

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Tuesday, April 7, 2009
Leacock Council Room - L232**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book.

DOCUMENTS: S-08-24, S-08-25, S-08-27, S-08-28

Dean Grant called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Prof. Jeff McKenzie from the Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences gave a three-minute research presentation prior to the meeting.

Dean Grant thanked Prof. McKenzie for his presentation, and said that the breadth of research across the Faculty was astounding.

The research presentation of Prof. Steve Robertson, Department of Physics, was postponed to a future Faculty meeting.

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- a. Two additional items to be added to the Academic Committee Report, Item # 5(a)
- (i) Policy on Transfer Credits for Distance Education Courses (AC-08-96 [Revised])
 - (ii) Course Over-Registration (AC-08-97 [Revised])
- b. The Senate Reports of March 4 and March 25, 2009 to be presented by Prof. R. Sieber and Prof. I. Butler to be postponed to the Faculty of Science Meeting scheduled for May 19, 2009.

Prof. Dudek **moved**, seconded by Prof. Moore, that the amended Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

(2) RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF PROF. WILLIAM O. MOSER, DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS

702.1 On behalf of Prof. J. Hurtubise, Chair of the Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Professor W.G. Brown read the Resolution on the Death of Prof. Moser.

Faculty of Science Members,

It is with regret I must inform the Faculty that Professor William O. Moser died on January 28, 2009.

William O. J. Moser (1927-2009) was born in Winnipeg, and graduated in 1949 from the University of Manitoba, following which he obtained a Master's degree in Mathematics in 1951 at the University of Minnesota. Moser's Ph.D. Thesis, written at the University of Toronto under H. S. M. Coxeter, evolved into the oft-cited standard Ergebnisse reference on combinatorial group theory (1957) known to generations as "Coxeter and Moser". Before arriving at McGill he held faculty positions at the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Manitoba. Much of his later, seminal, mathematical work was in the area now known as "discrete geometry", where, with Peter Brass and János Pach, he

published in 2005 "Research Problems in Discrete Geometry". Moser's interest in problem solving extended far beyond this definitive monograph, and he was active for many years in provincial and national mathematics competitions for pre-university students, and in the publication for the Mathematical Association of America of "Five Hundred Mathematical Challenges" with E. Barbeau and M. Klamkin; along with humour and other irreverence, problem solving was one of the missions he shared with his older brother Leo Moser (1921-1970), who was also a mathematician. Willy, as he was known to his friends, served as President (1973-1975) and in other capacities in the Canadian Mathematical Congress - the predecessor to the Canadian Mathematical Society, and received their Distinguished Service Award in 2003. His experience in editing the Congress's journals served him well subsequently in multiple capacities, including editing his friends' writing - whether or not they requested it.

Moser's relations with colleagues were more brotherly than collegial. Typically one might find in his entourage a speed chess match, a peripatetic friend expounding latest discoveries and conjectures, and others enjoying the conversion to mathematics of the potent coffee Willy brewed for his academic family, all bathed in the pungent second-hand smoke of Willy's cigar or pipe. He stubbornly remained active as an Emeritus Professor at McGill after his retirement in 1997, and after a subsequent, debilitating stroke. He will be missed by many.

The Faculty of Science extends its condolences to William Moser's beloved wife, Beryl Pearlman, his son Lionel and daughter-in-law Karla, his daughters Marla and Paula, his son-in-laws Irwin Nayer and Paul Labute; his grandchildren, Adam and Robert Nayer, Steven and Simon Labute, Mina and Sydney Moser, Amy and Molly Newborn.

The Resolution was adopted unanimously.

702.2 Dean Grant thanked Prof. Brown for reading the Resolution.

(3) MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 10, 2009

S-08-24

Prof. Moore **moved**, seconded by Prof. Dudek, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

(4) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

(5) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

a) Academic Committee

S-08-25

705.1 Associate Dean Hendren informed members that the new 2009/2010 Undergraduate Calendars were being delivered to select advisers in units and in Dawson Hall. She said that the Faculty of Science had paid for these copies, so that advisors would have printed Calendars available.

The Academic Committee approved the following on Tuesday, March 24, 2009:

SECTION A: NEW PROGRAMS

BARBADOS INTERDISCIPLINARY TROPICAL STUDIES (BITS)

- B.Sc. Field Study Minor

AC-08-106

After introducing the above document, Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Fussmann, that the program be approved for Science students and that BITS be available for the B.Sc. Field Study Minor.

The motion carried.

SECTION B: MAJOR PROGRAM CHANGES

Mathematics & Statistics

- Honours in Applied Mathematics

AC-08-102

Following an explanation of the changes in the above program, Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hundemer, that the program changes be approved.

The motion carried.

SECTION C: NEW COURSES

GEOGRAPHY

GEOG 503

Advanced Topics in Health Geog
3 credits

AC-08-100

After introducing the above new course, Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Moore, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

SECTION D: MAJOR COURSE CHANGES

(1) MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS

MATH 470

Honours Research Project
Changes: title, description, prerequisites
3 credits

AC-08-101

705.2

Associate Dean Hendren said that with the changes to the above Honours course, all the Honours programs in the Faculty of Science would now contain a research component.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hundemer, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

(2) PSYCHOLOGY

PSYC 199

FYS: Mind-Body Medicine
Changes: teaching unit, administering faculty, restriction
3 credits

AC-08-105

705.3

Associate Dean Hendren said that PSYC 199 had previously been offered by the Department of Social Studies of Medicine. Since the Department was no longer interested in hosting the course, it would now be offered by the Department of Psychology. PSYC 199 would be another FYS course available to Science students, and would be useful for students interested in a small course.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Stix, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

SECTION E: MINOR COURSE CHANGES (For Information Only)

- Report on Minor Course Changes

AC-08-99

Associate Dean Hendren described the changes in the Report on Minor Course Changes.

SECTION F: MINOR PROGRAM CHANGES (For Information Only)

- Report on Minor Program Changes

AC-08-P5

Associate Dean Hendren described the changes in the Report on Minor Program Changes.

SECTION G: OTHER (For Approval)

(i) FACULTY OF SCIENCE POLICY ON TRANSFER CREDITS FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION COURSES **AC-08-96
(REV)**

705.4 Ms. Allard introduced the above policy and said that currently there was no maximum number of distance education credits that could be transferred to a McGill degree, and no specification of what these credits could be used for. The proposed policy would allow students to transfer a maximum of six credits of distance education courses and would specify that these credits could be used only for electives.

Ms. Allard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hundemer, that the proposed policy be approved.

The motion carried.

(ii) COURSE OVER-REGISTRATION **AC-08-97
(REV)**

705.5 Ms. Allard said that currently students in satisfactory standing may take up to 17 credits per term, and Science students whose CGPA is above 3.00 may take up to 18 credits per term. She proposed that the credit limit for students in satisfactory standing remain the same, but that Science students whose CGPA is at 3.50 or above be able to take up to 19 credits.

Ms. Allard **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, that the proposal in Document AC-08-97 be approved.

The motion carried.

b) Scholarships Report – New Award **S-08-27**

Dr. Richard and Carolina J. Walls Best in the West Scholarship in Earth & Planetary Sciences – Value \$4,000

705.6 Associate Dean Grütter introduced the above new scholarship.

(6) REPORT ON THE SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE SOCIETY PEER TUTORING PROGRAM

706.1 Ms. Susanna Yim, Director of SUS Peer Tutoring, gave a report on the activities of the SUS Peer Tutoring Program.

The 2008-2009 Executive was:

Director: Susanna Yim
 Tutor Coordinator: William Carroll
 Tutee Coordinator: Noha Mahdi Fall 2008 And
 Michael Walsh Winter 2009
 Administrative Coordinator: Matthew McIntosh
 SUS Vice-President (Academic) Ayman Ashraf

706.2 The mission statement of the Peer Tutoring Program:
 The Science Undergraduate Peer Tutoring Program is dedicated to providing free, accessible and high quality tutoring for McGill Science students of all departments and years regardless of their financial situation. We are committed to facilitating the transition from high school or CEGEP to university and to ensure that every student is afforded the opportunity to succeed in their studies.

706.3 Ms. Yim gave the history of the Peer Tutoring Program, its 2008-2009 goals, achievements and statistics, and described feedback the program had received. She said that some of the challenges for 2009-2010 were to increase funding, expand the program's high quality service, strive to forge a closer connection with professors, and create a partnership with other faculties.

706.4 A student member said that the Executive had worked very hard and he hoped that there would be continued support for this initiative.

706.5 Ms. Yim especially thanked the following:

- The 2008-2009 Executive
- SUS (Academic) Ayman Ashraf
- Associate Dean (Academic) Laurie Hendren
- Prof. William Brown (Mathematics & Statistics)
- Professors and TAs of BIOL 112

706.6 Ms. Yim answered members' questions.

706.7 Dean Grant thanked Ms. Yim and the Executive for this very valuable service.

(7) DEAN'S BUSINESS

- How to Leverage Research Opportunities for our Faculty

707.1 The meeting moved into the Committee of the Whole with Associate Dean Grütter as Chair.

707.2 Associate Dean Grütter said that the issue was the way in which the Faculty should spend money to maximize its impact on units with regard to research. Should there be seed funding or funding by some sort of formula?

707.3 Dean Grant added that he would like members' opinions as to whether the Faculty should set and fund priorities, or whether resources should be given to Chairs in order for them to make decisions that reflect McGill's strategic priorities. He said that he would like to be able to convey the Faculty's feedback to the administration.

707.4

Some of the points raised were:

- That chairs were in the best position to know what local needs were
- That Faculty control would be more transparent and accountable than local control
- That in distributing money there was always the possibility of instituting a reporting mechanism
- That Chairs could report back to the Faculty
- That research cannot be mandated and directed from above
- That often Chairs are not given sufficient time to determine how to dispense money
- That seed money was preferable to money spent in one particular laboratory
- That effort and money spent in bringing people together could be very productive
- That money could be spent both on ongoing projects and on developing wholly new projects

(8) 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 Report of February 11, 2009 – Prof. T. Moore

After two obituaries, the Principal noted proudly that the McGill Sustainability Office had opened that morning, a project 15 years in gestation, and commented briefly on the much-publicized issues of compensation and severance, observing that McGill attracts the best people internationally. The Principal also commented on the federal and provincial government responses to the financial crisis: there are some good aspects, such as infrastructure support and targeted research, and bad ones, such as a freezing of support to the three main granting agencies. A budget will be presented to the Board of Governors in May. The University Administration has created two task forces to address the financial implications, and the Provost's task force seeks input from the McGill community on how revenues can be increased or costs can be cut. In response to a question, she noted that the members of the Task Force Committees are chosen by the Chair of the committee.

Question Period comprised one question from a student senator representing a group of students, many of whom were in the gallery. The question concerned student input into the McGill Intellectual Property Policy Review and in particular the University responding to the need to distribute health innovations widely and cheaply, introduced by UBC, Berkeley and other universities. In a succinct and clear response, Vice-Principal Thérien noted that the review had not yet started, that students were members of the bodies that would undertake the review and he would be delighted to meet, as soon as possible, students and hear their concerns.

Arising from APC business, approval was granted to the creation of a Barbados Interdisciplinary Tropical Studies Field Semester, a joint BSc Major in Biology and Mathematics, an Institute for Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies and a Biodiversity Research Centre.

The long-awaited policy on the designation of retired academic and librarian staff and their benefits was presented. In essence, those professors who have retired will be called 'retired' rather than the current 'past'. A new Emeritus Professor category will be established, available to those who have been Full Professors for at least 5 years and have maintained the standards for which they were appointed, upon the recommendation of the Chair, the Dean and the Provost. A McGill Medal can also be awarded to those retirees who have served at least 10 years at the rank of Full Professor and have 'made exceptional contributions to the University and/or scholarly communities over an

extended period of time through excellence in research, teaching, creative or scholarly activity, academic leadership or any combination thereof'. In response to a comment from Senator Butler, it was noted that conferring these titles did not automatically generate a McGill appointment, which is required to maintain NSERC funding. Senate warmly welcomed and approved the policy.

Senator Smith presented a detailed statistical analysis of salary differentials (by gender) at McGill, based on 2006-7 data. The conclusion was that, taking into account gender, experience, department, rank and external or internal awards, there was no evidence of gender bias in the Faculty of Science, marginal in the Faculty of Arts and probable in the Faculty of Medicine.

Senate concluded with a presentation by the Deputy-Provost, the first 'Report Card' of progress attained to reach the goals established by the Principal's Task Force on Student Life and Learning. Significant items are the creation of a one-stop shopping centre for students in the basement the McLennan Library, amalgamating several student-oriented offices. The Deputy-Provost places great attention on student questionnaire responses and comparison of McGill's performance with other universities in North America. Performance was good in the 'level of academic challenge' but poor on 'active and collaborative learning', 'student-faculty interactions' and a 'supportive campus environment'. The Deputy Provost noted that actions were being taken to address these short-falls, though it seemed to at least one Senator that enhancing the 'online experience' for students (such as WebCT) was counter to collaborative learning and student-faculty interaction.

- **Senate Reports of March 4, 2009 and March 25, 2009**

Prof. R. Sieber will report on the Senate meeting of March 4, 2009 and Prof. I. Butler will report on the Senate meeting of March 25, 2009 at the May 19, 2009 Faculty of Science meeting.

(9) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD

709.1 In response to a member's question, Dean Grant said that he had heard that the implementation of salary changes would be shifted from December to June, which would result in a six-month freeze in salary for all academic and managerial staff. This would be in line with the recent MUNACA Collective agreement. His understanding was that the shift would not affect MUNASA and MAUT increases that had already been negotiated. Moving salary adjustments to May would mean they were done at the same time as the annual reports. Chairs and administrative assistants/officers had more time in the Winter term to deal with issues such as these.

(10) RESULTS OF SCIENCE ELECTION FOR SENATE

S-08-28

710.1 Dean Grant pointed out that the following people were elected by acclamation to Senate for terms of three years, beginning September 1, 2009:

- Prof. D. Harpp, Department of Chemistry
- Prof. T. Moore, Department of Geography

710.2 Continuing Senators and the number of years left to serve are:

- | | |
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| - Prof. I. Butler, Department of Chemistry | - one year |
| - Prof. K. Franklin, Department of Psychology | - two years |
| - Prof. K. GowriSankaran, Department of Mathematics & Statistics | - two years |
| - Prof. P. Grütter, Department of Physics | - two years |
| - Prof. L. Hendren, School of Computer Science | - two years |

- Prof. P. Lasko, Department of Biology - two years
- Prof. R. Sieber, Department of Geography/McGill School of Environment) - two years

710.3 Dean Grant welcomed back Senators Harpp and Moore, and thanked the continuing Senators for their service.

(11) OTHER BUSINESS

711.1 Dean Grant said that due to budget cutbacks, there would be no wine and cheese reception at the meeting, but there would be a reception following the last Faculty meeting of the year, to be held on May 19, 2009 at 3 pm.

711.2 There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.