

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
Meeting of Faculty  
Tuesday, February 13, 2007  
Leacock Council Room - L232**

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

**DOCUMENTS:** S-06-24 to S-06-30

Dean Grant called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

**Pre-Agenda Presentations**

Research presentations were given by the following professors:

- Prof. Paul Wiseman, Department of Chemistry
- Prof. Yogita Chudasama, Department of Psychology

**(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**The motion carried.**

**(2) AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE TO GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES**

**602.1** Prof. J. Nemes, Interim Dean, Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies said that the **Award for Excellence in Service to Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies** was given to members of McGill's administrative and support staff who best represent excellence in service to McGill's graduate students and postdocs.

**602.2** The 2005-2006 Award was being given to two members of the Faculty of Science.

**602.3** Interim Dean Nemes read citations for the award.

**- Ms. Chantale Bousquet, Clinical Program, Department of Psychology**

"Ms. Bousquet has worked in the clinical psychology program since September 1992. She excels in her current role as Administrative and Student Coordinator which requires the coordination of an intensive academic program that includes 9 clinical professors, 45 PhD students, and over 20 clinical supervisors located at six hospitals. Though her duties are numerous, Ms. Bousquet carries them out with a high degree of efficiency and professionalism and through it all never loses the human touch.

"An informed and reliable resource person, Ms. Bousquet has been described as the 'glue' that holds graduate students together in the program. Along with her strong organizational skills, eye for detail and intense dedication, Ms. Bousquet brings warmth, a sympathetic ear and a formidable sense of humor to the excellent relationships she builds with graduate students and faculty alike.

"Ms. Bousquet is also an innovator. Through her own initiative, she developed databases so that professors can quickly ascertain the requirements that each student

has completed and those that are still outstanding. In addition, Ms. Bousquet organized a documentation centre where clinical literature, assessment tools and assessment space are now available for graduate students to read and practice the administration of various psychometric measures.

"Devoted and efficient, knowledgeable and creative, warm and caring - Chantale Bousquet consistently goes the extra mile in order to provide an exemplary level of support to all who have come to depend on her.

"On behalf of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies at McGill, I would like to thank you, Chantale, for your remarkable contributions."

#### 602.4

Ms. Bousquet congratulated her co-winner, Ms. Chantal Marotte. She thanked the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies for the honour of the award, and also the Faculty of Science. She thanked the Acting Chair, Prof. David Zuroff, the Administrative Officer, Patricia Tuck, and the faculty members of the Department of Psychology, as well as her co-workers, and in particular the graduate students in the Clinical Program.

#### **- Ms. Chantal Marotte, Department of Chemistry**

"Ms. Marotte has worked in the Department of Chemistry since 1995 and has held her current position as Graduate Studies Coordinator for the past three years. From public relations coordination, to assessment of complex application files, to overseeing course assignments, thesis submission and graduate fellowship applications, the breadth of Ms. Marotte's current duties is quite staggering considering the number of graduate students in the department fluctuates between 100 and 135. Nevertheless, Ms. Marotte carries out her tasks with a very high degree of competency, dedication and cheerfulness.

"Referred to as the 'godmother' of all Chemistry graduate students, what distinguishes Ms. Marotte is her keen sense of responsibility. Ms. Marotte's open door policy, individual attention, sound knowledge base and caring nature make graduate students feel welcomed, informed and supported throughout their studies.

"As if this wasn't enough, Ms. Marotte goes well beyond the call of duty by ensuring that students are progressing in the right direction, going out of her way to prepare them for stumbling blocks or deadlines, and bringing to their attention funding possibilities and personal development opportunities. In effect, she deeply involves herself in the betterment of graduate student life.

"Chantal Marotte's strong work ethic and outstanding commitment has earned her much well-deserved admiration and gratitude from the graduate students and faculty she assists, and who rely so heavily upon her.

"On behalf of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies at McGill, I would like to thank you, Chantal, for your remarkable contributions."

#### 602.5

Ms. Marotte thanked the Administrative Officer of the Department of Chemistry, Normand Trempe, the Director of Graduate Studies, Prof. Masad Damha, the Chair, Prof. Bruce Lennox, her co-workers, and all the graduate students.

#### 602.6

Dean Grant thanked Interim Dean Nemes, and he congratulated Ms. Bousquet and Ms. Marotte, on behalf of the Faculty of Science, for their superb achievements.

### (3) **CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES**

#### a) **Bachelor of Science**

**S-06-25**

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

**The motion carried.**

- b) Bachelor of Arts and Science S-06-26**

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

**The motion carried.**

- c) Diploma in Environment S-06-27**

- d) Diploma in Meteorology S-06-28**

There were no students recommended for the above diplomas.

**The motion carried.**

Prof. Leighton further **moved**, seconded by Prof. Green, 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**

- (4) MINUTES OF JANUARY 16, 2007 S-06-24**

Prof. Barrette **moved**, seconded by Prof. Zuroff, that the Minutes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

- (5) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

- (6) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

- a) Committee on Student Standing S-06-29**

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

- b) Academic Committee S-06-30**

**The Academic Committee approved the following on Tuesday, January 30, 2007:**

**SECTION A: NEW PROGRAMS**

- (1) PHARMACOLOGY & THERAPEUTICS**

- Major in Pharmacology

**AC-06-6 (Rev.**

- 2)**

- Honours in Pharmacology

**AC-06-7 (Rev. 2)**

Associate Dean Hendren introduced and briefly described the programs.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Mr. Newlove, that the above programs be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**(2) MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS/COMPUTER SCIENCE**

- Joint Major in Statistics and Computer Science **AC-06-65**
- Joint Honours in Statistics and Computer Science **AC-06-66**

Associate Dean Hendren highlighted the above new programs.

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

**The motion carried.**

**(3) B.A. & Sc.**

- Honours in Cognitive Science **AC-06-68**

Associate Dean Hendren introduced the new Honours in Cognitive Science program.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Robillard, that the program be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**(4) B.SC. LIBERAL PROGRAM**

- General Science Minor **AC-06-69**
- Field Study Minor **AC-06-70**

**606.1** Associate Dean Hendren said that in order to simplify the encoding of the B.Sc. Liberal Program in Minerva, the General Science and Field Study Breadth Options had to be implemented as formal Minors.

**606.2** The General Science Minor would be restricted to students in the B.Sc. Liberal Program, while the Field Study Minor would be open to students in other programs.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gyakum, that the above programs be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**SECTION B: MAJOR PROGRAM CHANGES**

None

**SECTION C: NEW COURSES**

- **B.A. & Sc.**  
COGS 444 Honours Research **AC-06-67**  
6 credits

**606.3** Associate Dean Hendren said that COGS 444 was intended for the B.A. & Sc. Honours Program in Cognitive Science.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Crépeau, 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-06-64**

#### **(7) DEAN'S BUSINESS**

**- Large Class Sizes**

**606.4** Associate Dean Burns chaired the Committee of the Whole.

**606.5** Associate Dean Burns said that a large amount of research had been done on the effect of large class sizes on teaching. Large class sizes were defined as those greater than 60. A few classes at McGill were ten times that number. Evaluations did show that students were less happy in large classes. However, it was difficult to assess the educational benefits that might be obtained by small classes, and a great deal of research had failed to show any conclusive differences between the quality of education received by students in small versus large classes. The possibility of reducing class sizes obviously related to issues of space, and also raised the question of when this should be done — first, second or third year?

**606.6** The question for the Committee of the Whole was, What to do about large classes? And, furthermore, Are large classes a problem?

**606.7** Among the points raised were:

- That large classes and obtaining suitable classrooms were a tremendous problem for departments at McGill.
- That there were a very limited number of large classrooms at McGill.
- That enrolment, and therefore class sizes, at McGill continued to increase.
- That it would be appropriate for the Dean to lobby the administration to build more large classrooms and to better maintain the classroom infrastructure.
- That while some other Canadian universities have large classes, some don't.
- That making classes smaller obviously required more resources, including human resources.
- That there were a number of different models for reducing class sizes, including the use of teaching assistants.
- That one particular model was to have general lectures and then divide the class into smaller groups for specific lectures.
- That there were inefficiencies in the system, such as a large number of courses in thermodynamics and in statistics, and that part of the problem could be addressed by increasing efficiency.
- That there was a need to improve the student experience at McGill.
- That students preferred "blackboard and chalk" to overhead transparencies.
- That relatively small improvements in equipment would make a big difference.

- That at least two universities in the U.S. required freshman students to take a seminar-type course with no more than 20–25 students.
- That large classes as such were not a problem; the problem was in obtaining the experience of small classes. Using large classes to free up resources in order to enable seminars and similar-sized classes to be given seemed a reasonable balance.
- That more important than the size of the class, was the problem of the lack of intimacy in the student-professor interaction.

**606.8** Associate Dean Burns welcomed further comments following the meeting. He would pass these on to the Dean, who could then take them to the Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning).

**606.9** Dean Grant said that the number of students admitted each year to the Faculty was governed by the Compact. However, it was necessary to balance student numbers among the various units offering the B.Sc. degree.

**606.10** Associate Dean Hendren added that the freshman courses in the Faculty of Science also served the Faculty of Engineering. The Faculty of Science did not have control over admissions to the Faculty of Engineering.

#### **(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 January 17, 2007 – Prof. T. Moore**

Senate met in the frigid atmosphere of Leacock 232, where the temperature was barely warmer than that outside. The cold was combated in three ways. First, two McGill workman, replete with an amazing array of tools, were summoned and fiddled with the thermostat. Most members of the Faculty of Science conclude that McGill thermostats are for decoration, rather than function, so this may have been ineffective. Second, Senate was well attended, with over 120 warm bodies. Third, discussion was vigorous and at times heated and passionate, with much hot air being generated. The latter was probably the main cause of the rise in temperature during the Senate meeting.

The Principal commented on recent successes of faculty and students; The Faculty of Science was prominent, with two of the four Principal's Prize for Teaching Excellence (Dr. Axel Hundemer, Mathematics & Statistics; Professor Daniel Levitin, Psychology) and Professor Mysak being awarded the Prix du Québec. She noted that the University was actively engaged with national, provincial and municipal governments to secure more funding for the University. She announced a bewildering array of new Administrators.

In response to a question about student rights, Deputy Provost Mendelson admitted that he had not yet sent a Directive to Deans and Chairs ensuring that student's material submitted in French would be treated with the same level of assessment and feedback as those submitted in English. The terms of reference of the Senate Committee on Ancillary Services, chaired by Professor Mucci, generated much discussion and heat. The issue is the distinction between university administration and governance, the latter being the purview of Senate. The case was made that the terms of reference overstepped this purview. For example, the Committee could examine the provision of food services or parking at McGill, the policies created, but it should not deal with issues of pricing (is a cup of coffee in Burnside worth a buck fifty?) or profit and loss. The terms of reference were returned to Senate, by a narrow margin, for the input of Jim Nicell, the new Associate Vice-Principal (University Services).

Professor Ryan of Physics asked a question about the termination of custodial services, such as cleaning, one day before the university closed in December and the start one day after the university commenced the winter term in January. The matter was referred to the Associate Vice-Principal (University Services), Jim Nicell, who shared Professor Ryan's concern, said that he had set up meetings between Building Directors and University Services to establish priorities and that he would do everything possible within the constraints of the budget. This latter phrase was repeated, suggesting that Professor Ryan might well invest in a mop and pail.

A question from a student Senator about perceived delays in dealing with Student Grievances was dealt with by the Secretary-General. She noted in detail that the preamble contained incorrect information and that nearly all cases had been dealt with in a timely manner under the Code. In response to a question about the release of student information for anti-terrorism surveillance or intelligence gathering, the Provost rather testily remarked that he had answered a similar question two years ago, that the University was bound by strict Quebec rules on releasing information, that information was released to US funding agencies when approved by the student (e.g. for loans) and that information for prosecution purposes may be released by the Secretary-General.

A motion from a student Senator to grant 'academic amnesty' to allow students to participate in a protest about university funding on February 7 was the subject of heated and generally ill-prepared debate. Arguments were made by one Dean that this could cause chaos in his Faculty and one student suggested that as the University of Toronto had granted amnesty, McGill should as well. Neither argument carried much weight. The motion was defeated.

After further deliberations of little significance to the Faculty of Science, Senators retreated to the warmth of their offices.

**(9) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD**

- 609.1** In response to several questions concerning the announcement from the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies of a plan to apply differential fee waivers to international Ph.D. students, starting in September, Dean Grant said that the Faculty's own program for differential fee waivers would be folded into the OGPS's plan. The issue would be discussed at the next Chairs Meeting.

**(10) OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.