

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Tuesday, November 6, 2007
Leacock Council Room - L232**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book.

DOCUMENTS: S-07-2, S-07-12, S-07-14, S-07-15, S-07-16

Dean Grant called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Pre-Agenda Presentations

Research presentations:

Prof. William Minarik, Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences
Prof. Audrey Moores, Department of Chemistry

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

The motion carried.

(2) MINUTES OF OCTOBER 9, 2007

S-07-12

Prof. Green **moved**, seconded by Prof. Francis, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

(3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

(4) MOTION TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE S-07-2

304.1 Associate Dean Burns said that the proposed motion would allow students taking the B.A. & Sc. Degree to serve on Faculty of Science Committees.

Associate Dean Burns **moved**, seconded by Prof. Barette, that the motion be approved.

The motion carried.

(5) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

a) Disciplinary Report

S-07-14

305.1 Associate Dean Leighton said that it was customary to report on Faculty of Science disciplinary case(s) over the past year. Document S-07-14 listed these and also showed a comparison with the previous year.

305.2 In response to a member's concerns about plagiarism, Associate Dean Leighton said that he had no doubt that there were plagiarism cases of which he was not aware. The

University provides access to Turnitin to detect suspected cases. Some minor cases might be handled within departments but the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures does require that cases that may require disciplinary action be referred to the Disciplinary Officer for investigation and action. Furthermore, it is important to have a complete record so that repeat offences can be recognized.

b) New Award S-07-16

Richard and Mary Shaw Scholarships in Science - Value: \$2500 each

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Mucci, that the new award be approved.

The motion carried.

c) Academic Committee S-07-15

The Academic Committee approved the following on Tuesday, October 16, 2007:

SECTION A: NEW PROGRAMS

None

SECTION B: MAJOR PROGRAM CHANGES

None

SECTION C: NEW COURSES

- (1) Anatomy & Cell Biology/Mining, Metals & Materials Engineering**
 ANAT 5XX/MIME 5XX Transmission EM **AC-07-14/AC-07-14A**
 3 credits

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

The motion carried.

- (2) Earth & Planetary Sciences**
 EPSC 199 FYS: Earth & Planetary Explor. **AC-07-5**
 3 credits

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

The motion carried.

- EPSC 340 Earth and Planetary Inference **AC-07-15**
 3 credits

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

The motion carried.

- (3) Redpath Museum**
 REDM 400 Science and Museums **AC-07-20**
 3 credits

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Green, 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 **AC-07-13**

SECTION F: MINOR PROGRAM CHANGES (For Information Only)

- Report on Minor Program Changes **AC-07-P1**

SECTION G: OTHER (For Information Only)

(i) Online Course Proposal/Revision Forms

305.3 Associate Dean Hendren said that the Faculty of Science was one of two pilot faculties participating in the development of online Course Proposal and Course Revision Forms. She demonstrated briefly the new online forms, and said that with these, it would be much simpler to make revisions to courses and to create new courses.

(ii) SCTP: Streamlining Course Revisions **AC-07-22**

305.4 Associate Dean Hendren said that the above document described the circumstances when Program Revision Forms were and were not required to be submitted simultaneously with course revisions.

(6) DEAN'S BUSINESS

306.1 Dean Grant said that of the four Principal's Prizes for Excellence in Teaching and of the four Principal's Awards for Administrative and Support Staff, the Faculty of Science had won half. These awards were accessible to the entire university, so this was a tremendous accomplishment by the Faculty of Science. The formal announcement of the awards would be made at Fall Convocation, scheduled for November 9, 2007.

(a) Faculty of Science Winners of Principal's Prizes for Excellence in Teaching

- Full Professor Category: Prof. Richard Koestner, Department of Psychology
- Assistant Professor Category: Prof. Paul Wiseman (Currently Associate Professor), Department of Chemistry & Department of Physics

(b) Principal's Awards for Administrative and Support Staff

- M Category: Ms. Kathryn Peterson, Department of Biology (Currently Director of Administration, Faculty of Science)
- T Category: Mr. Alfred Kluck, Department of Chemistry

306.2 All the winners were present at the meeting, with the exception of Prof. Wiseman, who was on sabbatical leave in Southern California.

306.3 On behalf of the Faculty of Science, Dean Grant congratulated the winners, and presented flowers.

(c) Balancing the Academic and Accounting Worlds: How to be a research-intensive, student-centred University, while keeping our cheque books balanced.

306.4 Faculty moved into the Committee of the Whole, with Associate Dean Burns as Chair.

306.5 Associate Dean Burns said that in order to attempt to resolve the inherent conflict between having a research-intensive, student-centred University and being able to pay for it, choices would have to be made. Should there be cuts of one form or another, such as cuts to administrative and support staff, cuts to services provided by the University, or even cuts to such events as wine and cheese receptions in the Faculty? Alternatively, regarding students, should class sizes be increased? Should laboratories be smaller? Field study classes are expensive. Should expensive classes be reduced or eliminated?

306.6 Associate Dean Burns said it was necessary to prioritize, and he asked members what they thought the Faculty's priorities should be.

306.7 Among the points raised were:

- ◆ That, unlike businesses, universities are not set up to react to change and downsizing is extremely difficult for universities.
- ◆ That the university's current budget deficit was \$15 million.
- ◆ That there was too much bureaucracy in the university.
- ◆ That expense reports were particularly problematic.
- ◆ That you get what you pay for.
- ◆ That graduate education was completely different from freshman education, and to expect to find a simple solution to all problems was naïve.
- ◆ That it is not possible to do everything with limited resources.
- ◆ That since McGill had made the decision to become a student-centred university, resources should be directed towards students.
- ◆ That with a large Federal budget surplus, universities should be receiving more money, and should begin campaigning to receive more money.
- ◆ That public support is needed to obtain more governmental funding.

306.8 Any further comments could be sent to Associate Dean Burns.

(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 October 10, 2007: Prof. Ian Butler

1. Two sad resolutions on the deaths of Professor Abbott Conway and Hans Frischkopf, both of whom were associated with the Faculty of Arts in the Departments of English and German Studies, respectively.
2. The report of the Senate Steering Committee was received and one item was a reminder of the Annual Joint Board-Senate Meeting, which was held on October 30 to consider the theme of sustainability. This particular meeting was spearheaded by

Associate Vice-Principal Jim Nicell and consisted of 9 tables, 3 of each which were asked to discuss one of the following topics with particular reference to McGill: energy, paper and educational sustainability.

3. The Principal then gave a series of remarks in which she (1) urged senators and faculty members to attend the upcoming Convocation ceremonies; (2) reported on the Global Conference on the Prevention of Genocide, (3) described the new Executive MBA program joint with the HEC; (4) mentioned her meetings with the editorial boards of *The Gazette* and *Le Devoir*. She plans to expand such meetings with editorial boards of other newspapers across the country; (5) noted that Michael Goldbloom's new title is Vice-Principal (Public Affairs); (6) described her role in the Toulouse Commission report on the governance of Quebec universities and CREPUQ, for which she is now the President; (7) mentioned indirectly her appointment to the new Science and Technology advisory committee to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, which incidentally is chaired by Professor Howard Alper (University of Ottawa), a former Ph.D. graduate from the Department of Chemistry here at McGill; (8) mentioned the achievements of a few faculty members; and (8) urged Senators to participate in the upcoming Campaign McGill, activities, which as we all now know is targeted at raising \$750 million, \$325 million of which has already been committed.
4. There were two questions from Senators.
 - (1) From Senator Anthony Pare concerning the SSHRC Research Time Stipends and what was McGill's policy on these? The response from the Provost was that there did not appear to be a consistent policy anywhere and that he would look into the matter together with the Vice-Principal (Research and International Relations) Denis Therein.
 - (2) The second question was actually from me about McGill's position regarding the recent Federal government changes with respect to pension plans, i.e., the cash-in date of 71 rather than 69 years and whether McGill would continue matching as it used to do prior to 1996. The response from Associate Vice-Principal (Human resources) was that McGill will indeed amend the McGill pension plan to the conversion age of 71 years. The University has not yet established a view as to the appropriate age at which the University should discontinue matching employee contributions.
5. The 393rd Report of the Academic Policy Committee (new name) was received and all the housekeeping items were approved and recommended to the Board of Governors. Of particular interest was the addition of the Faculty of Law to the governing faculties of the McGill School of Environment, together with the Faculties of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Arts and Science.
6. The Report of the Senate Nominating Committee was then presented. Several committee memberships were first approved. Then, there was a 30-min Committee of the Whole to discuss the proposed regulations concerning the investigation of research misconduct led by Associate Provost William Foster. A number of comments were made by the Senators as well as several suggestions for the committee associated with this policy development to consider. These suggestions will be taken back to the committee

The final item from the Senate Nominating Committee was the Annual Report of the Committee on Student Affairs, which was presented by the Dean of Students Jane Everett. There was nothing of any major significance to report and Dean Everett noted that the priorities for the coming year would be the approval of an "academic mission

statement” and the issue of academic integrity – the latter obviously will include the question of plagiarism, but the Dean felt that questions concerning the plagiarism detection service turnitin.com should be directed to the Deputy Provost Morton Mendelson.

(8) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD

There were no members' questions.

(9) OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.