

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Tuesday, April 8, 2008
Leacock Council Room - L232**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book.

DOCUMENTS: S-07-27 to S-07-30

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

Pre-Agenda Research Presentations:

Professor Paul Kry, School of Computer Science
Professor Bruno Tremblay, Department of Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Due to the number of items at the current meeting, the Committee of the Whole discussion concerning the B.Sc./M.Sc. (Item #8) was postponed to a future meeting.

Prof. Gale **moved**, seconded by Prof. Whitesides, that the amended Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

(2) RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR MICHAEL HERSCHORN

Professor David Wolfson, Chair of the Department of Mathematics & Statistics, presented the Resolution on the Death of Prof. Michael Herschorn.

It is with regret I must inform the Faculty of Science that Professor Michael Herschorn died on March 2, 2008, in his 75th year. He had been ill for some time.

Michael Herschorn attended the legendary Baron Byng High School from which he graduated as one of the top ten high school students in the province. Thereafter he spent almost his entire academic life at McGill. He obtained his B.A. Honours degree in mathematics and physics in 1953, and his Masters and Doctoral degrees in the Department of Mathematics by 1958. He won the coveted Anne Molson Gold Medal as the top undergraduate student in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. Michael joined the Department of Mathematics in 1958 as an Assistant Professor and retired in 1998 from the renamed Department of Mathematics and Statistics, as a Full Professor.

From early on Michael committed himself to teaching and administration. In both he demonstrated his sharp mind and obsessive attention to detail. Starting out in the early 70's as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the Faculty of Arts and Science for two years, he then served as Associate Dean in the Faculty of Science for six years, followed by four years as Dean of Students. He was Chair of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics for two terms. Michael was a truly professional administrator with a great sense of justice and an encyclopedic knowledge of most things to do with McGill. It seemed impossible that not only did he know every course in his own department but he seemed to know courses from many others. Student advisors who attempted to make inappropriate course substitutions would be inevitably mildly admonished by the ever-vigilant Michael. In addition, he was a member of the University Senate, and the Board of Governors.

Michael Herschorn taught in the rapidly disappearing blackboard and chalk tradition. He was, quite simply, outstanding, and loved by his students-very tough, and yet the emphasis was not on intimidation but on mathematics as a subject to be done rather than on a subject to be passively absorbed. Therefore, proofs were left unfinished, to be completed by his students at home. The next class, students were randomly called upon to show the results of their efforts to their fellow students. Needless to say, very few proofs remained unfinished.

Beyond the grey-suited, always smartly dressed, Michael Herschorn the academic, there was a person who showed great concern for his colleagues and his staff. Several have stories of how Michael, with his strong medical connections, arranged for a quick appointment and even ensured that they had the right surgeon.

The Faculty of Science extends its condolences to Michael Herschorn's wife, Cynthia, daughters Madelyn and Sally, his son-in-law Ed, his grandchildren, Shana and Joshua, and to his many friends. We have lost a colleague who greatly enriched the life of this university. Those of us who knew him will not forget him.

The Resolution was adopted unanimously.

802.1 Dean Grant said that on behalf of the Faculty, a letter of condolences would be sent to the family of Prof. Herschorn.

(3) MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12, 2008 S-07-27

Prof. Kilfoil **moved**, seconded by Prof. Wolfson, 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) Committee on Student Standing S-07-28

Associate Dean Leighton drew members' attention to the Report of the Committee on Student Standing.

b) Academic Committee S-07-29

The Academic Committee approved the following on February 19 and March 25, 2008:

SECTION A: NEW PROGRAM

BIOLOGY (New Option):

Ph.D. in Biology; Developmental Biology Option

AC-07-97

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Levine, that the option be adopted.

The motion carried.

SECTION B: MAJOR PROGRAM CHANGES

None

SECTION C: NEW COURSE

CHEMISTRY

CHEM 319

Chem of Energ Storage & Util
3 credits

AC-07-102

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ronis, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

SECTION D: MAJOR COURSE CHANGES

None

SECTION E: MINOR COURSE CHANGES (For Information Only)

(1) Report on Minor Course Changes

AC-07-94

(2) Report on Minor Course Changes

AC-07-99

Associate Dean Hendren explained briefly the above Reports.

SECTION F: MINOR PROGRAM CHANGES (For Information Only)

- Report on Minor Program Changes

AC-07-P4

Associate Dean Hendren explained the Report on Minor Program Changes.

SECTION G: OTHER (For Information Only)

(1) Course Descriptions

AC-07-103

805.1 Associate Dean Hendren pointed out the e-mails in Document AC-07-103. She said that the upshot was that SCTP would continue modifying course descriptions according to current procedures, at least until a best-practice analysis of course descriptions had been done.

(2) The Role of the Honours Program

AC-07-104

805.2 Associate Dean Hendren said that as part of the undergraduate Academic Program Review, the role of the B.Sc. Honours Programs had come into focus. Discussions at the Academic Committee meetings of February 19, 2008 and March 25, 2008 had highlighted three points:

(1) The need to ensure that excellent students, particularly women, know that they can enter an Honours program.

(2) The issue of whether Honours students were obtaining lower grades than they would have achieved in a Majors program. If Honours students actually were obtaining lower grades, taking an Honours program would disadvantage the students in some situations, since selection of students for, for example, NSERC scholarships, are based at least partly on GPA.

(3) That there should be a requirement for research in Honours programs.

805.3 Dean Grant reiterated that there should be a requirement for research in all B.Sc. Honours Programs.

(3) High School Curriculum Reform

805.4 The above item was postponed to a future meeting.

(6) PRESENTATION BY PROVOST ANTHONY C. MASI FOLLOWED BY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

806.1 Provost Masi said that he had been attending meetings of the faculties and describing issues affecting McGill, and ways to move forward.

806.2 Provost Masi said that he had been thinking about what is distinctive about McGill. This came down to the "i's":

- identity
- international
- inquiry-based
- interdisciplinary
- innovation
- infrastructure

806.3 In this context, Provost Masi discussed the following topics:

The general principles underlying McGill's strategic planning activities
 McGill's strategic statements — The White Paper, The Principal's Task Force on Student Life and Learning *and* The Administrative Response, The Master Plan, and Campaign McGill
 Constraints on McGill
 McGill's budget situation and proposed solutions
 Faculty of Science undergraduate and graduate enrolment
 Faculty of Science undergraduate teaching
 Academic staffing in the Faculty of Science
 Space issues in the Faculty of Science
 Campaign McGill and the Faculty of Science's goals

806.4 Provost Masi answered members' questions.

806.5 Provost Masi's presentation is available from the Dean's Office (Josie D'Amico, e-mail: josie.damico@mcgill.ca) or the Provost's office (brooke.cromar@mcgill.ca).

806.6 Dean Grant thanked Provost Masi for the presentation.

(7) REPORT ON SUS PEER TUTORING

807.1 Ms. Michèle Retrouvey, President of SUS Peer Tutoring, gave a report on the activities of the SUS Peer Tutoring Program.

807.2 The coordinators for 2007-2008 were:

- Michèle Retrouvey, President
- Julie Huang, Tutor Coordinator

- Lisa Caulley, Tutee Coordinator
- William Caulley, Feedback Coordinator/Administrative Coordinator
- Suzanna Yim, Website Coordinator

807.3 The mission statement of the Peer Tutoring Program:

- To provide free, accessible and high-quality tutoring in McGill Science courses and to facilitate the transition from high school or CEGEP to university.
- To establish an interaction between new and experienced students.

807.4 Ms. Retrouvey outlined the history of the Peer Tutoring Program, its 2007-2008 goals, achievements, statistics and received feedback. As well, she described the program's goals for 2008-2009.

807.5 Dean Grant thanked Ms. Retrouvey for the Report, and said that the SUS Peer Tutoring Program provided a very valuable service to students.

(8) DEAN'S BUSINESS

- Committee of the Whole Discussion: *Possibility of a B.Sc./M.Sc. Degree*

Due to lack of time, the above item was postponed to a future Faculty meeting.

(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 December 5, 2007 - Prof. K. GowriSankaran

The meeting commenced with routine adoption of the Report of the Steering Committee and adopted the agenda. This was followed by Chair's remarks. The Principal included in her remarks announcement of kudos of several colleagues and students. She also mentioned the efforts of the University to stall the proposed legislation of Quebec Government to control university investments, borrowing and entrepreneurship and major infrastructure development. (You may recall that this directly due to mismanagement of funds by the sister university UQAM).

In the Part A: Questions and Motions by members, there were five questions. The first one handled by Senate was regarding the salary policy of management staff. The question had been asked by Ms. Rosemary Cooke. There had been considerable dissatisfaction amongst the M-class employees regarding the salary increases accorded last December. The questioner demanded to know from the Provost why there had not been formal consultation with the group, the lack of scale increase for (many) managers in this year's increase and further demanding explanation between the considerable discrepancy in the salary policies of academic staff and managerial staff?

The discussion based on this question lasted a good half hour and there were a number of M-staff present in the visitors' gallery. The Provost gave a long winding explanation with lot of data, but (at least in my opinion) he did not answer directly the question 'why there was no scale increase' and even seemed to be either unaware of it or did not want to acknowledge it. He also apologized for lack of proper communication with the group regarding the salary increase policy and attributed it to the arrival of a new Associate VP in charge of Human Resources and promised that this will not repeat. He however, underlined a very important distinction between the salary policies of academic staff which is based on international market whereas the managerial staff increase is based on local market.

2. The next question regarding academic salary differential by gender was read out by Professor Tallant on behalf of Professor Paré. There were two questions. The first one demanded an explanation from the Provost concerning the delay in producing a report on this matter which was promised for 2004. The second one demanded to know what steps if any he had taken in the preparation of a report containing a competent re-examination of salary differentials by gender and the time factor as to when it will be shared with the University community.

In responding to the question, the Provost announced that the services of an econometrician from the Faculty of Arts have been requested by him and that work is in progress. He said a suitable model to make appropriate comparison is not yet in place. He cited that there are a number of factors such as the discipline, rank, years of service in that rank, years of service at McGill, special chair including Dawson/McGill, research output, time on leave and merit history, etc. to be taken into account in such a study. He concluded his long remarks (intervened by a couple of questions) by promising that he hopes to have a model acceptable to the administration and MAUT contingent of the CASP within next couple of months.

The next question by student senator Erica Martin was about the use of McGill name and logo. At the request of the Chair, the Secretary General, Johanne Pelletier, explained that McGill has trademarked its name and logos, but the protection afforded by the trademark is not automatic. It is up to the Institution to ensure it by creating, communicating and enforcing policies and guidelines. She further stated that there has not been any changes made in the recent years regarding such guidelines.

The fourth question was by another student senator Mr. Borkotoky. He stated that in a recent survey based university ranking that appeared in The Globe and Mail, McGill did well in some categories but rather poorly in the following areas: career counseling and placement services, campus medical services and overall quality of food services. The Deputy Provost, Morton Mendelson, responded by first stating that many of these will be addressed by the Task Force on Student Life and Learning. He added that continuous monitoring is needed and certainly were warranted the quality should be improved.

The last question was by the student Senator Mr. Luther. He wanted to know how did McGill disseminate the avant garde research of our professors and researchers to the general public. On the request of the Chair, the Vice-Principal (Communications and Intergovernmental relations) Mr. Michael Goldbloom responded. He explained that there were seven basic ways of doing it. 1. Daily media pitching system, 2. Handling of media queries 3. Press release 4. op-ed pieces 5. Articles in The McGill Reporter 6. McGill Home page and lastly 7. Facilitation of electronic media coverage.

In Part B of the meeting there were routine motions from the APC and Nominating Committee. Also, Senate moved into a committee of the whole to consider 1) the response of the administration to the report of the Task Force on Student Life and Learning and 2) to consider the Financial report for the year ending May 2007 from the VP Roy. These documents can be found on the web page of Senate.

Senate Meeting of February 13, 2008 - Prof. D. Harpp

The Principal noted that the gap in McGill's funding continues to grow and there is a strong expectation on the part of the public for accountability.

The Principal mentioned that Bill 32 regarding proposed legislation regulating university infrastructure was *not* passed at the National Assembly, but the government is looking at

ways of developing regulations that need only cabinet approval. Bill 44, legislation to control university investments, borrowing, and other activities, was passed. The law did not exclude endowments, therefore they would be subject to the same oversight by governments.

QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS BY MEMBERS

Does the University have a policy on the departure of professors during the semester (when they are teaching classes)?

Professor Mendelson responded it was not a widespread problem and assigning teaching is a management issue under the purview of the Chair, Director or Dean, and is not a policy issue.

Several recurring issues have emerged in the last four years which, in my opinion, jeopardize the quality of education offered at McGill:

- Organic chemistry labs are now conducted once every other week as opposed to weekly as previously.
- Project group sizes in engineering have increased to a level that is detrimental to the student's learning experience
- "Simulcasts" of classes are being conducted due to a lack of lecture space.

What is the university doing to ensure newly admitted students are receiving the same quality of education as in previous years?

As indicated in our Mission Statement, McGill is committed to excellence in teaching. As Senators are aware, the University has been actively renewing the professoriate and, since 2001, we have hired almost 800 new, tenure-track professors. With respect to physical facilities, the Teaching and Learning Space Work Group is developing a multi-year plan for improving classrooms and laboratories at McGill

Dean Grant commented that \$1M per year for the next two years would be put towards laboratory renovations in the Faculty of Science. It is anticipated deriving funds from philanthropic donations.

University Master Plan - Planning and Design Principles

Vice-Principal Roy made the following remarks. This process started in 2004, when the University recognised the need for a master plan for both campuses. In 2005, architects were commissioned to prepare a physical master plan of two phases - an initial planning base, and an exploration phase, with an academic strategic plan prepared in parallel. Consultations have been widely taken

Professor Nicell briefly presented the University Master Plan -

He indicated that there are several examples of buildings which lack certain spaces (teaching, food or social spaces) but that ideally there should be common areas included in all buildings, which create opportunities for interaction. New spaces will not be added to buildings already under construction, but a master plan for food services is currently being developed to ensure that adequate food services are provided to all quarters.

There are two committees working on space. - the Teaching and Learning Space Committee covers teaching spaces and research space, the second committee covers personal office space, consultative space, and community learning space. This committee's report should be available in March or April.

REPORTS FROM UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENT GROUPS

The Provost said that there are currently no tenure-track academic appointments to research centres, and there is no intention for that to change. He also indicated that a merit policy was being addressed for professional associates, research assistants and research associates.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

- Senate Meeting of March 5, 2008 - Prof. N. Roulet:
- Senate Meeting of March 26, 2008 - Prof. D. Ryan:

Prof. Roulet and Prof. Ryan will present their Reports at the next Faculty of Science meeting.

(10) **MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no members' questions.

(11) **OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.