

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
Meeting of Faculty  
Tuesday, October 19, 2010  
Leacock Council Room - L232**

**ATTENDANCE:** As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book.

**DOCUMENTS:** S-09-35, S-09-36, S-10-1 to S-10-10

Dean Grant called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m., and welcomed members to the first Faculty of Science meeting of the year.

The following new professors were acknowledged, and if present at the meeting were introduced by their Chairs or by Chair's Delegate:

**New Professors**

Biology	Assistant Professor Jonathan DAVIES
School of Computer Science	Assistant Professor Mohit SINGH
School of Computer Science	Assistant Professor Hamed HATAMI
Earth & Planetary Sciences	Assistant Professor Galen HALVERSON
Mathematics & Statistics	Faculty Lecturer Heekyoung HAHN
Mathematics & Statistics	Associate Professor Rustum CHOKSI
Mathematics & Statistics	Professor Christian GENEST
Mathematics & Statistics	Assistant Professor Jayce GETZ
Mathematics & Statistics	Assistant Professor Jean-Christophe NAVE
Mathematics & Statistics	Associate Professor Robert SEIRINGER
Physics	Assistant Professor William COISH
Physics	Assistant Professor Paul FRANÇOIS

The following recently tenured professors and recently promoted full professors were acknowledged, and introduced if present at the meeting.

**Tenured June 1, 2010**

Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences	Associate Professor Bruno TREMBLAY
Biology	Associate Professor Ehab ABOUHEIF
Biology	Associate Professor Paul HARRISON
Biology	Associate Professor Rudiger KRAHE
Biology / Redpath / MSE	Associate Professor Brian LEUNG
School of Computer Science	Associate Professor Joelle PINEAU
Psychology	Associate Professor Kristine ONISHI
Chemistry	Associate Professor Dmitrii PEREPICHKA
Geography	Associate Professor Jon UNRUH
Physics	Associate Professor Gilbert HOLDER
Physics	Associate Professor Guillaume GERVAIS

Physics Associate Professor Keshav DASGUPTA  
 Physics Associate Professor Robert RUTLEDGE

**Promoted to Full Professor in 2010**

Psychology Professor Professor Daniel LEVITIN  
 Psychology Professor Professor Karim NADER

Dean Grant welcomed all the new professors, and congratulated the newly tenured associate professors and those recently promoted to full professor.

Dean Grant presented small gifts to the new and newly promoted academic staff.

**(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Prof. Green **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hynes, that the Agenda be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**(2) RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF BENJAMIN J. GARNIER, EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF GEOGRAPHY**

Prof. Michel Lapointe from the Department of Geography read the Resolution on the Death of Prof. Benjamin J. Garnier.

It is with regret that I must inform Faculty that **Benjamin J. Garnier, Emeritus Professor of Geography**, passed away in northern Italy at the beginning of June, 2010 at the age of 93.

He was born of missionary parents in Tsinan, northern China in 1917 and educated (B.A. and M.A. degrees) at St. Catherine's College, Cambridge University. He was in charge of geography at Wellington Technical College, New Zealand and then moved to Dunedin in the South Island in 1945 to set up the Department of Geography at the University of Otago. He moved to the University of Ibadan, Nigeria from 1951 to 1961 and then joined Indiana University in Bloomington, USA. He came to McGill in 1965, replacing Ken Hare. He noted that he came to McGill attracted 'by the unique opportunities for field studies. McGill maintains weather stations and field studies in climatology on Axel Heiberg Island, at Knob Lake (Schefferville), in Montreal, on Barbados and in British Guiana.

He specialized in climatology, 'which stresses man's interrelationship with climate' and worked in New Zealand, Africa, the Caribbean and Canada. His research papers contributed to the understanding of the climate of New Zealand, evapotranspiration and water balance in western Africa, and the radiation balance of surfaces in the Caribbean and the Arctic. He wrote or edited five books on both climatology and geographical education. He was Chair of Geography at McGill from 1974 to 1980 and, according to an ex-Chair, acted with 'tact, skill and good humour'. He was appointed Emeritus Professor upon his retirement in 1982 and moved to northern Italy, his 'ancestral home'.

The Faculty of Science and the wider academic community extend condolences to Prof. Garnier's wife, Vanna Garnier, who resides in Turin.

**The resolution was adopted unanimously.**

**(3) SEATING OF STUDENT MEMBERS**

**S-10-1**

Dean Grant welcomed the new student members and asked them to stand up by way of introduction.

**(4) CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES**

**a) Bachelor of Arts and Science S-10-2**

**204.1** Ms. Allard said that there were 15 students graduating, while one candidate had not been approved for graduation.

Ms. Allard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Levine, that the above degree list be recommended to the Senate Steering Committee for the Bachelor of Arts and Science degree.

**The motion carried.**

**b) Bachelor of Science S-10-3**

**204.2** There were 82 students approved for graduation, with 8 candidates not having been approved.

Ms. Allard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Fabry, that the above degree list be recommended to the Senate Steering Committee for the Bachelor of Science degree.

**The motion carried.**

**c) Diploma in Environment S-10-4**

**204.3** There was one student approved for the Diploma.

Ms. Allard **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, that the above degree list be recommended to the Senate Steering Committee for the Diploma in Environment.

**d) Diploma in Meteorology S-10-5**

**204.4** There were no candidates for the Diploma in Meteorology.

Ms. Allard further **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hurtubise, that the Dean be given discretionary power to make such changes in the degree list as would be necessary to prevent injustice.

**The motion carried.**

**204.5** Ms. Allard thanked the departmental advisors, SOUSA, and special thanks to Mr. Peter Barry, Chief Academic Advisor.

**(5) MINUTES OF MAY 25, 2010 S-09-35**

Prof. Zuroff **moved**, seconded by Mr. Lyu, that the Minutes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**(6) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

(7) **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

a) **Nominating Committee**

**S-10-6**

**1. Science Nominating Committee (for information):**

The Nominating Committee consists of the Science Senate Representatives; the Convenor was Prof. Peter Grütter.

**2. Science Chairs' Council (for information):**

The Science Chairs' Council serves as an advisory committee to the Dean, and consists of the Dean, the Associate Dean, the Special Advisor to the Dean, the Director of Advising Services, and the heads of all units in the Faculty of Science, including the MSE and the Redpath Museum.

**3. Tenure Committee (for information):**

**4. Committee on Student Standing (for approval):**

The Committee on Student Standing reviews student appeals of decisions made by the Director of Student Advising.

Mr. Djafarian **moved**, seconded by Prof. Brown, that the membership of the Committee on Student Standing be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**5. Academic Committee (for approval):**

The Academic Committee reviews and approves all academic content taught in the Faculty of Science.

Ms. Ma **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hurtubise, that the membership of the Academic Committee be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**6. Scholarships Committee (for approval):**

The Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Education serves as the Chair of the Scholarships Committee.

Prof. Grütter **moved**, seconded by Prof. Levine, that the membership of the Scholarships Committee be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**7. Leo Yaffe & Principal's Prizes Committee (for approval):**

The Leo Yaffe and Principal's Prizes Committee recommends candidates for these awards for excellence in teaching.

Mr. Jacobson **moved**, seconded by Prof. Zuroff, that the membership of the Leo Yaffe and Principal's Prizes Committee be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**8. Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (for approval):**

Representatives of all faculties sit on the Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

Prof. Green **moved**, seconded by Prof. Zuroff, that the membership of the Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**9. B.A. & Sc. Program Administration Committee (for approval):**

The B.A. & Sc. PAC reviews changes and coordinates the administration of the B.A. & Sc. degree programs.

Mr. Lyu **moved**, seconded by Mr. Djafarian, that the Science membership of the B.A. & Sc. Program Administration Committee be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**(b) Scholarships Committee**

**(i) In-course Scholarships Report**

**S-08-40**

**207.1**

Associate Dean Grütter said that the Scholarships Report listed the awards given to non-graduating students for the 2009-2010 academic year. He said that in order to be eligible for a monetary award, an SGPA of 3.97 or higher was required, which in practice resulted in the top 5% of students in the Faculty of Science receiving monetary awards. He said that thanks to Dean Grant the awards had been 'topped up' with money from the Faculty of Science, thus providing students with more money than would have otherwise been available. Associate Dean Grütter also mentioned that the cut-off for the Dean's Honour List was 3.91.

Associate Dean Grütter **moved**, seconded by Ms. Ma, that the Scholarships Report be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**(ii) New Award for In-course Students:**

**GowriSankaran Prize in Mathematics and Statistics  
Value: \$1000**

**S-10-7**

**207.2**

Associate Dean Grütter introduced the above new award for continuing students. He thanked Prof. GowriSankaran and his family and friends for their generous donation.

**(c) Academic Committee**

**S-10-8**

**The Academic Committee approved the following on Tuesday, September 28, 2010:**

**207.3**

In the absence of Prof. de Takacsy, Ms. Nicole Allard, Director of Advising Services, introduced items in the Academic Committee Report.

**SECTION A: MODERATE PROGRAM CHANGES**

**207.4**

Ms. Allard briefly described the following two program changes, and the reasons for them.

**(1) Minor in Cognitive Science (AC-10-2)**

Ms. Allard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Zuroff, that the above program changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**(2) B.Sc. Major Program in Neuroscience (AC-10-3)**

Ms. Allard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Levine, that the above program changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**SECTION B: MODERATE COURSE CHANGES**

- McGill School of Environment  
ENVR 630 Civilization and Environment (**AC-10-4**)  
Changes: title, description, prerequisites, restrictions  
3 credits

Ms. Allard **moved**, seconded by Ms. Talmi, that the above changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**SECTION C: MINOR COURSE CHANGES (For Information Only)**

- Minor Course Change Report (**AC-10-1**)

**207.5** Ms. Allard pointed out the changes in the Minor Course Change Report.

**d) Committee on Student Standing S-10-9**

**207.6** Ms. Allard said that the CSS had met twice. Of the two requests, one was denied, and the other approved.

**(8) DEAN'S BUSINESS**

**a) Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List (DMURL) S-09-32**

**208.1** Ms. Allard described the conditions of eligibility for the DMURL - undergraduate students undertaking multidisciplinary research outside their principal area of study. She read out the names on the DMURL, and congratulated the students

**b) MyResearch for McGill Graduate Students**

**208.2** Mr. Louis Houle, Associate Director, Client Services, Sciences, Health and Engineering, McGill Library, gave a presentation on MyResearch, which is a workshop series for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows given by McGill Library in partnership with the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, and Teaching and Learning Services. The series was begun in Fall 2009.

**208.3** Mr. Houle said that MyResearch consisted of a series of four workshops. The workshops, which can be tailored to various subject areas, teach essential library research skills and knowledge about the various ways the library can support research, learning and teaching. He then described the workshops in more detail. (Further

information on the workshops can be found at [www.mcgill.ca/library/library-assistance/classes](http://www.mcgill.ca/library/library-assistance/classes)).

**208.4** The workshops had been very well received, and Mr. Houle provided some statistics and comments on the workshops.

**208.5** Mr. Houle asked members to encourage their students to take the MyResearch workshops.

**208.6** Dean Grant thanked Mr. Houle for his very informative presentation.

**c) Enrolment**

**S-10-11**

**208.7** Ms. Allard, on behalf of Prof. de Takacsy, said that the presentation on enrolment had been prepared by Prof. Laurie Hendren, who was currently on sabbatical leave from her position as Associate Dean (Academic).

**208.8** In the admissions process, a number of different pools of students apply to McGill, including students from CEGEPs, Ontario high schools, rest-of-Canada high schools, U.S. high schools and overseas high schools. Each pool is assigned an admission threshold based on grades, designed to generate approximately the desired number of offers based on past experience. Offers are made on a rolling basis. Pools have different deadlines. Students with better grades often receive offers earlier.

**208.9** Beginning in 2009, students from high schools apply to one of three admissions pools. Hence 2010 was the second year of operation of the admissions pools.

**208.10** (i) Biological, Biomedical and Life Sciences (BBL) pool — students planning to major in the Departments of Anatomy & Cell Biology, Biochemistry, Biology, Microbiology & Immunology, Physiology or Psychology.

**208.11** (ii) Physical, Earth, Math and Computer Science (PEMC) pool — students planning to major in the remainder of the units in Science.

**208.12** (iii) Education pool — students planning to take the concurrent B.Sc./B.Ed. (Science for teachers) program.

**208.13** At the end of the freshman year, students are able to freely choose their program from within their pool, apply for an intra-faculty transfer to change pools, or apply to Microbiology & Immunology or Neuroscience.

**208.14** Incoming CEGEP students are able to choose from pools (i) – (iii) or apply to the Microbiology & Immunology or Neuroscience pools. Students are able to freely change majors within a pool or apply for an intra-faculty transfer to change pools.

**208.15** Because of high demand, it is difficult to transfer to the BBL, Microbiology & Immunology, and Neuroscience pools. This high demand results in higher cut-offs for these pools. More work needs to be done on increasing interest in the PEMC pool. This could be done through targeted recruitment, encouraging intra-faculty transfer to the PEMC pool, and by encouraging students interested in medicine to take PEMC majors.

**208.16** Enrolment in the B.Sc. and the B.A. & Sc. for 2010 was higher than the targets, due to difficulties in predicting the results of particular cut-offs and to increases in the rate of acceptance of offers of admission to McGill.

- 208.17** For 2010-2011, total registration (U0-U3) increased by 17% compared with 2004. The increase in the U0 load from 2004 was 37.6%. This increase in the U0 load was mostly due to U0 Engineering students.
- 208.18** Ms. Allard briefly described the current situation regarding interfaculty transfers (transfers into and out of the B.Sc. and the B.A. & Sc.)
- 208.19** January admissions were only for CEGEP students and McGill graduates, and only into the PEMC pool.
- 208.20** In conclusion: For the high school pool, the historical yield was not a very good predictor, and the admission process should be made more agile. Ways to increase high school student interest in the PEMC pool should be examined. Regarding CEGEPs, McGill's market share should be increased, and McGill should work to increase interest in science in Québec high schools and CEGEPs. Since in the long term, enrolments are likely to continue to increase the U0 proportion of admissions, the Faculty should be prepared for further enrolment pressure on U0 courses.
- 208.21** It was pointed out that there had been a 25% increase in an introductory chemistry course. Continuation of this level of increase would be extremely difficult to accommodate.
- 208.22** Dean Grant thanked Ms. Allard for the presentation.

**(9) REPORT ON ACTIONS OF SENATE**

Please note that the entire Minutes of Senate are available on the Web at <http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/minutes/>.

**Senate Meeting of September 22, 2010 - Prof. David N. Harpp**

The Principal recounting recent progress since May on the Green McGill Project, noting the University street bike path, the "James Square" sculpture garden, the establishment of a "car free" campus, the renovation of the terraces, the closure of McTavish Street to vehicular traffic and parking, and the creation of a park to replace the concrete terrace above the Stewart Biology Building. She noted that the University has \$413 million in projects currently underway. Of that, \$170 million in projects is currently under construction, and the balance is substantially complete. In addition, the University has an excess of \$100 million in projects valued at \$1 million or more under development.

She spoke about Bill 100, noting that it treats universities in the same light as crown corporations.

The Chair gave highlights of McGill's recent presentation to the *Commission parlementaire de la culture et de l'éducation*.

Then there were the questions. This section lasted for what seemed like hours.

1. What steps are being taken by McGill to foster business? The V.-P. (Research) responded by indicating it will establish priorities in these directions.
2. There were 6 sub-questions on rates for international students taking French courses where McGill is now charging tuition when before it was free.
3. The next question had to do with what was perceived as an inconsistent policy about putting an emphasis on student-centered activities when graduate work was emphasized

in the Commission presentation. There was a coherent 500 word answer basically saying that we have always put an emphasis on the undergraduate experience. Eventually the Deputy Provost (Life and Learning) Morton Mendelson indicated that we need to reduce courses with very small enrolments.

4. A question was raised about the new Athletics Board that did not meet all of last year. It was commented by The Deputy Provost (Life and Learning) Morton Mendelson that this board is not accountable to Senate.

5. The closure of the Architecture Café was challenged but the Deputy Provost (Life and Learning) Morton Mendelson indicated the question would not be reconsidered.

The Principal gave her Annual Report. Comments were given about the nearly 1 billion dollars of deferred maintenance along with the estimate of \$5.2 billion in economic contributions made to the Province by our ~40,000 students/staff.

The V.-P. (Research) Rima Rozen gave a detailed summary of our research performance based mainly on grants obtained indicating that we need to pull up our socks compared with UBC, Alberta and Toronto.

Various reports were given for the APC, Senate Nominating and the appointment of sexual harassment assessors.

A generous grant was obtained permitting the naming of the School of Nursing as the Richard Ingram School.

The meeting concluded on a confusing note whereby it was posed to reconsider the closure of the Architecture Café.

The meeting concluded at nearly 6:00 p.m.

**(10) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no members' questions.

**(11) OTHER BUSINESS**

**211.1** Dean Grant said that the 6<sup>th</sup> Trottier Symposium had been held on October 18 and 19, 2010. He said that at 6:00 p.m. on the day of the current meeting, there would be a talk in Leacock 132 given by James Randi, concerning the investigation of pseudoscientific and paranormal claims.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.