

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
Meeting of Faculty  
Tuesday, April 10, 2007  
Leacock Council Room - L232**

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

**DOCUMENTS:** S-06-33 to S-06-35

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

**Pre-Agenda Presentations**

Research presentations:

Professor Matt Dobbs, Department of Physics  
Professor Patanjali Kambhampati, Department of Chemistry  
Professor Frieder Schoeck, Department of Biology

**(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Prof. Roulet **moved**, seconded by Prof. Mysak, that the Agenda be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**(2) COURSE MATERIALS AT THE MCGILL BOOKSTORE**

- 802.1** Mr. Barry Schmidt, General Manager, McGill Bookstore, gave a short presentation.
- 802.2** The McGill Bookstore publishes a pamphlet entitled "Textbooks. Faculty Guide" which gives important information about the bookstore and its procedures and offerings.
- 802.3** Mr. Schmidt said that the bookstore's objectives were to have all course materials on shelves by the first day of classes, and to provide course materials to students at the lowest cost.
- 802.4** Textbooks can be ordered by professors by way of either printed or online requisition forms. Electronic forms are preferred. The bookstore has separate deadlines for placing orders for course materials for the Fall, Winter and Summer semesters. There is also a deadline for used books. Mr. Schmidt strongly encouraged staff to file requisitions early, in order to ensure availability of course materials by the beginnings of semesters. Use of used textbooks saves students money, and this is facilitated by filing requisitions early, as well as by allowing the use, where appropriate, of older editions as textbooks.
- 802.5** Mr. Schmidt urged members to use the bookstore. The bookstore is owned and operated by McGill, for McGill, and profits flow back to the university. By selling both new and used textbooks and by selling other materials, the McGill Bookstore is a one-stop shop.
- 802.6** Mr. Schmidt said the bookstore was continually trying to improve service, and he encouraged members to provide feedback. Mr. Schmidt answered members' questions.

**802.7** Dean Grant thanked Mr. Schmidt for his informative presentation.

**(3) MINUTES OF MARCH 6, 2007**

**S-06-33**

Prof. Whitesides **moved**, seconded by Prof. Zuroff, 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**

**- Academic Committee**

**S-06-34**

The Academic Committee approved the following on Tuesday, March 27, 2007:

**SECTION A: NEW PROGRAMS**

None

**SECTION B: MAJOR PROGRAM CHANGES**

**- B.A. & Sc. Multi-Track  
108A**

**AC-06-108/AC-06-**

**805.1** Associate Dean Hendren explained the reason for the change. A number of students were following programs that did not include any focussed major concentration. Consequently, students did not progress to higher-level courses.

**805.2** There was a lengthy discussion. Associate Dean Hendren said she was unsure why the Faculty of Arts opposed the changes, but she thought that possibly Arts was attempting to fix similar problems in B.A. programs, a process which could take a long time. The current proposal would fix the problem in the B.A. & Sc. immediately.

**805.3** Concern was raised about restricting students' choice, as well as the issue of whether only breadth or breadth and depth was desirable for B.A. & Sc. students. The issue was raised as to whether the B.A. & Sc. Program Administration Committee should establish rules for the degree. Associate Dean Hendren pointed out that when the B.A. & Sc. was set up, it had not been anticipated that students would take two very broad programs. With the proposed changes, students still had a great deal of choice.

**805.4** Associate Dean Hendren said that the Biomedical representatives on the Academic Committee were in favour of the program changes, and she added that it was clear that the Major Concentration in Biomedical Sciences was much less focussed than other Science Major Concentrations.

**805.5** Associate Dean Hendren said that while the program changes would still have to be passed by the Faculty of Arts, she was firmly in favour of students in the B.A. & Sc. being exposed to some degree of focus.

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

**805.6** A vote was held:

In Favour	18
Against	9

**The motion carried.**

**SECTION C: NEW COURSES**

**(1) Physics**

PHYS 660	Quantum Condensed Matter 3 credits	<b>AC-06-95</b>
PHYS 717	Many-body Physics 3 credits	<b>AC-06-96</b>
PHYS 741	Superstring Theory 3 credits	<b>AC-06-97</b>
PHYS 742	Intro to the Standard Model 3 credits	<b>AC-06-98</b>
PHYS 743	Phy of the Very Early Universe 3 credits	<b>AC-06-99</b>
PHYS 744	Finite Temp Field Theory 3 credits	<b>AC-06-100</b>
PHYS 745	Supersymmetry and Supergravity 3 credits	<b>AC-06-101</b>

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

**The motion carried.**

**(2) Chemistry**

CHEM 115	Adv. Gen. Chem: Giants in Sci 4 credits	<b>AC-06-102</b>
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Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Lennox, that the course be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**- Request that CHEM 115 be Included in the List of Approved Freshman Science Courses  
AC-06-102A**

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Lennox, that CHEM 115 be included in the list of Approved Freshman Science Courses.

**The motion carried.**

**(3) Computer Science**

COMP 308	Computer Systems Lab 1 credit	<b>AC-06-103</b>
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Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Whitesides, that the course be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

COMP 561

Comp. Biol. Methods & Research  
4 credits**AC-06-104**

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Whitesides, 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-06-92****SECTION F: MINOR PROGRAM CHANGES (For Information Only)**

- Report on Minor Program Changes

**AC-06-P3****SECTION G: OTHER (For Information Only)**- B.A. & Sc. Ad Hoc Major Concentration Program in History and Philosophy of Science **AC-06-93**

**805.7** Associate Dean Hendren said that the ad hoc Major Concentration was an Arts program that had been approved by the B.A. & Sc. Program Administration Committee.

**(6) DEAN'S BUSINESS****- Online Course Evaluations**

**806.1** The meeting moved into the Committee of the Whole, chaired by Associate Dean Burns.

**806.2** Associate Dean Burns said that a large number of universities had adopted online course evaluations. He reminded members of McGill's recent trial of online evaluations, and said that this trial had revealed only very small differences between written and online evaluations.

**806.3** Associate Dean Burns posed three questions:  
 1) How were online evaluations viewed by the Faculty?  
 2) What was the degree of participation for online evaluations, and what mechanisms could be used to increase this?  
 3) How did online evaluations relate to tenure?

**806.4** Among the points raised were:

- That there were no statistical comparisons between written and online evaluations, although much data had been collected on response rate. The lack of comparisons between written and online evaluations would be an important issue over the next few years, since professors coming up for tenure had both written and online evaluations. With increasing use of online evaluations in a few years' time, this would no longer be an issue.

- That online evaluations produced increased commentary.
- That response rate was an issue of major concern, and could produce statistically invalid results.
- That some units have mid-term evaluations, which have proved useful. These could possibly be extended to all courses.
- That some online evaluations were too long.
- That at least one university offered incentives for students to fill out online evaluations. However, another member did not think this was a good idea.
- That evaluations are conducted too late in the semester.
- That some units, particularly the biomedical ones, had many instructors teaching a single course, which increased the load on students completing online evaluations.
- That for small courses it would be feasible to give students paper copies, and ask the students to hand in the completed copies to the unit office. This would not be feasible for large courses.

**806.5** Associate Dean Burns thanked members for their participation in the discussion.

Dean Grant resumed the chair.

**(7) RESULT OF ELECTION FOR SENATE**

**S-06-35**

**807.1** Dean Grant congratulated **Prof. Ian Butler, Department of Chemistry**, on being elected to Senate. Prof. Butler's term will terminate on August 31, 2010.

**807.2** The continuing Faculty representatives on Senate, and the number of years left to serve, are:

Prof. D. Burns (Chemistry)	- two years
Prof. R. Chase (Biology)	- one year
Prof. K. GowriSankaran (Mathematics & Statistics)	- one year
Prof. D. Harpp (Chemistry)	- two years
Prof. T. Moore (Geography)	- two years
Prof. N. Roulet (Geography)	- one year
Prof. D. Ryan (Physics)	- two years
Prof. S. Whitesides (Computer Science)	- two years

**(8) 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 7, 2007 - Prof. D. Harpp**

**1. REPORT OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE**

Professor Mendelson indicated that shortage in daycare options was not unique to McGill, citing waiting lists of 1 to 2.5 years for spaces at Université de Montréal, Concordia, the University of Toronto, and the University of British Columbia.

Professor Mendelson stated that the University currently has an arms-length association with three daycares. The waiting list for the 106 spaces available at the downtown McGill Daycare is about 1.5 years; the Macdonald Campus Daycare has 60 spaces with a waiting list of about 1 year. The SSMU Daycare has 32 spaces; recent negotiations were not successful in securing a guaranteed number of those spaces for McGill. The APO estimates that about 15 of the 100 new tenure track faculty hired in each of the past 5 years arrived with small children, with less than half looking for daycare.

## 2. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Administration's Preliminary Response to the Principal's Task Force on Student Life & Learning. A final response from the Administration is anticipated in the fall.

This year four McGill researchers, the most from any one Canadian university, all from the Faculty of Science, have been named 2007 recipients of the prestigious Sloan Research Fellowship, and will each receive two-year fellowships and a \$45,000 U.S. award. They are Professors Jacques Verstraëte, Mathematics & Statistics, Mathieu Blanchette, Computer Science, Patrick Hayden, Computer Science, and Aashish Clerk, Physics.

## 3. QUESTION RE MCGILL'S ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

A question from the floor on Environmental sustainability was posed concerning "Green" initiatives. The Principal invited the Associate Vice-Principal (University Services) Nicell to respond.

- (1) Through Environmental Health and Safety Services.
- (2) Through Waste Management Services.
- (3) Through Building Services.
- (4) Through Purchasing Services.
- (5) Through the Sub-Committee on the Environment's "Rethink" program.

The University will continue to provide updates to Senate on the activities of the Sub-Committee on Environment (sub-committee of the Senate Committee on Physical Development).

- (1) The work of our Green Building Task Force and the Senate Committee on Physical Development is continuing in order incorporate "green building standards" into McGill Building Standards.
- (2) Building Services is working to promote recycling throughout the campus.
- (3) The implementation of the Paper Use Policy has resulted in a switch to recycled paper (approximately 40 million sheets a year) by McGill Printing and Copy Services.

Professor Nicell added that the community may wish to consult the rethink website (see <http://www.mcgill.ca/rethink>) for a list of ideas and resources available to members of the McGill community.

## 4. REPORT TO SENATE AND THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS REGARDING ANNUAL TENURE MEETING

Meeting ended at 4:00 p.m.

### - Senate Meeting of March 28, 2007 - Prepared by Prof. R. Chase, and read by Prof. D. Burns

The following are highlights from a meeting that had a full agenda and that lasted 2.75 hours.

Deputy Provost Mendelson responded to a question about whether the forthcoming SSMU bookstore would affect operations of the McGill Bookstore. He was unhappy about

the prospect of a new competing bookstore, but felt that the McGill Bookstore would meet the challenge with improved services and products.

Another question asked who would meet the costs of the newly announced McGill International Doctoral Awards Program (MIDA). At issue was the remaining 1/3 of costs remaining after the contribution from the central administration. In his response, Associate Provost Kreiswirth stated that the Deans had committed to covering the remaining costs, but that the mechanisms for this had not yet been determined, and they were likely to differ between academic units.

Senator Robaire's question was essentially an appeal for transferring a substantial portion of indirect costs to academic units that generate the revenue. Provost Masi, however, was adamantly opposed. He re-stated the rationale for directing these monies to the Faculties.

A report from APPC included notice of an interesting new Bilateral Student Exchange Agreement with the Université de Montréal. This can accommodate up to 50 students per year, each for one or two terms of full credit load.

A report from the Senate Nominating Committee lead to the approval of Prof. Gregory Dudek and Prof. David Ronis as members of the University Tenure Committee for Recruitment, Faculty of Science. Also, Prof. Laurie Hendren was named alternate chair of the University Tenure Committee, Faculty of Science.

A draft, summary report on the Campus Master Plan was presented by Prof. Jim Nicell. It painted, in broad strokes, an attractive picture of the physical campus "to 2010 and beyond". The document will be widely disseminated, and feedback and suggestions via [masterplan.feedback@mcgill.ca](mailto:masterplan.feedback@mcgill.ca) was strongly encouraged. Approval by the Board of Directors is anticipated in Fall 2007.

A proposed policy on Safe Disclosure (whistle blowing) was introduced and discussed before being withdrawn for revision.

There was a discussion of the Preliminary Administrative Response to the Recommendations of the Principal's Task Force on Student Life and Learning. The discussion largely consisted of student senators asking for more details and urging faster action. Deputy Provost Mendelson will table a more detailed response in the Fall.

Lastly, Vice-Principal Goldberg presented his views on the recent federal budget.

- Québec gets little new money from the Canada Social Transfer.
- CFI funding is up \$500 million.
- An additional 1000 graduate scholarships will be generated (from which program?).
- The Montreal Neurological Institute has been designated a Centre of Excellence.
- Québec will receive an additional \$2.3 billion in equalization payments, but it remains to be seen how much of this will be allocated to higher education.

**(9) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no members' questions.

**(10) OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.