

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
Meeting of Faculty  
Tuesday, December 1, 2009  
Leacock Council Room - L232**

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

**DOCUMENTS:** S-09-11 to S-09-13

Before the start of the meeting, **Prof. James D. Ford from the Department of Geography** gave a three-minute presentation on his research.

Dean Grant thanked Prof. Ford for his impressive presentation.

Ms. Carole Kleingrib, Director of the Development Office in the Faculty of Science, circulated the latest edition of Team Science Today. Dean Grant pointed out that two of the 2009 Nobel Prizes went to McGill Science graduates.

Dean Grant called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. He said that he would like to see an increase in attendance at Faculty meetings. Among other reasons, it was important that more people attended meetings to deliberate Agenda items. Dean Grant asked for suggestions of ways to increase attendance.

**(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Mr. Issar **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gyakum, that the Agenda be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**(2) MINUTES OF OCTOBER 13, 2009 S-09-11**

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

**The motion carried.**

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

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

**(4) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**a) Academic Committee S-09-12**

The Academic Committee approved the following on Tuesday, October 20, 2009:

**SECTION A: NEW COURSES**

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| 1) | Bachelor of Arts and Science<br>BASC 396 | Undergraduate Research Project<br>3 credits | <b>AC-09-27</b> |
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**401.1** Associate Dean Hendren introduced the above -396 undergraduate research course for B.A. & Sc. students. The course would have an interdisciplinary flavour incorporating Arts and Science.

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

**The motion carried.**

- 2) Geography  
GEOG 515 Contemporary Dilemmas of Devlp  
3 credits **AC-09-28**

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

**The motion carried.**

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

- Minor Course Changes **AC-09-26**

**SECTION F: MINOR PROGRAM CHANGES (For Information Only)**

- Minor Program Changes **AC-09-P1**

The Academic Committee approved the following on Tuesday, November 17, 2009:

**SECTION A: MAJOR PROGRAM CHANGES**

- 1) B.A. & Sc.  
- Interfaculty Program in Cognitive Science **AC-09-33**  
- Honours in Cognitive Science **AC-09-34**

**401.2** Associate Dean Hendren thanked Ms. Wendy Brett and the Cognitive Science Committee for their work in updating and modernizing the programs. She mentioned that the above Cognitive Science Programs were available only to B.A. & Sc. students, and she emphasized the importance of keeping programs up to date.

**401.3** Associate Dean Hendren said that an increasing proportion of B.A. & Sc. students were taking the B.A. & Sc. Interfaculty programs. She said she was pleased with the trend, and that interfaculty programs would become increasingly important in the future. She asked members for any ideas about potential new interfaculty programs.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, that the above program changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

- 2) Biochemistry  
- Major in Biochemistry **AC-09-36**  
- Honours in Biochemistry **AC-09-37**

**401.4** Associate Dean Hendren said that over the years she had been encouraging units to make sure there were no hidden prerequisites in their programs. The Department of Biochemistry was removing the common hidden prerequisite course, CHEM 212, from their Major and Honours Programs. Concurrent changes in Complementary Course requirements meant that the credit weight of the programs would not increase.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Harpp, that the above program changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

### **SECTION B: NEW COURSES**

Computer Science COMP 559	Fund. Computer Animation 4 credits	<b>AC-09-42</b>
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**401.5** Associate Dean Hendren said that the above course had been offered as a special topics course, and was now being presented for adoption as a regular course.

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

**The motion carried.**

### **SECTION C: MAJOR COURSE CHANGES**

1) Geography GEOG 503	Advanced Topics in Health Geog Changes: activities, title, description, prerequisites, and restrictions 3 credits	<b>AC-09-44</b>
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**401.6** Associate Dean Hendren explained that the course had actually been approved the previous year as a new course, but in order to use the number 503, it was being brought back as a major change to the current GEOG 503.

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

**The motion carried.**

2) Earth System Science ESYS 104	The Earth System Course renumbered from ATOC/EPSC/GEOG 104 3 credits	<b>AC-09-39</b>
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3) Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences Course Retirement: ATOC 104	The Earth System 3 credits	<b>AC-09-40</b>
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4) Geography Course Retirement GEOG 104	The Earth System 3 credits	<b>AC-09-41</b>
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**401.7** Associate Dean Hendren said that ESYS 104 would be a Freshman course. It had previously been offered under three different prefixes, ATOC 104, EPSC 104, and GEOG 104, by the three units. This had been very confusing for students as well as for the McGill bookstore, etc. EPSC 104 was being renumbered to ESYS 104, and ATOC 104 and GEOG 104 were being retired.

**401.8** In reply to a member who asked how the number of students would be allocated among units, Dean Grant said that there was no longer a formal "weighted student unit" system for the allocation of funds. In the upcoming budget exercise, he would be looking at the issue of student allocation for courses taught by more than one unit.

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

**The motion carried.**

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

- Minor Course Changes **AC-09-32**

**SECTION E: MINOR PROGRAM CHANGES (For Information Only)**

- Minor Program Changes **AC-09-P2**

**SECTION F: OTHER (For Information Only)**

- **Faculty Review of Courses with no Prerequisites and which do not Lead into Other Courses (Orphan Courses)**

**401.9** Associate Dean Hendren said that courses with no prerequisites and which did not lead into other courses were being called 'orphan courses.' She was asking units to examine their offerings to see if they had any orphan courses in their programs. Dean Grant added that while in some cases there could be valid reasons for orphan courses, in other cases, there might not be.

**b) Scholarships Report – *New Award*** **S-09-13**

- **Alan and Harriet Susie Tenenhouse Scholarship in Science – Value: Varies**

**401.10** After introducing the above award, Associate Dean Grütter **moved**, seconded by Prof. Sieber, that the new award be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

Dean Grant said he would like to take the opportunity to thank Carole Kleingrib and her team for all their work in raising funds for the Faculty of Science.

**(5) 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/>.

**- Prof. R. Sieber: Senate Meeting of October 14, 2009**

Not much happened. Mostly informational.

Some prickliness from the Principal on the selection of the Secretary General.

Two questions:

During the Question period, there was a question on placement of university-mandated clause on H1N1: how long would we have to keep these clauses and what constituted an emergency? Sense that there could be many more of these mandated clauses.

Honorary degrees (closed session)  
 Senate nominating committee  
 Student affairs/scholarships  
 More push on bringing in more international graduate students. Yet no additional funding.

**- Prof. D. Harpp: Joint Senate-Board Meeting of October 26, 2009**

During the Joint Senate-Board Meeting, there was a survey entitled "Are we who we think we are?" presented by Dr. Pierre Moreau from Planning and Institutional Analysis. The results of the survey can be obtained from Josie D'Amico ([josie.damico@mcgill.ca](mailto:josie.damico@mcgill.ca)).

**- Prof. L. Hendren: Senate Meeting of November 4, 2009**

After the normal prelude the Principal made her remarks, touching upon the Centraide campaign, the University's response to H1N1, the success of Campaign McGill, the Leadership Summit, homecoming, and so on. She mentioned the Quarter Century Club celebration which honoured people who have worked at McGill for 25 years (which includes our very own Josie D'Amico).

There was only one question about the posting of the membership and dates for responses to advisory committees. Dates were provided and memberships updated on the web.

Jim Nicell presented a PowerPoint giving the vision of Sustainability at McGill. It was very green and seemed reasonable overall.

A new version of an Anti-Doping Policy was approved.

A new policy on the Conduct of Research was discussed. The proposed policy is quite far-reaching and defines, among other things, what is data (almost everything), how long it must be stored (longer than most research council require). It does not define how resources to store the data will be provided. It is worth looking at the policy at <http://www.mcgill.ca/files/senate/D09-18PolicyConductResearch.pdf> and providing your feedback to either a Science Senator, or even better, send it to Rima Rozen ([rima.rozen@mcgill.ca](mailto:rima.rozen@mcgill.ca)) and Bill Foster ([william.foster@mcgill.ca](mailto:william.foster@mcgill.ca)).

The meeting ended with committee reports, none of which had significant impact on the Faculty of Science and the meeting ended at 4:50pm.

Full documents of the meeting can be found at:  
<http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/senate2009-2010/documents/november42009/>

Associate Dean Hendren and several other Senators urged members to read the proposed *Regulation on the Conduct of Research*, and to provide their thoughts on the document, either to the Science Senators or to Rima Rozen, Office of the Vice-Principal (Research and International Relations).

**(6) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD**

- 406.1** In reply to a member who asked about the University's plan in the event of H1N1-related low attendance during the examination period, Dean Grant said he had been told that it would be very unlikely.

**406.2** In response to another member concerning the changes in McGill's employee benefits and the reaction of the different associations and unions, Dean Grant said that it was certainly an active topic of discussion at all levels of the University.

**(7) OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.