

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Tuesday, October 9, 2007
Leacock Council Room - L232**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book.

DOCUMENTS: S-06-45, S-07-1 to S-07-11

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

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Ng **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ronis, that the Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

(2) CAMPAIGN MCGILL

202.1 Honora Shaughnessy, Executive Director, McGill Alumni Association, gave a brief overview of Campaign McGill. She said that Campaign McGill would be launched on October 18, 2007. Priorities of Campaign McGill had been developed by the deans, the provost, and the principal, with Deputy Provost (Student Life And Learning) Morton Mendelson representing students. Campaign McGill would position the university to respond effectively to emerging global challenges. A comprehensive strategic evaluation of McGill's strengths had targeted five broad areas where increased investment would create the most impact.

- advancing health
- building prosperity
- creating the next generation of science and technology
- protecting the environment
- strengthening culture and civil society

202.2 The priorities would be centred around those five major themes.

202.3 Ms. Shaughnessy announced that there would be a number of events on campus beginning Thursday, October 18, 2007. She encouraged faculty, students and staff to attend the events.

202.4 Dean Grant said that over the last six or seven years the Faculty of Science at McGill had been undergoing renewal, and a large number of highly qualified new faculty members had been hired. Additionally, a number of named chairs had been created. A challenge for the Faculty would be to hold on to these stellar new professors.

202.5 A historical strength of the Faculty was the quality of its undergraduate students, and the Faculty would be examining ways of strengthening the connections between undergraduate students and faculty members.

202.6 Dean Grant said that the Faculty would be heavily involved in fundraising, and that at the current time an investment of dollars in research could produce important results, and allow new professors to achieve their maximum strengths.

202.7 Homecoming would be one of the events involved in the kick-off of Campaign McGill. Another event would be the undergraduate research conference, which would be held on Friday, October 19, 2007, and which would feature a keynote address by **Dr. Jonathan Foley**.

202.8 Dean Grant emphasized that giving to the current campaign was even more important than in the past, since science stood on the cusp of great discovery.

(3) SEATING OF STUDENT MEMBERS S-07-1

203.1 Dean Grant welcomed student members to the Faculty meeting. He asked students to stand as he read out their names from Document #S-07-1.

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

204.1 Associate Dean Burns gave notice of Motion to amend the Faculty's Constitution. He said that the amendment was to allow students in the B.A. & Sc. Program to serve as members of the Faculty and of Faculty Committees. The actual Motion will be considered at the Faculty meeting of November 6, 2007.

(5) CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

a) Bachelor of Science S-07-3

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ronis, that the above degree list be recommended to the Senate Steering Committee for the Bachelor of Science degree.

The motion carried.

b) Bachelor of Arts and Science S-07-4

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gale, that the above degree list be recommended to the Senate Steering Committee for the Bachelor of Arts and Science degree.

The motion carried.

c) Diploma in Environment S-07-5

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Roulet, that the above candidates be recommended to the Senate Steering Committee for the Diploma in Environment.

The motion carried.

d) Diploma in Meteorology S-07-6

There were no candidates for the Diploma in Meteorology.

Associate Dean Leighton further **moved**, seconded by Prof. GowriSankaran, 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.

205.1 Associate Dean Leighton thanked unit advisors and advisors and staff in the Student Affairs Office for their diligent work in preparing the degree lists.

(6) MINUTES OF MAY 22, 2007 S-06-45

Prof. Wolfson **moved**, seconded by Prof. Butler, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

(7) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

(8) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

a) Scholarships Committee

(i) Scholarship Report S-06-46

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Franklin, that the Scholarship Report be accepted.

The motion carried.

(ii) New Awards S-07-7

Associate Dean Leighton introduced the two new awards:

- **Loretta Del Bosco Scholarships - Value: 2 X \$2500**
- **Dikran Ohannessian Scholarships in Science - Value: 2 X \$2500**

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. GowriSankaran, that the new awards be adopted.

The motion carried.

b) Nominating Committee S-07-8

1. Science Nominating Committee (for information):

The Nominating Committee consists of the Science Senate Representatives; the Convenor was Prof. David Burns.

2. Science Chairs' Council (for information):

The Science Chairs' Council serves as an advisory committee to the Dean, and consists of the Dean, the three Associate Deans, and the heads of all units in the Faculty of Science, including the MSE and the Redpath Museum.

3. Tenure Committee (for information):

4. Committee on Student Standing (for approval):

The Committee on Student Standing reviews student appeals of decisions made by the Associate Dean (Student Affairs).

Prof. Merrett **moved**, seconded by Prof. GowriSankaran, that the membership of the CSS be approved.

The motion carried.

5. Academic Committee (for approval):

The Academic Committee reviews and approves academic content taught in the Faculty of Science.

Prof. Moore **moved**, seconded by Prof. Roulet that the membership of the Academic Committee be approved.

The motion carried.

6. Scholarships Committee (for approval):

The Associate Dean of Student Affairs serves as the Chair of the Scholarships Committee.

Prof. Moore **moved**, seconded by Prof. Levine, that the membership of the Scholarships Committee be approved.

The motion carried.

7. Leo Yaffe & Principal's Prizes Committee (for approval):

The Leo Yaffe and Principal's Prizes Committee recommends candidates for these awards for excellence in teaching.

Prof. GowriSankaran **moved**, seconded by Prof. Moore, that the membership of the Leo Yaffe & Principal's Prizes Committee be approved.

The motion carried.

8. Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (for approval):

Prof. Roulet **moved**, seconded by Prof. GowriSankaran, that the change in membership of this Committee be approved.

The motion carried.

9. B.A. & Sc. Program Administration Committee (for approval):

Mr. Winata **moved**, seconded by Prof. Wiseman, that the Science membership of the B.A. & Sc. Program Administration Committee be approved.

The motion carried.

c) Committee on Student Standing

S-07-9

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

d) Academic Committee

S-07-10

SECTION A: NEW PROGRAMS

- Ad Hoc Honours Program in Cancer and Cell Biology

AC-7-9

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Wolfson, that the ad hoc program be approved.

The motion carried.

SECTION B: MAJOR PROGRAM CHANGES

None

SECTION C: NEW COURSES

FSCI 200	Industrial Practicum 1 0 credits	AC-07-1
FSCI 300	Industrial Practicum 2 0 credits	AC-07-2

208.1 Associate Dean Hendren said that the MECC Office was no longer administering internships for Science students. The Faculty of Science henceforth would be looking after its own students. The two new courses, FSCI 200 and FSCI 300, were intended to replace the Engineering Industrial Practicum course that Science students had previously taken.

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

The motion carried.

SECTION D: MAJOR COURSE CHANGES

None

SECTION E: MINOR COURSE CHANGES (For Information Only)

- Minor Course Change Report **AC-07-11**

SECTION F: MINOR PROGRAM CHANGES (For Information Only)

None

SECTION G: OTHER (For Approval)

(1) Renaming of Internship Option (IYES to IYS) **AC-07-3**

208.2 Associate Dean Hendren said that the renaming of the Internship Option reflected the fact that the Faculty of Science was now administering its own internships. If students took both FSCI 200 and FSCI 300 (new courses approved above), Internship Option would be added to their transcripts.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ronis that the Internship Option for Science students be renamed from "Internship Year in Engineering and Science" to "Internship Year in Science."

The motion carried.

(2) Retirement of B.Sc. Faculty Programs **AC-07-8**

208.3 Associate Dean Hendren said that with the introduction of the B.Sc. Liberal Program, there was no longer a need for B.Sc. Faculty Programs. Students already enrolled in Faculty Programs would still be able to complete them, but beginning in September 2008, Faculty Programs would no longer be available to entering students.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. GowriSankaran, that the B.Sc. Faculty Programs be retired.

The motion carried.

SECTION H: OTHER (For Information Only)

(1) Academic Program Review

208.4 Associate Dean Hendren said that the external reviewer's report would be sent to the various Academic Program Review Groups, and that she would report back to a future Faculty meeting.

(2) Undergraduate Calendar

208.5 Associate Dean Hendren announced that the Undergraduate Calendar would no longer be available as a printed copy. She invited members' comments.

208.6 A member suggested that at least one printed copy of each year's version of the Undergraduate Calendar be retained in the Faculty Office.

(3) Grading Issues

- (i) Grade Inflation
- (ii) Institution of an A⁺ Grade

208.7 Associate Dean Leighton said he had noticed from the SGPA cutoff for the Dean's Honor List, that grade inflation seemed to be occurring. There could be many reasons for this. A subcommittee of the Academic Committee had been struck to examine the issue.

208.8 The subcommittee would also re-examine the possible implementation of an A⁺ grade to distinguish marks above 85%, an issue which had been looked at inconclusively a number of years previously. Associate Dean Leighton said that recommendations would be brought first to the Academic Committee, and then to a Faculty meeting.

208.9 A member pointed out that grade inflation and the possible introduction of an A⁺ grade were two separate issues, and bringing them up at the same time should not be misconstrued to mean that introducing an A⁺ grade was a response to grade inflation.

Secretary's Note: The members of the subcommittee were Associate Dean Leighton (Chair), Dr. J. Correa (Statistician), Prof. R. Levine (Biology), Prof. G. Moore (Physics), and students K. Howe and K. Maloney.

(4) Student Affairs Office

208.10 Associate Dean Leighton said that the advisers in the Student Affairs Office had now been divided into Arts and Science advisers. The Faculty of Science advisers were Nicole Allard (Chief Academic Advisor), Zeldia Ghan, Jane Hawes, and Paul Oloff. Another advisor would be hired in the very near future. Discussions were ongoing concerning other members of the Student Affairs Office.

208.11 Associate Dean Leighton said that in the future the Faculty advisors would be liaising more closely with unit advisors.

(5) Draft Academic Advising Mission Statement

AC-7-10

208.12 Associate Dean Leighton said the Dean of Students had asked for feedback on the Academic Advising Mission Statement. Associate Dean Leighton said he had contacted unit advisors, and some had already responded.

(9) DEAN'S BUSINESS

(a) Enrolment

S-07-11

209.1 Associate Dean Hendren briefly described the admissions process at McGill. She said that the cutoff for Science students had increased slightly in the current year, reflecting an even higher quality of students than in the previous year. The Science target for total B.Sc. and B.A. & Sc. students (with B.A. & Sc. students each counting as 0.5) was 1150, and the actual number of students was 1121.5. The discrepancy was accounted for by a lower than expected yield of students from Canadian (provinces other than Québec and Ontario) and U.S. high schools. Also of note was the fact that among students who had been accepted into both the Faculties of Science and Engineering, more chose Science than Engineering.

(b) "Green" McGill

209.2 Dean Grant said that in the past there had been no real directed action as a result of Committee of the Whole discussions. For the current year, discussions would focus on issues that would be considered in forthcoming Senate meetings. This would provide a focus for the ideas generated during the Committee of the Whole discussions.

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

209.4 Associate Dean Burns said that a joint meeting of Senate and the Board of Governors would be held on October 30, 2007. At the meeting there would be a discussion on "sustainability" at McGill. He mentioned that there is a Subcommittee on Environment at McGill. Information about this subcommittee could be found on McGill's Website. Members of the McGill community could contact the subcommittee concerning environmental issues. As well, McGill has a Rethink Program which encourages members of the McGill community to rethink their use of paper and other office supplies, with the goal of rendering McGill more environmentally friendly. Associate Dean Burns also mentioned that there were a number of environmental research initiatives underway in the various faculties at McGill. He asked members which concerns the Faculty of Science would like to see addressed at the joint Senate-Board meeting.

209.5 Among the issues raised were:

- That the upcoming joint Senate-Board meeting would relate specifically to sustainability, rather than the environment in general.
- That some organizations within McGill were promoting acceptance of the UN resolution on Sustainability and Education.
- That there were a number of academic and operational issues that related to sustainability in, for example, energy and paper.
- That McGill lags behind on a number of simple aspects of sustainability, for instance in the provision of recycling bins and policies for discarding materials.
- That initiatives coming from students carry much weight.

- That among the factors influencing students' choice of university were the institution's social responsibility and environmental record.
- That McGill's environmental initiatives should be better publicized.
- That the SUS now had an environmental commissioner and that the SUS had unanimously passed a pledge for sustainability in education. The SUS would be working towards encouraging all faculties at McGill to integrate sustainability into their curricula.
- That sustainability was often a question of considering the "little things," such as computers and lights being left on needlessly, and the pointless or inefficient use of vehicles and machines.

209.6 Associate Dean Burns said that members should feel free to contact Senators with any further suggestions for topics to be raised at the joint Senate-Board meeting.

209.10 Faculty moved out of the Committee of the Whole.

(10) 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 May 23, 2007: Prof. N. Roulet

The Principal welcomed the members of Senate to the last Senate meeting of the year. The Principal extended a special welcome to a delegation from the Ar-Raniry Islamic Institute in Aceh, Indonesia, led by Iskandar Usman, Vice-Rector for Administration Affairs, and Lukman Ibrahim, Vice-Rector for Student Affairs. They remained as observers to the meeting.

The meeting opened with Professor Grant's, Dean of Faculty of Science, resolution on the death of Professor Robert Nicholls, Department of Chemistry.

The meeting agenda and minutes of the previous meeting of Senate were approved and speaking rights were granted to a number of members of academic staff who may need to speak to business on the agenda.

The Principal then provided the Chair's remarks. These covered a number of updates on the federal and provincial government files, the MUHC, CREOUQ, the campaign, and the planning for the Joint meeting of the BoG and Senate for October 30, 2007. The most relevant items for the Faculty of Science were the introduction of Mr. Francois Roy as the new Vice Principal (Administration and Finance) and the general concerns of budgetary management and controls at Quebec universities in light of the issues at UQAM.

There were two questions from the Senator Bouchard. His first question concerned the scholarships and prizes for mature and second degree students. The Provost responded that it was important to recognize the distinction between scholarships and prizes awarded on the basis of merit and those awarded on the basis of need. In principle, taking consideration of the resources available, the Provost said it was McGill University's desire to assist students, whatever their status, as much as possible. However, many of the scholarships and prizes have specific eligibility requirements. His second question asked about advising and scheduling of examinations for students in interdisciplinary programs such as the BA. and Sc. The Principal acknowledged the relevance of the Senator's question given the comments and recommendations of the recent discussions on student life and learning and then asked the Provost to address the specific question. Provost Masi responded to the question saying that the university was doing all it possibly could, given the number of students and examination

combinations there are, to minimize conflicts, but that there was no way that conflicts would ever be eliminated. The Provost did not answer the question about advising stating the question should be directed to the Deans of Arts and Science.

Senate then moved to the Motions and Reports section of the meeting.

1. Professor Masi presented the 391st Report of the Academic Policy and Planning Committee.

2. Professor Madramootoo, Dean of FAES, presented the report of the Nominating Committee. Several Statutory Committees were approved. The recommendation for the committee for the selection of the Dean of Education was approved, followed by Amendments to the Terms of Reference of Senate Committees: a name change to the Academic Policy Committee (APC) from APPC was approved; and small items in the terms of reference of, or representatives to, the Academic Admissions Committee and Committee on the Coordination of Student Services. A Senator asked if the terms of reference of the Committee on Ancillary Services would be discussed and/or brought back before Senate. The Secretary General said the terms of reference had come before the nominating committee of Senate and she has planned additional meetings with AVP Nicell and Professor Mucci, the Chair of an ad hoc committee that had been setup to examine the Terms of Reference of this committee. Finally, Senate voted to dissolve the University Bookstore Committee and the responsibility for the bookstore would now move under Ancillary Services.

Dean Madramootoo then moved as part of the annual review, the memberships of the Standing Committees and the Joint Committees of Senate.

3. Senate discussed as a Committee of the Whole, the proposed 2007-2008 budget for the university.

4. Vice-Principal Dowsett Johnston presented a report on the Campaign Launch and Support Infrastructure.

5. Vice-Principal Thérien presented the Policy on the Ethical Conduct of Research Involving Human Subjects and Professor Smith provided a brief summary of the proposed changes. The changes are required to satisfy the requirements of the Federal funding agencies.

6. The Provost presented and moved for approval the Safe Disclosure (Whistle-blowing) Policy. There was considerable discussion but the policy was approved.

7. The Provost presented and moved for approval the Employment Equity Policy. It was approved.

8. Senate then received the Annual Reports from the Committee on Information Systems and Technology and the University Admissions Committee.

Senate adjourned far too late for a nice May evening ...

- Senate Meeting of September 19, 2007: Prof. D. Burns

Report to be tabled.

(11) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD

There were no members' questions.

(12) OTHER BUSINESS

Short research presentations were given by the following professors:

- Prof. Guillaume Gervais (Physics)
- Prof. Sarah Turner (Geography)

As well, the following **new professors** were acknowledged, and introduced if present at the meeting:

- Prof. Lea Berrang-Ford (Geography)
- Prof. Yogita Chudasama (Psychology)
- Prof. Pavlos Kollias (Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences)
- Prof. Xue Liu (Computer Science)
- Prof. Alex Maloney (Physics)
- Prof. William Minarik (Earth & Planetary Sciences)
- Prof. Audrey Moores (Chemistry)
- Prof. Bruce Shepherd (Mathematics & Statistics)
- Prof. Huanquan Zheng (Biology)

The following **recently tenured professors** were acknowledged, and introduced if present at the meeting:

- Prof. Evan Balaban (Psychology)
- Prof. Andrew Hendry (Biology/Redpath)
- Prof. Michael Hilke (Physics)
- Prof. Sang Yong Jeon (Physics)
- Prof. Bettina Kemme (Computer Science)
- Prof. Anthony Ricciardi (Redpath/MSE)
- Prof. Nancy Ross (Geography)
- Prof. Clark Verbrugge (Computer Science)
- Prof. Paul Wiseman (Chemistry)
- Prof. Monique Zetka (Biology)

The following **new Full Professors** were acknowledged, and introduced if present at the meeting:

- Prof. Mark Baldwin (Psychology)
- Prof. Gregory Dudek (Computer Science)
- Prof. Victoria Kaspi (Physics)
- Prof. Kaleem Siddiqi (Computer Science)
- Prof. John Toth (Mathematics & Statistics)

All new, recently tenured and new Full Professors were given a small gift.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.