

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
Meeting of Faculty  
Tuesday, May 20, 2008  
Leacock Council Room - L232**

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

**DOCUMENTS:** S-07-31 to S-07-43

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

**(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**The motion carried.**

**(2) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**a) Faculty of Science Excellence Award**

**902.1** Prof. Richard Roy, Chair of the Faculty of Science Excellence Award Committee, said that he enjoyed chairing the Committee because the Faculty of Science Excellence Award provided an opportunity to recognize the outstanding contributions of the Faculty's administrative and support staff. The award rotated yearly among "M," "C," and "T" classifications. For the current year, the award was being given to a "C."

**902.2** The Committee members were:  
- Prof. Richard Roy (Chair), Department of Biology  
- Michel Beauchamp, Department of Physics (T)  
- Christina Girardi, Department of Mathematics & Statistics (C)  
- Normand Trempe, Department of Chemistry (M)

**902.3** The nominees were:  
- Sandra Aerssen, Department Chemistry  
- Chantale Bousquet, Department of Psychology  
- Louise Decelles, Department of Physics  
- Ann Jack, School of Computer Science

**902.4** Prof. Roy announced that the winner of the 2007-2008 Faculty of Science Excellence Award was Ms. Chantale Bousquet from the Department of Psychology.

**902.5** The citation was:

*"On Friday April 11th, 2008 the Committee appointed to choose the winner of the Faculty of Science Excellence Award chose a unanimous winner following discussion, deliberation and close competition among four nominated candidates. This year the award honours excellence in the "C" category and the nominated candidates were all excellent. Because of her outstanding ability to carry out the tasks that are associated with her position, and doing so with a general fervour, excellent demeanour and in a manner that all individuals solicited (10 excellent letters of support) recognise as being pleasant and extremely helpful, the Committee has chosen **Chantale Bousquet** from the **Department of Psychology** as this year's recipient of the Faculty of Science Excellence Award. Chantale's efforts were praised by several members of the Department that range*

*from the Chair to students and postdoctoral trainees. She is also integral in managing the clinical aspect of this Department and she has demonstrated a real sense of care and concern for students, and administrative/technical staff and academic personnel alike. The Committee emphasized that the "Excellence" award is an important means of showing how appreciated these individuals are to our community, and McGill must continue to applaud these people and let them know how critical their contributions are to making this institution."*

**902.6** On behalf of the Faculty of Science, Dean Grant congratulated Chantale Bousquet, and presented her with flowers and a certificate commemorating the award.

**902.7** Chantale Bousquet said:

"I would first and foremost like to thank the Faculty of Science, the Dean, and the selection committee for this award. It is an honor to accept this award.

"In 1992, as a young girl in her early 20s, I came to McGill in search of a job. I was sent to the Psychology Department where I started as a casual. I instantly fell in love with the department and its people. 7 months later, I was lucky enough to become permanent. Now, 15 years down the road, older, wiser and with more grey hair than I can count, this love affair is still going strong. You see, for me, the Department of Psychology is not only a department, it's also a family. So I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the different members of this big family.

"I would like to thank the Chairman and the Administrative Officer. Keith, Pat, thank you for your constant encouragement and support.

"I must acknowledge and thank all the faculty members of our department. Their good humour, passion for their work, and sometimes crazy stories, makes working with them every day a pure joy.

"A big thank you also goes out to the other members of the support staff, my co-workers, my friends. Together we make a great team. Thank you for always being there for me no matter what I need.

"And last but not least, thank you to all the students in our department. Without them, a big part of the family would be missing."

**b) Leo Yaffe Award Committee**

**902.8** Prof. Anthony Williams-Jones, Chair of the Leo Yaffe Award and the Principal's Prizes Committee, said that there had been a number of excellent nominees for the Leo Yaffe Award, and that the Committee would have liked to have given out more than one award. He said that he would encourage any units that did not submit a nominee for the current year to do so in future years.

**902.9** The Committee was:

- Prof. Anthony Williams-Jones (Chair)
- Prof. J. Abela (Psychology)
- Prof. D.N. Harpp (Chemistry)
- Dr. A. Hundemer (Mathematics & Statistics)
- Prof. C. Mandato (Anatomy & Cell Biology)
- Prof. K. Siddiqi (Computer Science)
- Prof. Peter Swain (Physiology)

Two students:

- Maya Kaczorowski (B.A. & Sc. Joint Honours Mathematics & Economics)
- Jane Wang (B.Sc. Biochemistry)

**902.10**

The nominees were:

- Christopher Barrett, Department of Chemistry
- Mathieu Blanchette, School of Computer Science
- Fred Genesee, Department of Psychology
- Eyal Goren, Department of Mathematics & Statistics
- Carlos Morales, Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology
- Laura Nilson, Department of Biology
- Kenneth Ragan, Department of Physics

**902.11**

Prof. Williams-Jones announced that Prof. Mathieu Blanchette from the School of Computer Science was the 2007-2008 winner of the Leo Yaffe Award.

**902.12**

Prof. Williams-Jones read out the citation:

"The Leo Yaffe Award for Excellence in teaching honours professors who have an outstanding impact on undergraduate education in the Faculty of Science. Mathieu Blanchette is such a professor.

"Professor Blanchette joined the School of Computer Science in 2003 after a post doctoral fellowship at the University of California. He was immediately thrown in at the 'deep end', being asked to fill the shoes of a former Leo Yaffe Awardee and teach the main introductory computer science course, COMP 250. Mathieu was more than up to the challenge, obtaining a remarkable evaluation of 4.7 on 5. Since then he has never received a rating of less than 4.6 on 5 for COMP 250 or any other course that he has taught, and on two occasions has received a perfect score of 5 on 5. The reasons for these extraordinary performances are evident from the comments of his students and I quote 'Professor Blanchette should serve as a model to other instructors'. 'His passion for the subject is contagious ...we could feel the incredible energy radiating from him'. 'Thanks to his inspiration, I am currently pursuing my Ph.D. in bioinformatics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology'

"In addition to being an outstanding teacher, Professor Blanchette is also an outstanding scientist. In 2006 he received international recognition for his research, winning the Overton prize of the Society of Computational Biology, and followed this up last year with a prestigious Alfred P. Sloan research fellowship. He is clearly a teacher-scholar of the very highest calibre and a most worthy recipient of the honour that you are about to bestow on him. On behalf of the Faculty of Science, I am very proud to present Professor Mathieu Blanchette, the winner of the Leo Yaffe Award for 2008."

**902.13**

Dean Grant, on behalf of the Faculty of Science, congratulated Prof. Blanchette and presented him with flowers.

**902.14**

Prof. Blanchette said that he was very honoured. He said teaching such enthusiastic students was very rewarding. He thanked the T.A.s involved in his courses, and thanked the members of the School of Computer Science, in particular, Prof. Whitesides, Prof. Panangaden and Prof. Siddiqi, for their encouragement and support.

### **(3) CARRIE M. DERICK AWARD FOR GRADUATE TEACHING AND SUPERVISION 2007-2008**

**903.15**

Dean Grant announced that Prof. Barbel Knauper, Department of Psychology, had been the 2007-2008 Carrie M. Derick Award for Graduate Teaching and Supervision. Dean Grant read out a letter from Martin Kreiswirth, Associate Provost (Graduate Education), Dean, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, to Prof. Knauper.

"Dear Dr. Knauper,

"It is my pleasure to confirm our recent telephone conversation: You have been selected as this year's recipient of the Carrie M. Derick Award for Graduate Teaching and Supervision. I reiterate my most sincere congratulations.

"All candidates in this year's competition had excellent dossiers, but yours stood out in the minds of the selection committee. It is clear that you have made a very significant contribution to graduate studies at McGill, which is truly commendable. Your students, past and present, wrote glowing letters that praised your excellence not only with respect to your teaching and supervision but also in terms of your inspirational mentorship.

"By copy of this letter, I wish to thank Professor Rhonda Amsel for preparing the nomination, which represents considerable effort and reflects sincere appreciation of your work. The Award and a citation will be presented to you at the Faculty of Science Convocation ceremony. The exact date and time of the ceremony will be forwarded to you by the Secretariat."

**903.16** On behalf of the Faculty of Science, Dean Grant congratulated Prof. Knauper and presented her with flowers.

**903.17** Prof. Knauper thanked Prof. Keith Franklin, Chair of the Department of Psychology, for having sufficient faith in her to make her Director of the Graduate Program in Psychology shortly after she obtained tenure. She thanked the Psychology graduate students for having the confidence in her to come to her with any concerns they had. Prof. Knauper also thanked the faculty and staff of the Department of Psychology, in particular, Giovanna LoCasio.

**(4) Candidates for Degrees**

**904.1** Dean Grant and Associate Dean Leighton both mentioned the T.A. strike and thanked faculty, advisors, and administrators and support staff for their extra efforts in grading exams and in submitting grades on time, in order that the graduation lists could be prepared for Convocation.

**a) Bachelor of Arts and Science S-07-32**

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Harpp, 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-07-33**

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Green, 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-07-34**

There were no candidates for the Diploma in Environment.

**d) Diploma in Meteorology S-07-35**

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gyakum, that the above list be recommended to the Senate Steering Committee for the Diploma in Meteorology.

**The motion carried.**

Prof. GowriSankaran 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.**

**904.2** Associate Dean Leighton said that for the current year, the total number of B.A. & Sc. graduates in February and June would be 59, compared to 40 for the previous year. For the B.Sc., the relevant figures were 780 and 781, respectively.

**(5) MINUTES OF APRIL 8, 2008 S-07-31**

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

**The motion carried.**

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

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

**(7) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES (continued)**

**a) Academic Committee S-07-36**

**The Academic Committee approved the following on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 and May 6, 2008:**

**SECTION A: NEW PROGRAMS**

None

**SECTION B: MAJOR PROGRAM CHANGES**

None

**SECTION C: NEW COURSES**

**(1) BIOCHEMISTRY AC-07-106**  
 BIOC 462                      Research Laboratory in Biochemistry  
     6 credits

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

**The motion carried.**

**(2) GEOGRAPHY AC-07-110**  
 GEOG 511                      Advanced Political Geography  
     3 credits

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

**The motion carried.**

GEOG 530	Global Land & Water Resources 3 credits	<b>AC-07-111</b>
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Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Chmura, that the course be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

<b>(3)</b>	<b>BIOLOGY</b> BIOL 463	Mammalian Evolution 3 credits	<b>AC-07-117</b>
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Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Levine, that the course be adopted.

**The motion carried.****SECTION D: MAJOR COURSE CHANGES**

None

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

- Report on Minor Course Changes	<b>AC-07-105 (Revised)</b>
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Associate Dean Hendren briefly outlined the Report on Minor Course Changes.

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

- Report on Minor Program Changes	<b>AC-07-P5</b>
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Associate Dean Hendren went over the Report on Minor Program Changes.

**SECTION G: OTHER (For Information Only)****(1) GEOGRAPHY - B.A. Programs:**

- Minor Concentration in GIS
- Major Concentration in Urban Systems
- Honours in Urban Systems

**(2) MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS - B.A.**

- Supplementary Minor Concentration in Mathematics (New)

**907.1** Associate Dean Hendren said that a Supplementary Minor Concentration allowed B.A. students who had done a Major Concentration to follow essentially the same program as B.Sc. students. The School of Computer Science had introduced the first Supplementary Minor Concentration, and now the Department of Mathematics & Statistics was following. She said that when the Departments of Geography and Psychology introduced Supplementary Minor Concentrations, all four Science units offering a B.A. would be able to offer their B.A. students the option of completing what would be essentially a B.Sc. degree.

**b) Scholarships Committee**

**(i) Report****S-07-37****907.2**

Associate Dean Leighton highlighted several aspects of the Scholarships Report. He said that one of the two Governor-General's Silver Medals (awarded across the entire University) had gone to a Science student. Associate Dean Leighton asked units to encourage their top students to apply for the Moyse Travelling Scholarship.

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Lydon, that the Report be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**(ii) New Awards****S-07-38**

- Jeffery Scholarship in Science - Est. Value \$ 2,000
- Robert Brown Scholarship in Chemistry - Est. Value \$ 1,000

Associate Dean Leighton briefly described the above new awards in Science.

**c) Committee on Student Standing****S-07-39**

Associate Dean Leighton highlighted the Report of the Committee on Student Standing.

**d) Nominating Committee****S-07-40****907.3**

Associate Dean Burns said that the Nominating Committee had recommended Prof. Gregory Brown, Department of Biology, as a new Faculty representative on the Council of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS), beginning September 2008. Prof. Brown's term would be for three years. Also, Prof. Peter Grutter, the new Associate Dean (Research & Graduate Education) would be replacing Associate Dean Burns as a Faculty representative on CGPS. Prof. Grutter's term would end in September 2011. Prof. Eyal Goren, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, would continue as a representative on CGPS.

Associate Dean Burns **moved**, seconded by Prof. Levine, that the Nominating Committee Report be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**(8) DEAN'S BUSINESS****a) Recognition of Technology Transfer and Commercialization Activity S-07-41****908.1**

Dean Grant said that the role of McGill faculty in the commercialization of their research had been recognized at the previous year's Faculty meeting for the first time. For the current year, the following principal inventors had filed patents:

- Prof. James Gleason (Chemistry)
- Prof. David H. Burns (Chemistry)
- Prof. Hanadi Sleiman (Chemistry)
- Prof. Paul Wiseman (Chemistry and Physics)

**908.2**

The following principal inventors had signed licenses:

- Prof. Gregory Dudek (Computer Science)
- Prof. Masad Damha (Chemistry)

- Prof. Isztar Zawadzki (Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences) - three licenses signed
- Prof. David Burns (Chemistry)
- Prof. Nicolas Moitessier (Chemistry) - two licenses signed

**908.3** Dean Grant congratulated the successful inventors, and presented each of them with a plaque.

**b) Fessenden Professorship in Science Innovation**

**908.4** Dean Grant said the Fessenden Professorship would enable a researcher to take time off in order to follow up on a potentially interesting commercialization possibility. The professorship had been made available as a result of generous philanthropy. Researchers would apply for the Fessenden Professorship. So far, eight letters of intent to apply had been received. Letters of intent had been submitted by:

- Prof. Paul Wiseman (Chemistry and Physics)
- Prof. Nicolas Moitessier (Chemistry)
- Prof. C.J. Li (Chemistry)
- Prof. Masad Damha (Chemistry)
- Prof. David Burns (Chemistry)
- Prof. Gregory Brown (Biology)
- Prof. Mark Baldwin (Psychology)
- Prof. Parisa Ariya (Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences, and Chemistry)

**908.5** Dean Grant said that the first Fessenden Professor would be announced in the Fall.

**(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 March 5, 2008 - Prof. N. Roulet

Prof. Roulet will present his report at a future Faculty meeting.

Senate Meeting of March 26, 2008 - Prof. D. Ryan

**Principal's remarks**

Highly successful "cut the red tape" competition with the top 10 suggestions not only to be rewarded (\$100) but implemented.

The school/university division of the new transfer money was not as favourable as hoped, and this may further impact our budget. There was an additional \$50M in new funding, but this is in targeted domains and will not directly help the budget situation.

The underfunding of universities continues and Quebec just lost its #1 position in student funding.

**Questions**

We had questions on:

- Applied learning

Answer seemed to be an attempt to change the question. McGill is not a job-training site or a vocational college. Skills learned are useful, but not directly targeted at 'jobs'.



- Accessibility

This is a project in progress. AVP Nicell indicated that many barriers have been eliminated and as students and staff identify new ones, they are dealt with as quickly as possible. Some barriers are inevitable due to the difficulties of modifying heritage buildings, but attempts are made to minimise their impact by moving affected activities to other locations.

- Mental health services

One of the best in Quebec, but more could be done. Usage has doubled over the past five years. It is funded on an insurance basis, so only those paying the premiums have access (Cont.Ed. are out of luck at the moment).

- Safe space program

This was initiated and run by volunteers, but of the three primary workers, two are leaving and there is no sustainable staffing or funding. It appears to be set to wither unless more volunteers can be found.

### **Confidential report of the Honorary degrees and Convocations Committee**

It is possible that various people may, or may not have been nominated and approved, but no records were kept and this part of the tape is mysteriously blank.

### **399th report of the Academic Policy Committee**

This was mercifully short with only two new B.Sc. programs in pharmacology (Hons. and Maj.) being created in the faculties of medicine and science.

### **Report of the Senate Nominating Committee**

One selection committee was withdrawn due to both alternates being from the same department.

Our Dean's heroic efforts to read the entire list of committee nominees into the record were frustrated by the Principal, and the slates were approved "as printed".

A question about the selection of members for these committees from the same department was raised, and the answer given was that such selections are avoided where possible, but are not excluded.

### **Report to Senate and Board of Governors on annual Tenure Meeting**

It was presented.

### **Presentation on Communications by Office of VP (Public Affairs)**

This was a surprisingly halting presentation with typos on the slides.

The public affairs office has recently been restructured and renamed to focus on external communications.

Their function is to promote McGill around the world through publications (McGill News, Headway etc.) press releases, advertising campaigns etc.

They are working on developing a new marketing strategy which will enhance our web presence through podcasts (itunes-u). Apparently the McGill home page is "good" (this was defined as 'dynamic' and 'up to date', with no reference to being impossible to navigate). They are aiming to have a common look and feel for all McGill web pages in the future.

Not only is the calendar gone, but so is the phone book (keep your old ones!). The calendar is to be replaced with a functional web-based on-line version (not the crippled

system that is currently in place). There was no word on what would replace the phone book.

Our media performance is currently tracked by “cormex” and we rank 2nd in Canada (1st when normalised for size) with about 8:1 positive to negative coverage. However, some universities do not like their ranking and will be pulling out of the system.

As an example of the office’s media response system, we were told of a recent media story in the french press concerning french students (from France) who get cheap tuition to study in Quebec. Apparently the majority of the 900 who come, choose to study at McGill and there were questions raised in the media about the point of subsidising French students to study in English at McGill.

Senate Meeting of April 16, 2008 - Prof. S. Whitesides – To be Tabled.

Senate Meeting of May 7, 2008 - Prof. D. Burns - To be Tabled.

**(10) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no members’ questions.

**(11) RESULTS OF SCIENCE ELECTION FOR SENATE**

**S-07-42**

**911.1** The following people were recently elected to Senate for terms of three years, beginning September 1, 2008:

- Prof. Keith Franklin (Psychology)
- Prof. Kohur GowriSankaran (Mathematics & Statistics)
- Prof. Peter Grutter (Physics)
- Prof. Laurie Hendren (Computer Science)
- Prof. Paul Lasko (Biology)
- Prof. Renée Sieber (Geography/McGill School of Environment)

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

- Prof. Ian Butler (Chemistry) - two years
- Prof. David Harpp (Chemistry) - one year
- Prof. Timothy Moore (Geography) - one year

**911.3** Dean Grant thanked Senators for their hard work.

**(12) SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES**

**S-07-43**

Dean Grant drew members' attention to the schedule of meeting dates for the following year.

**(13) OTHER BUSINESS**

**913.1** (a) Dean Grant welcomed Nicole Allard, the new Director of Advising Services. Dean Grant said the Director of Advising Services would be taking over part of the responsibilities of the Associate Dean (Student Affairs). In fact, the duties of the Associate Dean (Student Affairs) were being redistributed among the Associate Dean (Academic), the Associate Dean (Research and Graduate Education), and the Director of Advising Services. There would no longer be an Associate Dean (Student Affairs) in the Faculty of Science.

**913.2** (b) Dean Grant, on behalf of the Faculty of Science, thanked Associate Dean (Research and Graduate Education) Burns and Associate Dean (Student Affairs) Leighton, for their hard work during their terms as associate deans. Dean Grant called for a round of

applause for the two retiring associate deans. He said that after the meeting there would be a reception at which Associate Deans Burns and Leighton would be honoured.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.