeting of August 28, 2017.

Professor Scott moved acceptance of a course revision in the Department of Natural Resource Sciences, ENVB 415, Ecosystems Management – change in pre-requisites.

CARRIED

Professor Scott moved adoption of her report.

CARRIED

b. Academic Standing Committee – D1668 – Professor Faucher

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

CARRIED

Professor Faucher presented confidential report D1668 for the information of Faculty.

Professor Faucher moved, seconded by Professor Wade that the meeting return to open session.

CARRIED

Professor Faucher moved adoption of his report.

CARRIED

c. Nominations Committee Report – D1669 – Professor Driscoll

Professor Driscoll presented the Nominations Committee Report on behalf of Professor Geary.

Professor requested that all the nominations be moved as a block.

Professor Driscoll moved, seconded by Professor Fyles that the nominations cease.

1. Following the approval to expand the **Library Committee** to include one member from every academic unit, the membership of this committee is proposed to include, for 3-year terms beginning September 2017, nominees G. McCourt (MSE), P. Thériault (FMT) and S. Phillips (SHN).
2. Following the establishment of the **Promotion to Full Professor Committee**, the members of that Committee, serving 3-year terms, are nominated as follows: J. Whalen (Chair); H. Ramaswamy; S. Prasher; X. Zhao; T. Johns; and M. Scott; a representative from Plant Science will be nominated as soon as one is available.
3. Following the establishment of the **Faculty Appointments Committee**, the members of the Committee are nominated to be J. Bede (Chair), L. Goodridge, J. Adamowski and L. Agellon, each appointed for a 3-year term.
4. Following the establishment of the **Awards Committee**, the members of the Committee (in addition to S. Karboune) are nominated to be S. Jabaji (Chair), C. Madramootoo and T. Geary, each appointed to a 3-year term.
5. Following the resignation of N. Uzea, a replacement for the **Research Ethics Board** is required. N. Basu is nominated to fill this slot after his return from sabbatical leave (January 2018).
6. Following the reconstitution of the **Faculty Planning Committee**, the following members are appointed *ex officio*: J. Fyles, I. Strachan, M. Scott and S. Karboune. Additional members, one from each academic unit not represented by one of the *ex officio* members, are nominated to

be M. Lefsrud (BRE), H. Weiler (SHN), J-B. Charron (PlSci), R. Duggavathi (AnSci) and D. Wees (FMT). M. Scott will represent PARA and MSE.

The nominees are all acclaimed to their positions.

Professor Driscoll moved adoption of his report.

CARRIED

d. Macdonald Sub-Committee on Physical Facilities – D1670 - Professor Côté

Professor Côté explained that this was not really a report but rather a consultation and hopefully everyone had a chance to look at the document that was circulated earlier. Our campus has seen a steady increase in enrollment, a few years ago the library and the link were remodeled to provide more space and are at full capacity especially between September and April. We have to use our space very efficiently and are looking at making more room for our students. With that in mind, last spring, Eduardo had submitted a proposal to replace the cabinets situated on the 2nd floor of the Macdonald Stewart hallway with small tables and chairs where students could sit.

The MS-2 hallway is the most transited hallway on campus. Lit display cabinets are found along this hallway. The cabinets, and more importantly the contents they display, are often outdated. Updating the contents on display requires sustained human and financial resources. Moreover, with the rise of digital platforms like Facebook to instantly showcase Faculty outcomes in a timely basis, display cabinets may serve little purpose.

This project will repurpose the space along the MS-2 hallway into a shared, collaborative space for the campus community to benefit. The cabinets will be removed and replaced with modern tables and chairs, thereby creating a new work space in common areas. Power outlets will be installed along the wall for users to connect and recharge electronic devices. Lighting fixtures will be added to provide adequate lighting for working and reading. Table pods will be at bar-height, and will be affixed to the wall for safety. Stool chairs will be parallel to the wall to prevent hallway obstruction.

This project will therefore modernize a portion of our campus space, while creating new spaces for collaboration.

Ms. Major suggested having a “Living Wall” there instead or both, perhaps the students could grow edible plants.

Professor Agellon pointed out that they are already facing noise issues and that this would take the noise and traffic level up even higher. He felt that it would not be very productive for the people working close to the hallway to have to endure more traffic and noise.

Professor Côté proposed that the doors to the hallway be kept closed to help with the noise.

Professor Wykes reiterated that for the offices situated near the hallway the noise was overwhelming especially since they hear every flush of the toilet and the hand dryers.

Ms. Cherestes didn't think the project was worth the trouble to add just about ten more seats.

The other concern expressed by a few was traffic in the corridors and the issue of safety and fire regulations. Professor Scott thought that bags left at the foot of the tables might prove to be dangerous, people could trip over them.

A lot of discussion ensued.

Professor Raghavan thought we had bigger issues and that rather than tinker with small solutions to the problem of overcrowding, we need to stress the need for more space upon our colleagues downtown.

Professor Wade suggested that perhaps the lobby of the Macdonald Stewart could be better utilized.

Professor Côté asked for a show of hands to gauge how everyone felt about this project and faculty were overwhelmingly not in favour of the project as it was presented.

1.06 Other Business

a. Dean's Report

Dean Geitmann welcomed everyone to the new academic year, she was excited to see everyone and said she hoped everyone had a great summer.

Dean Geitmann commenced with Kudos.

Professor Emerita Harriet Kuhnlein received a 2017 Fulbright Specialist Award for work on traditional food systems of the Maori in New Zealand.

Professor Kyle Elliott was named among the world's top young scientists under the age of 40 by the World Economic Forum.

Professor Peter Brown was selected for the 2017 Herman Daly Award for outstanding contributions to ecological economics.

Professor Jaswinder Singh was elected as President of the Canadian Society of Agronomy effective July 1, 2017. The Dean mentioned that Professor Singh's research has been tweeted and retweeted Canada wide.

Elena Bennett and Jan Adamowski were named members of the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists, Royal Society of Canada.

For information purposes, the Dean mentioned that McGill has embarked upon a major and professional urban planning exercise for the downtown campus as well as our campus. They have hired external companies for that purpose. What that means is that we will not be carrying out projects on an ad hoc basis, in a patchwork fashion, as has been done for years. Instead the

University is trying to have an overall vision of the physical aspects of this campus in order to put several puzzle pieces and projects together. We will be conducting this process in the coming weeks and coming year. There will be consultations with individual departments in terms of their needs.

In the context of physical space the Dean wanted to mention a couple of projects that everyone should know about before any rumours circulate. Athletics is hoping to build a new facility, ideally along the waterfront, where the paddle shack is currently situated. This of course is hypothetical at the moment as a huge amount of funding would be required.

John Abbott is also facing a huge space deficit and has made a proposal to the Ministry of Education for repurposing Brittain Hall. They have had architects look at the building to see what renovations costs would be involved. This is another multi-million dollar project. The Dean just wants everyone to be aware in the interest of being transparent.

The Dean reported on news from the downtown campus. We have a new Vice Principal Research and Innovation, namely Martha Crago, who is very familiar with our campus and faculty.

The Provost's office presented a new strategic academic plan for the coming five years. The new plan was published and was communicated at Senate and consists of a list of objectives. There are five main objectives, namely, Be open to the world, Expand diversity, Lead innovation, Connect across disciplines and sectors, Connect with our communities. These have now been translated to much more concrete objectives. This list of objectives has been communicated to the Deans who in turn have trickled it down to the Chairs. The Chairs' mandate is to see which objectives apply to us.

Dean Geitmann wanted to draw attention to a series of events that are coming up.

On Monday, September 11, there will be the undergraduate USRA poster event. Principal Fortier will be attending the event, she will come in for a meeting prior to the event.

We are celebrating Macdonald's 110th Anniversary, and as we don't have too many social events, there will be a celebration next Friday, September 15th, we will have a food truck and dancing and it will take place at the Ceilidh. We have invited the postdoctoral Fellows to attend as well, as the Dean would like them to better integrate. Unfortunately the Dean couldn't extend the invitation to all the students as she didn't have a budget for that.

There will be a special presentation by Dr. Kanayo F. Nwanze, former President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) will be held on September 28th at 2:00 p.m. in the Faculty Lounge

Also on September 28th our Faculty is sponsoring the annual A. Jean de Grandpré lecture. It is being held downtown at the Redpath Museum, seats are limited so please RSVP. This year's guest panelists are Professor Elena Bennett of the Department of Natural Resource Sciences, and Nathalie Zinger, Executive Coordinator, Conservation Engagement, Nature Conservancy of Canada, who is also an alumna and a member of our Faculty Advisory Board. The lecture will be moderated by the Dean.

Homecoming will be held from October 12th to the 14th. Four of our young professors including Elliott, Faucher, Gravel and George will speak to Ecosystems & Health during a TEDx style presentation. It is to showcase to the alumni what our hires actually do in terms of research. There are some other events as well including a Food Science jubilee. Everyone is invited to attend Homecoming. Alumni really appreciate meeting their former and new professors.

Since the Dean had spoken earlier about Brittain Hall, in that context Professor Jardim asked a question about something that goes back a few years. He was under the impression that McGill had sold the property to John Abbott College for twenty four million dollars and wanted to know what happened to the money especially since we are now in need of a new building? We should be able to tap into that money. He felt that we should at least ask that question.

Dean Geitmann speculated that the money most likely went downtown, she said that we certainly didn't have it. The question most likely pre-dates the entire senior administration at McGill.

b. Announcement – Professor Wykes

Professor Wykes invited everyone to an event called Mac Shares, come and join staff and students in the Food and Nutrition Labs, to don chef coats and turn apples from our orchards into apple pies. Premiere Moisson will be donating the pastry. The pies will be donated to community organizations and community kitchens that the School of Nutrition usually works closely with. It's a great community event that also includes philanthropy. Professor Wykes encouraged everyone to participate.

There will be two hour sessions which will be held at 11h30 and 15h00.

As a bonus there will be a slice of apple pie and coffee served at the end of each session.

1.06 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Professor Raghavan seconded by Professor Driscoll.

CARRIED

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

CARRIED

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

1.08 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

CARRIED