

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
Meeting of Faculty  
Tuesday, February 10, 2009  
Leacock Council Room - L232**

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

**DOCUMENTS:** S-08-15 to S-08-20, S-08-22, S-08-23

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

**Professor Tibor Szabo** from the Department of Mathematics & Statistics and **Professor Virginie Millien** from the Redpath Museum each gave a short research presentation prior to the meeting.

Dean Grant thanked them for their impressive and interesting presentations.

**(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**The motion carried.**

**(2) CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES**

**(a) Bachelor of Arts and Science S-08-17**

In the absence of Ms. Allard, Prof. Minarik **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, 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-08-18**

Mr. Barry **moved**, seconded by Prof. Lasko, 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-08-19**

There were no candidates for the Diploma in Environment.

**(d) Diploma in Meteorology S-08-20**

There were no candidates for the Diploma in Meteorology.

Associate Dean Hendren further **moved**, seconded by Prof. Moore, 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.**

**(3) MINUTES OF DECEMBER, 2008 S-08-15**

Prof. Lasko **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hurtubise, 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-08-16**

**The Academic Committee approved the following on Tuesday, January 27, 2009:**

**SECTION A: NEW PROGRAMS**

None

**SECTION B: MAJOR PROGRAM CHANGES**

None

**SECTION C: NEW COURSES**

1) Biology/Physics  
BIOL 319/PHYS 319 (*New*) **AC-08-62/62A**

**605.1** Associate Dean described the above double-prefixed course offered by the Departments of Biology and of Physics.

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

**The motion carried.**

**THE FOLLOWING ITEM WILL BE DEFERRED UNTIL FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH THE FACULTY OF ARTS:**

2) B.A. & Sc  
BASC 396 (*New*) **AC-08-87**

**SECTION D: MAJOR COURSE CHANGES**

**Science General Interest Courses: Course Number Change to 18X and Appropriate Addition of Restriction.**

**Anatomy & Cell Biology**

ANAT 182 Astrobiology (from ANAT 205; restriction) **AC-08-63**

**Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences**

ATOC 181 *Introduction to Atmospheric Science* (from ATOC 210; restriction) **AC-08-64**

ATOC 182 *Introduction to Oceanic Sciences* (from ATOC 220; restriction) **AC-08-65**

ATOC 183 *Climate and Climate Change* (from ATOC 230; restriction) **AC-08-66**

ATOC 184 *Science of Storms* (from ATOC 240; restriction) **AC-08-67**

ATOC 185 *Natural Disasters* (from ATOC 250; restriction) **AC-08-68**

**Chemistry**

CHEM 181 <i>The World of Chemistry: Food</i> (from CHEM 150; restriction)	<b>AC-08-69</b>
CHEM 182 <i>The World of Chemistry: Technology</i> (from CHEM 160; restriction)	<b>AC-08-70</b>
CHEM 183 <i>The World of Chemistry: Drugs</i> (from CHEM 170; restriction)	<b>AC-08-71</b>

**Earth & Planetary Sciences**

EPSC 180 <i>The Terrestrial Planets</i> (from EPSC 200; restriction)	<b>AC-08-72</b>
EPSC 181 <i>Environmental Geology</i> (from EPSC 243; restriction)	<b>AC-08-73</b>
EPSC 182 <i>Astrobiology</i> (from EPSC 205; restriction)	<b>AC-08-74</b>
EPSC 185 <i>Natural Disasters</i> (from EPSC 250; restriction)	<b>AC-08-75</b>

**Physics**

PHYS 180 <i>Space, Time &amp; Matter</i> (from PHYS 200; restriction)	<b>AC-08-76</b>
PHYS 181 <i>Everyday Physics</i> (from PHYS 202; restriction)	<b>AC-08-77</b>
PHYS 182 <i>Our Evolving Universe</i> (from PHYS 205; restriction)	<b>AC-08-78</b>
PHYS 183 <i>The Milky Way Inside and Out</i> (from PHYS 206; restriction)	<b>AC-08-79</b>
PHYS 184 <i>Energy and the Environment</i> (from PHYS 228; restriction)	<b>AC-08-80</b>

**605.2** Associate Dean Hendren thanked units for their cooperation. She said that with the changes, Science General Interest courses would be readily identifiable.

**605.3** In reply to a question, Associate Dean Hendren said that the criteria for defining General Interest courses were that they had no Science prerequisites and were not part of any Major program or Major Concentration. Renumbering them as 18X enabled Science General Interest courses to be readily recognized.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gale, that the above renumbering of courses be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**Associated Changes:****(i) Earth & Planetary Sciences**

EPSC 201	Understanding Planet Earth Addition of corequisites 3 credits	<b>AC-08-81</b>
EPSC 210	Introductory Mineralogy Addition of restriction 3 credits	<b>AC-08-82</b>

**605.4** Associate Dean Hendren explained that the renumbering of the Science General Interest courses listed above necessitated revisions to EPSC 201 and ESPC 210.

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

**The motion carried.**

- Minor in Geochemistry	<b>AC-08-83</b>
- Minor in Geology (renamed from Minor in Earth & Planetary Sciences)	<b>AC-08-84</b>
- Major Program in Earth & Planetary Sciences	<b>AC-08-85</b>

**605.5** The above changes were a consequence of the renumbering of the Science General Interest courses.

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

**The motion carried.**

**(ii) Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences and Earth & Planetary Sciences**

B.A. & Sc. Major Concentration in Earth, Atmosphere & Ocean Sciences

**AC-08-86**

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

**The motion carried.**

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

- Report on Minor Course Changes

**AC-08-61**

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

- Report on Minor Program Change

**AC-08-P4**

**SECTION G: OTHER (For Approval)**

- Discussion of Distinction and DHL

**605.6** Associate Dean Hendren explained that Senate had recently approved that, beginning in 2010, the term "Great Distinction" would no longer be used. "Dean's Honour List" would designate students in the top 10%, while "Distinction" would refer to those within the top 10% to 25%. It was not at all obvious from the names which was the greater honour, and this would be very confusing and unfair to students.

**605.7** Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gale, that all graduating students in the top 25% receive the notation "Distinction," with those in the top 10% receiving in addition the notation "Dean's Honour List."

**The motion carried unanimously.**

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

**1) Calendar Note for B.A. & Sc. and B.A. Major Concentration in Software Engineering**  
**91**

**605.8** Associate Dean Hendren said that the Faculty of Engineering had concerns about the use of the term "Software Engineering" in the title of the B.A. and the B.A. & Sc. Major Concentration in Software Engineering. Accordingly, the following note would be added to the Calendar entry for the Major Concentration.

This major concentration provides a program of study that covers the subject commonly known as "Software Engineering". This program may be used to satisfy part of the requirements for a B.A. & Sc degree. This program does **not** lead to certification as a Professional Engineer.

**2) B.A. & Sc. Calendar Entry: Minimum Arts/Science Credit Requirements for  
Arts/Science Major/Minor Concentrations and Minors**

**92**

**AC-08-**

**605.9** Associate Dean Hendren said that the B.A. & Sc. was a joint venture between the Faculties of Arts and of Science, and its aim was to provide students with education in both faculties. The regulations described in Document AC-08-92 were designed to ensure that students obtained an appropriate balance of Arts and Science credits.

**b) Committee on Student Standing S-08-22**

**605.10** In the absence of Ms. Allard, Dean Grant read the Report of the Committee on Student Standing, and said that any questions could be addressed to the office of Ms. Allard.

**c) Nominating Committee S-08-23**

**605.11** Associate Dean Hendren explained the change in membership of the Academic Committee. Mr. Ken Sun, Major in Chemistry would be replacing Ms. Kristen Raffensperger for the remainder of the 2008-2009 academic year.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Mr. Sun, that the revised membership be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**(6) DEAN'S BUSINESS**

**- Ways to Deal with Current Economic Uncertainty**

**606.1** Dean Grant said that the Committee of the Whole discussions enabled him and the associate deans to be informed of the opinions and feelings of members of the Faculty. As a result of this, he and the associate deans were better able to present the Faculty's interests in meetings with the university administration and better able to represent the Faculty in meetings with donors. Dean Grant encouraged members to communicate ideas to not only him and the associate deans and chairs, but also to the Provost's Administrative Task Force on Dealing with Economic Uncertainty at <http://www.mcgill.ca/economictaskforce/>. He said that the Science representatives on the Task Force were Prof. Bruce Lennox, Chair of the Department of Chemistry, and Mr. Mehdi El Ouali, graduate student in the Department of Physics.

**606.2** Faculty moved into the Committee of the Whole, with Associate Dean Grütter as Chair.

**606.3** Associate Dean Grütter said that one aspect of the solution was to find ways to cut costs while maintaining or even improving services. The second aspect was to find ways to increase revenue.

**606.4** Among the points raised were:

- The necessity of knowing precisely how much the Faculty's revenues would be reduced as a consequence of the economic downturn, in order to formulate solutions
- That it was anticipated that McGill's revenue would drop by \$10-15M, and that the Faculty of Science's budget was about 10-15% of McGill
- That McGill's operating budget was about \$500M, and the research grant budget was also about \$500M
- That while over the last five or so years, there had been a large increase in managerial positions, this increase had been in the administration itself, and not in the individual units. This obviously meant an increase in costs, but the costs were not being applied to the running of the units

- That a small committee be struck to look into the previous point, with the committee membership consisting of, say, two academic staff, one administrator, and one person from outside the university
- That the Dean was intending to implement a policy that had been used in the past — that for every vacant position, half would be made available for redistribution
- That spending on information technology should be looked at very carefully, with the view to reducing the use of proprietary software, and increasing the use of open-source software
- That where possible Science researchers should partner with industry to produce proprietary products and therefore gain income for the university. Dr. Erica Besso is the Faculty's Research Innovations Officer
- That funding should be carefully sought out in government budgets and other sources
- That renovation of buildings should be undertaken with respect to energy conservation
- That Prof. Jim Nicell, Associate Vice-Principal (University Services), had a detailed list of renovation projects that had been submitted to the Québec government
- That cutting out the use of clickers in class should be considered

**606.5** Dean Grant thanked members for their feedback, and reminded them to also provide feedback to the Provost's Task Force. He said that he himself would be providing feedback to the administration and to other faculties.

**(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 Report of December 3, 2008 - Prof. Paul Lasko**

To be tabled at a future Faculty meeting.

**607.1** Dean Grant said that with the current economic climate there was a hiring freeze in the United States. This represented an opportunity for the Faculty of Science to recruit excellent professors.

**Senate Report of January 21, 2009 - Prof. Laurie Hendren**

1. Resolution on deaths, including George Just from the Faculty of Science.
2. Principal's remarks. Were long and can be found in detail in the Minutes of the meeting. Emphasis was on the economic downturn, reports of how it could impact other institutions and McGill. Announcement of two task forces, one led by the Provost about how to address budget constraints given the current economic situation and the second led by the Principal on accessibility and diversity. In her recent open letter it was stated that her task force "will examine the best ways to advance access and diversity while preserving and growing our academic excellence." Senator Hendren asked the Principal what she meant by increasing accessibility. The Principal said this task force would address issues such as ensuring that every student who is qualified can come to McGill independently of financial means, and that physical access to buildings for all is ensured.
3. Questions (paraphrased)

(a) What exactly is the McGill definition of regulation, policy, procedure and guidelines? Answer: many uses at McGill, but there are some general meanings. The Secretary-General and Assoc. Provost (Policies and Planning) will work on drawing up some McGill definitions.

(b) Why is there a month gap between when a retired professor's ID card is deactivated and reactivated and when can this be fixed? Answer: no good reason, and will be fixed by the end of February.

(c) Who defines what is an "academic issue" and thus comes under the control of the Senate? Answer: too long to repeat, but work has been ongoing to clarify governance issues.

4. Motion to Amend Students' Charter of Rights. A new regulation requiring course outlines to include a statement that students have the right to submit written graded work in French was proposed. This motion passed.

5. New terms of reference for the position of Ombudsperson for Students. After these terms pass the BOG, a new appointment will be made according to these terms.

6. University-related international travel activity. These revised guidelines are still quite complex. Senators had numerous further suggestions, but as many had already left, due to the length of items 2 and 3, there was not a complete discussion. Further revisions are likely to be circulated via e-mail.

7. Staffing Report. Many numbers were given. Key numbers showing the location of M staff were difficult to extract.

**(8) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no members' questions.

**(9) OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.