

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE**  
**Meeting of Faculty**  
**Tuesday, December 2, 2008**  
**Leacock Council Room - L232**

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

**DOCUMENTS:** S-08-13, S-08-14

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

Prof. Andrew Cumming from the Department of Physics gave a short research presentation prior to the meeting.

Dean Grant thanked Prof. Cumming for his splendid presentation.

Dean Grant said that due to a family situation, Prof. Virginie Millien from the Redpath Museum would present her research at a future Faculty meeting.

**(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**The motion carried.**

**(2) RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR GEORGE JUST, DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY**

**402.1** Professor David Harpp, on behalf of Prof. Bruce Lennox, Chair, Department of Chemistry, presented the Resolution on the Death of Prof. George Just.

Mr. Dean, Members of Faculty:

It is with great regret that I report the death of Professor George Just, Macdonald Professor of Chemistry, on October 21, 2008. Professor Just had a most noteworthy career at McGill and September 2008 marked his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary since starting at McGill. He was active and working full time at the time of his death.

George Just was born in Kobe, Japan in 1929. His father was a test pilot for the Mitsubishi Air Works, and the family lived in both Kobe and Shanghai for several years before returning to Switzerland, where George attended high school and the then famed school of chemistry – ETH- Zurich. He came to Canada in 1951 to study for the Ph.D. at the University of Western Ontario with Professor Charles Engel, focusing on natural products chemistry and synthesis. After a postdoctoral position at UCLA with one of the most prominent physical organic chemists of the time, Saul Weinstein, George moved to Montreal to work for American Cyanamide. In 1958, he so impressed the staff in the Department of Chemistry after he gave a research seminar, that he was offered a position of Assistant Professor.

In his 50 years at McGill, George Just achieved many landmarks in teaching and research. He taught over 12,000 students their Introductory Organic Chemistry and Natural Products Chemistry at McGill. He had a remarkable knowledge and memory of

organic structures and mechanisms. He was never known to use notes during his lectures, filling blackboard after blackboard with detailed structures. Some of us communicate in words, others use images and pictures. George Just communicated in molecules. His Natural Products course was one of the most popular courses of its kind anywhere in the world, with ca. 100 students taking it per year, for these five decades.

He constantly revised his lectures and was proud to be able to say that his course was always modern. He gave generously of his time, and seemed to develop a special resonance with students. In the last several weeks the Department has received many touching reminiscences from students; he made a strong impact on them.

George Just was also a noted researcher. He made major contributions to the synthesis of biologically important molecules including prostaglandins, sugars, nucleotides and nucleosides and phospholipids. He mentored a remarkable 69 Ph.D. and 15 M.Sc. students as well as dozens of postdoctoral fellows at McGill. Every major research pharmaceutical company in Canada has had one or more George Just graduates. Indeed a recent recipient of a McGill honorary degree and discoverer of the drug Singulair, Dr. Robert Zamboni of Merck Frosst, received his Ph.D. under George Just. Many of his students hold academic positions in Canada, Europe, and Asia. His legacy in research will be long-lasting, with great reach.

Prof. Just was also active in the McGill community. He served as President of MAUT and on many university committees. He was not however an administrator. He loathed paperwork and was famous for revising the entire Chemistry curriculum on a 3" x 5" cue card while walking from a meeting. He was extraordinarily active in all regards and was teaching and working in his research lab on the day he was struck down with a heart attack at the age of 79.

The Faculty of Science offers our deepest sympathies to his wife Corinne, his children Zoe, Alex, Marc, and his many grandchildren. A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, December 10, 2008 in the Birks Chapel. Plans are underway to create an endowed lecture in Organic Synthesis in his honour. We encourage his many McGill friends and colleagues to support this effort as it will serve to remind us for many years to come of George Just's remarkable 50 year legacy at McGill.

**The Resolution was adopted unanimously.**

**(3) MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 4, 2008 S-07-13**

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

**The motion carried.**

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

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

**(5) REPORT OF COMMITTEE S-08-14  
- Academic Committee**

The Academic Committee approved the following on Tuesday, November 18, 2008:

**SECTION A: NEW PROGRAMS**

None

**SECTION B: MAJOR PROGRAM CHANGES**

None

### **SECTION C: NEW COURSES**

- (1) **Biochemistry**  
 BIOG 396 Undergraduate Research Project **AC-08-43**  
 3 credits

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

**The motion carried.**

- (2) **Biology/Psychology**  
**BIOL 514**(Number change from BIOL 531)/**PSYC 514** (New) **AC-08-44A/B**  
 Neurobiology Learning Memory  
 3 credits

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Devroye, that the courses be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

- (3) **Biology**  
 BIOL 436 Evolution and Society **AC-08-45**  
 3 credits

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

**The motion carried.**

- (4) **Chemistry**  
 CHEM 520 Methods in Chemical Biology **AC-08-50**  
 3 credits

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

**The motion carried.**

- (5) **Earth & Planetary Sciences**  
 EPSC 470D1/D2 Undergraduate Thesis Research **AC-08-57**  
 6 credits

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

**The motion carried.**

### **SECTION D: MAJOR COURSE CHANGES**

- Chemistry**
- |          |  |                 |
|----------|--|-----------------|
| CHEM 574 | Intro Polymer Chem<br>Changes in number [from CHEM 455],<br>prerequisites, restrictions<br>3 credits | <b>AC-08-51</b> |
| CHEM 674 | Intro Physical Chem-Polymers   | <b>AC-08-52</b> |

Course retirement  
3 credits

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

**The motion carried.**

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

- Report on Minor Course Changes

**AC-08-42**

**405.1** Associate Dean Hendren gave a summary of the changes in the above document.

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

- Report on Minor Program Changes

**AC-08-P3**

**405.2** Associate Dean Hendren highlighted the changes in the Report on Minor Program Changes.

**SECTION G: OTHER**

**(1) Science General Interest Courses Renumbered 18X**

**405.3** Associate Dean Hendren said that the Academic Committee had approved a motion requiring units to renumber their general interest courses (those listed under the General Science Minor) as 18X, e.g. UNIT 187.

**405.4** Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ronis, that general interest courses in the Faculty of Science be renumbered as 18X.

**The motion carried.**

**405.5** Associate Dean Hendren said that she would be contacting units regarding the renumbering.

**(2) Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc. Stream**

**405.6** Associate Dean Hendren said that the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc. Stream would require:

- 1) – that units would be willing to accept students conditionally into their M.Sc. program at the end of U2
- 2) – that units would offer special activities to students in U3, e.g., inviting them to departmental seminars, providing special advising
- 3) – that students in the integrated stream should not be required to do more than four courses for their M.Sc.
- 4) – that M.Sc. programs currently requiring more than four courses would have to be modified such that the additional courses could be replaced by research credits.

**405.7** Associate Dean Hendren said that in addition there would be a streamlined process to allow U3 students in the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc. Stream to take one graduate-level course per semester.

**(6) DEAN'S BUSINESS**

- **Diversity in the University and What We Can Do To Encourage It**

- 406.1** Faculty moved into the Committee of the Whole, with Associate Dean Grütter as Chair.
- 406.2** Associate Dean Grütter posed the question: What aspects of diversity need attention in the university?
- 406.3** Among the points raised were:
- The issue of the definition of diversity.
  - That perhaps the most relevant element of diversity involved the female to male ratio.
  - That a previous study had shown that increasing the number of female professors helps both female and male students.
  - That female undergraduate students outnumber males. However, the ratio changes in the progression from undergraduate to graduate students to applicants for assistant professorships. Additionally, there were proportionately fewer women in honours undergraduate programs.
  - That in the Faculty of Science, about 60% of undergraduates were female, compared to about 30% of graduate students, and 18% of academic staff.
  - That the best candidates should be hired, irrespective of gender.
  - That female students should be encouraged to go beyond the B.Sc. degree.
  - That more emphasis could be put on targeted recruiting.
  - That some universities have made a strong effort to hire women in the executive ranks, such as provost.
- 406.4** Associate Dean Grütter thanked members for their input.
- 406.5** Dean Grant said he welcomed suggestions for Committee of the Whole discussions.

**(7) 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 November 5, 2008 – Prof. D.N. Harpp**

There were various reports that were postponed including one on the breakdown of administrative and support staff.

The Grad and Ugrad students travel warnings were discussed for a long time (5 pages in the minutes). At the end, it was voted that the current guidelines be suspended until properly dealt with by Senate Steering and Senate. Later in the month the Principal said “At the end of the day risk, safety and liability matters is for the judgment of the administration,” she said. “Once we develop the policy, it will be approved by the Board of Governors.”

The next item dealt with the PDF stipends and after considerable discussion, Dean Kreiswirth said that there had been no directive from Quebec on the issue and a decision would be made as soon as the legal advice was received for the T2202A form.

Assessors for the Sexual Harassment policy were appointed.

The Ombudsperson’s report was given and a new appointment will be made for an academic at half-time.

Campaign McGill is going well as per the report by with most of the money going to scholarships and fellowships.

AVP Jim Nicell reported on the Physical Development of the campus. Remarks concerned aspects of pedestrian and bicycle travel on campus as well as investment in new and large lecture theatres. As our facilities are not used very effectively, the Province will not authorize new lecture halls. Issues of midterm exams came up in this discussion and Deputy Provost Mendelson indicated that centrally organized exam times may be coming up in the near future. The MUHC project is not dealt with by AVP Nicell but apparently it is up for proposals for construction.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20.

**407.1** With regard to issuing T2202A forms to postdoctoral fellows, Dean Grant confirmed that an e-mail from Dean Kreiswirth had stated that McGill would issue the forms.

**(8) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no members' questions.

**(9) OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.