FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Tuesday, February 14, 2006
Leacock Council Room - L232

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book.

DOCUMENTS: S-05-23 to S-05-30

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

Dean Grant announced that starting with the current meeting, several professors would be invited to make brief presentations on their research after the Faculty meeting, but before the reception. The three members making presentations at the current Faculty meeting would be:

- Professor Hans Larsson (Redpath Museum/Biology)
- Professor Andreas Warburton (Physics)
- Professor Tracy Webb (Physics)

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Prof. Baker **moved**, seconded by Prof. Sutton, that the Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

(2) CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

a) Bachelor of Arts and Science **S-05-24**

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

The motion carried.

b) Bachelor of Science **S-05-25**

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

The motion carried.

c) Diploma in Environment **S-05-26**
d) Diploma in Meteorology **S-05-27**

There were no candidates recommended for the above Diplomas.

Prof. GowriSankaran further **moved**, seconded by Prof. Whitesides, 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

Associate Dean Leighton thanked the advisers in the Student Affairs Office for their diligent work in putting together the graduation lists.

(3) MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2005 **S-05-23**

Prof. Ewing **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gale, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

(4) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

(5) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

a) Committee on Student Standing **S-05-28**

Due to lack of business, the CSS meeting had been cancelled, and therefore there was no report.

b) Academic Committee **S-05-29**

The Academic Committee approved the following on December 13, 2005 and January 31, 2006:

SECTION A: NEW PROGRAMS

None

SECTION B: MAJOR PROGRAM CHANGES

None

SECTION C: NEW COURSES

Computer Science

COMP 598	Topics in Computer Science 1 3 credits	**AC-05-62**
COMP 599	Topics in Computer Science 2 3 credits	**AC-05-63**

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

The motion carried.

SECTION D: MAJOR COURSE CHANGES

None

SECTION E: OTHER

(1) Internship Year in Engineering & Science (IYES)

605.1 Associate Dean Hendren briefly described the IYES program. She said that in order for this program to appear on a student's transcript, the student's unit must have formally opted into the IYES program. Currently in the Faculty of Science, only four units (Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences, Computer Science, Mathematics & Statistics, and Physics) were officially part of the IYES program. She said she would like students from all units in the Faculty of Science to have the option of obtaining recognition for participation in the IYES program.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ronis, that all B.Sc. programs formally opt into the IYES program.

The motion carried.

(2) Mathematics & Statistics Graduate Program Title Changes **AC-05-68**

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Drury, that the graduate program title changes on students' transcripts be approved.

The motion carried.

SECTION F: MINOR CHANGES (For Information Only)

- Report on Minor Program Changes **AC-05-P4**
- Report on Minor Course Changes **AC-05-61**
- Report on Minor Course Changes **AC-05-65**

605.2 Associate Dean Hendren said that with the introduction of the Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List (DMURL), it was important for project course titles to clearly indicate whether a course involved reading or research. She had asked units to modify project course titles and descriptions accordingly. Associate Dean Hendren pointed out a table in Document AC-05-65 showing how the Department of Biology had reorganized its project courses.

SECTION G: OTHER (For Information Only)

(1) Limits on Research Credits Allowable in Programs

605.3 Associate Dean Hendren said that if units had been depending on the recently repealed Faculty regulation to limit research credits for their students, the units could now introduce their own limitations on research credits by adding a note in the Calendar.

(2) Undergraduate Research Project Courses (3 credits)

- CHEM 396 (Chemistry) **AC-05-32L**
- ENVR 396 (McGill School of Environment) **AC-05-32K**
- PHGY 396 (Physiology) **AC-05-32M**
- PSYC 396 (Psychology) **AC-05-32N**

605.4 Associate Dean Hendren explained that at the December 6, 2005 Faculty meeting, Faculty had pre-approved additional Undergraduate Research Project Courses. These were now being brought to Faculty for information.

605.5 These additional courses, as well as those approved by Faculty, had been submitted to SCTP; SCTP had approved them all.

605.6 Associate Dean Hendren thanked everyone involved for putting the Undergraduate Research Project Courses together.

- Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List (DMURL) Including Courses **AC-05-22(Revised)**

605.7 Associate Dean Hendren said that the revised DMURL document now included courses eligible for the DMURL. The Academic Committee had examined and approved this revised DMURL at its December meeting, and the DMURL had recently been approved by APPC. If there were any changes to the DMURL, members should notify the Associate Dean as soon as possible.

c) Nominating Committee **S-05-30**

Ms. Filipski **moved**, seconded by Prof. Lin, that, as in the Nominating Committee Report, two student members serve on the B.A. & Sc. Program Administration Committee.

The motion carried.

(6) <u>DEAN'S BUSINESS</u>

- Tenure

Discussion: Committee of the Whole (15 minutes)

606.1 Associate Dean Burns took over the Chair of the Committee of the Whole at 3:20 p.m.

606.2 Associate Dean Burns gave a history of tenure.

606.3 Associate Dean Burns said that tenure at McGill requires superior performance in two of three areas (research, teaching and administration) and reasonable performance in the third.

606.4 Associate Dean Burns posed three questions to stimulate the discussion;

1. Should there be tenure?
2. Should tenure be reviewed at a later date?
3. What is superior performance, and should superior performance in two, rather than three, categories be enough?

606.5 Associate Dean Burns noted that many universities across North America were examining whether to have tenure. A member gave an example of the importance of tenure in enabling free speech and resisting political pressure.

606.6 It was suggested that the most important of the three categories be identified. However, a member emphasized that superior performance was required in two of the categories, and a reasonable performance in the third; candidates could not be inferior in any category. In response to a suggestion that administration be discounted for purposes of awarding tenure, a member emphasized the importance of administration to the functioning of a unit. It was pointed out that there was a perception among students that research was considered more important than teaching.

606.7 A member mentioned that a MAUT workshop on tenure and mentoring was scheduled for March 2, 2006 at 12:00 noon.

606.8 A member requested that at a future meeting, information be provided concerning tenure rates in the Faculty of Science in comparison to other faculties, and at McGill in comparison to other universities in Canada and the USA.

606.9 Associate Dean Burns said that members should feel free to send any further comments along to him.

606.10 Dean Grant resumed the chair of the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

606.11 Dean Grant commented that it was important that a candidate's file demonstrate superiority in all three categories.

(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 November 16, 2005 - Prof. N. Kamran

The highlights of the Senate Meeting of November 16 were the following:

1) Waiting lists and course selection on Minerva:
In response to a question from Senator Krajewska about the absence of online waiting lists for capped courses, Professor Masi (Interim Provost at the time), responded that the Registrar's office is working on a pilot project that would use wait list features that come with the Minerva system. The pilot project is implemented in the Faculty of Law for now, but it is expected that it will be extended to other Faculties once a number of procedural issues are resolved.

2) Services for individuals with disabilities:
In response to a question from Senator Stubley on the University's commitment to apply the "McGill Standards for a Barrier Free Campus" for construction and renovation projects, Professor Yalovsky (Vice-Principal Administration and Finance) noted that while the downtown campus is 85% accessible, full accessibility remains the goal. He noted that student-related accessibility is a priority in selecting projects for improved access. However most of the remaining inaccessible space is associated with 19th century legacy buildings, where the costs to provide accessibility are extensive in relation to the amount of space made accessible and in most cases the functions which occur in these inaccessible spaces can be relocated to other areas.

3) Planning White Paper on the future of the University:
Professor Masi gave a detailed presentation of the draft Planning White Paper, which presented an exciting vision for the future of the University. The document emphasizes the need to maintain the core disciplines and core faculties, while advancing trans-disciplinary research and teaching. The need for systematic benchmarking was stressed repeatedly. Professor Masi also explained that increases in enrolment would only be entertained in targeted areas in which growth could be foreseen. The next draft of the Planning White Paper will be presented to Senate after the New Year.

- Senate Meeting of December 7, 2005 - Prof. C. Lin

Prof. Galaty made a motion of thanks to Prof. Sam Noumoff, who was attending his final Senate meeting. Sam has served as a Senator since 1976.

Most of the meeting was taken up by the Master Plan. An overview of the Plan was presented by consultant Mr. Jack Diamond. He noted the Plan needs to be sufficiently

flexible to respond to changes and planning initiatives. The timing for the Plan is good, as McGill is in the midst of preparing an academic strategic plan or "white paper". Mr. Diamond noted north-south access is better developed in the downtown campus than east-west access, and more green space and bicycle paths would be desirable. The downtown campus also lacks space for students to gather and study outside of classrooms. The Plan is available on the McGill web site.

Senate passed the Policy on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law, Report of the Nominating Committee, Regulations Regulating Leaves of Absence for Political Purposes, APPC Report and an Amendment to the Regulations Relating to the Employment of Academic Staff and Librarians.

- Prof. Roulet will report on the Senate Meeting of January 11, 2006 at the next Faculty of Science meeting scheduled for March 14, 2006.

- Senate Meeting of February 1, 2006 - Prof. M. Sutton

Items are annotated by their labeling in the Agenda.

I.I. Chair reported on her trip to India with the Quebec delegation. This should lead to new interactions between McGill and Indian universities.
She discussed the issues of complementarity between hospitals in Montreal. In particular meetings with the people involved are underway.
She reported on her trip to Ottawa where McGill met with various government officials.

II.A. Questions and Motions by Members

II.A-1 Question re: What is McGill's policy on spousal hire? (by Prof. GowriSankaran) Provost Masi, reported on what was currently being done by the university. This includes financial incentives to departments of McGill for hiring the spouse and consultants to help the spouse find work in Montreal, as appropriate. Great care is taken to avoid conflict of interests. This active involvement by McGill seems to be working well and helpful for hiring new faculty.

II.A-2 A second question (by Mr. Reed): What is the current status and policy on text matching software? Provost Masi reported that negotiations with Turnitin.com are underway and hopeful a contract will be decided soon. Part of the delay is that in order to satisfy McGill policy, changes in the current software needed to be agreed upon and made.

II.A-3 A third question (by Ms. Krajewsak): The question was about whether a booking of a room at McGill by the Prime Minister was held up by "bureaucratic red tape?" VP Yalovsky fielded the question explaining that a room was booked, but it was decided, because of a change in venue, that it did not meet the requirements of the proposed meeting and so the Liberal Party moved the meeting to a more appropriate venue at Concordia. As well, he mentioned that there should be a web-based room booking system in place.

II.B. Motions and Reports from Organs of University Government

II.B-1 A report from the Senate Nominating Committee was received.

II.B-2 The annual report from the Committee on Student Discipline was received. A question about the possibility of separating the numbers between undergraduate and graduate students was asked. This will be looked into but a problem arises in keeping anonymity when reporting statistics on such small numbers.

The meeting was adjourned.

Dean Grant thanked the Senators for the Reports.

(8) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD

There were no members' questions.

(8) OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.