

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
Meeting of Faculty  
Tuesday, October 10, 2006  
Leacock Council Room - L232**

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

**DOCUMENTS:** S-06-6 to S-06-13

Dean Grant called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

In response to a previous inquiry, Dean Grant announced that it was permissible to use laptops at Faculty of Science meetings.

Dean Grant asked the two new graduate student representatives to Faculty of Science meetings to stand. They were:

Danielle Fraser, Ph.D. Physics  
Sarah Wilson, M.Sc. Biology

Another Faculty graduate student representative and a postdoctoral representative would be chosen in the near future, as well as an Academic Committee graduate student representative.

Dean Grant announced that for the SUS representatives:

Guillaume Couture (Physiology - U3)  
Erika Leung (Physiology - U2)

would be replacing

Roberto Cipriani (Physiology - U2)  
Stephanie Rolin (Math/Physiology - U3)

**(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**The motion carried.**

**(2) CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES**

**a) Bachelor of Science S-06-7**

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Baker, 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-06-8**

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

**The motion carried.**

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| c) | <b>Diploma in Environment</b> | <b>S-06-9</b>  |
| d) | <b>Diploma in Meteorology</b> | <b>S-06-10</b> |

There were no students recommended for the above diplomas.

**The motion carried.**

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

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| (3) | <b><u>MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2006</u></b> | <b>S-06-6</b> |
|-----|---|---------------|

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

**The motion carried.**

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| (4) | <b><u>BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u></b> |
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There was no business arising from the Minutes.

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| (5) | <b><u>REPORTS OF COMMITTEES</u></b> |
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| a) | <b>Committee on Student Standing</b> | <b>S-06-11</b> |
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Associate Dean Leighton said that due to lack of business, the CSS meeting had been cancelled, and therefore there was no report.

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| b) | <b>Academic Committee</b> | <b>S-06-12</b> |
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**The Academic Committee approved the following on Tuesday, September 26, 2006:**

**SECTION A: NEW PROGRAMS**

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| (1) | <b>Ad hoc Programs</b>                                |                |
|     | i. <b>Ad hoc Honours Program in Cognitive Science</b> | <b>AC-06-2</b> |

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Kemme, that the ad hoc Honours Program in Cognitive Science be approved.

**The motion carried.**

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|  | ii. <b>Ad hoc Honours Program in Computer Science for B.A. Student</b> | <b>AC-06-3</b> |
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|-------|---|
| 205.1 | Associate Dean Hendren explained that an Arts student would like to follow the Science Honours Program in Computer Science, in order to obtain a B.A. Honours in Computer |
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Science. Upon Science's approval, the Faculty of Arts would then approve the program for the B.A. degree.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Baker, that the ad hoc Honours Program in Computer Science be approved for the B.A. student.

**The motion carried.**

### iii. Ad hoc Major Program in Neuroscience

**AC-06-4**

**205.2**

Associate Dean Hendren explained that a Major in Neuroscience had passed all McGill's approval levels, but was awaiting approval from the Québec government. Until such approval was obtained, students were following the Major in Neuroscience as an ad hoc program.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Drury, that the ad hoc Major Program in Neuroscience be approved.

**The motion carried.**

### (2) Mathematics & Statistics

- Major Concentration in Mathematics for Management Students
- Major Concentration in Statistics for Management Students

**AC-06-10**

**AC-06-11**

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

**The motion carried.**

## SECTION B: MAJOR PROGRAM CHANGES

### - Mathematics & Statistics

- Minor in Mathematics
- Minor in Statistics

**AC-06-8**

**AC-06-9**

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

**The motion carried.**

### Program Retirement:

- Major in Mathematics for Management Students

**AC-06-12**

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Drury, that the program be retired.

**The motion carried.**

## SECTION C: NEW COURSES

### (1) Pharmacology & Therapeutics

PHAR 558                      Pharmacology Research Topics  
3 credits

**AC-06-5**

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

**The motion carried.****(2) Biology/Natural Resource Sciences**

BIOL 350 (Revision)/ENTO 350(New)  
 Insect Biology and Control **AC-06-13A/AC-06-13B**  
 3 credits

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Levine, that the above be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**Biology**  
 BIOL 590 Linking commun/ecosyst ecology **AC-06-14**  
 3 credits

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Ms. McGruthers, 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-06-1**

Associate Dean Hendren read through the Report on Minor Course Changes.

**SECTION F: MINOR PROGRAM CHANGES (For Information Only)**

- None

**SECTION G: OTHER (For Approval)****(1) K Grade Extensions for Research Courses**

**205.3** Associate Dean Hendren explained that some professors had been giving K grades for one-semester research courses, with the students then conducting research on the same topic for a second semester. A grade would then be given for each of the supposedly separate one-semester research courses. This was an inappropriate use of K grades.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Mr. Ng, that it be a Faculty policy that K grades not be used as a means of extending research courses beyond their original time frame.

**The motion was unanimously approved.**

**(2) Faculty Standard Calculators**

**205.4** Associate Dean Hendren said that a number of professors wished to have a standard list of calculators that could be used for exams, in order to maintain control over the

capabilities of calculators. She said that it had not yet been determined whether the calculators would be provided to students during exams or whether students would themselves purchase the calculators.

**205.5** In response to a member, Associate Dean Hendren agreed that it would be preferable for Science's list to overlap with that of Engineering, and that some of these calculators should be available in the library for students to practice.

**205.6** Dean Grant said that the list should be available for the following year.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Levine, that the Faculty of Science adopt a standard list of calculators.

**The motion carried.**

#### **SECTION H: OTHER (For Information Only)**

##### **- The Delivery and Evaluation Mechanisms of Undergraduate Science Courses AC-06-17**

**205.7** Associate Dean Hendren said that the various points listed in Document AC-06-17 would be used for discussion during upcoming Academic Committee meetings, in order to create a set of guidelines for the delivery and evaluation of undergraduate Science courses. At the Academic Committee meeting scheduled for October 17, 2006, Point #2, Evaluation throughout the term versus evaluation via a 100% final exam, would be discussed. Associate Dean Hendren said that if members thought of any further points, they could communicate them to her.

**205.8** A member suggested that the Centre for University Teaching and Learning be consulted, to make use of its expertise.

**205.9** Another member said that an important consideration in teaching was the physical characteristics (acoustics, facilities, etc.) of lecture and laboratory rooms.

**205.10** Dean Grant said that if members had any further suggestions, they could contact Associate Dean Hendren or Josie D'Amico.

##### **c) Scholarships Committee**

###### **New Award:**

###### **Stephen and Anastasia Mysak Fellowship**

**S-06-13**

Estimated value:

\$15,000 per year; renewable once at the Master's level, twice at the Doctoral level.

**205.11** Associate Dean Leighton introduced the new graduate fellowship, and said that Stephen and Anastasia Mysak were the parents of Lawrence Mysak, a professor in the Department of Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences.

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Yau, that the award be adopted.

**The motion was unanimously approved.**

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

##### **- Initiatives to Improve Graduate Education in the Faculty of Science**

- 206.1** Faculty moved into the Committee of the Whole with Associate Dean Burns as Chair. Associate Dean Burns said that currently in the Faculty of Science there was a movement to attempt to enrich the experience of graduate education. He said that graduate education involved a number of different components, including the research itself as well as a social experience; students learn a great deal in graduate school, some of which is formalized and some of which is not.
- 206.2** Associate Dean Burns said that among recent initiatives relevant to graduate education were the Committee of the Whole discussion concerning intellectual property at the September 12, 2006 Faculty meeting, the institution of courses in scientific writing for graduate students, and informal symposia which provided ideas on the presentation of research.
- 206.3** Associate Dean Burns asked members for ideas on ways to enrich graduate education.
- 206.4** Among the many ideas were:
- 1** - providing means by which graduate students could be taught to teach
  - 2** - the introduction of symposia where graduate students could present their research for the benefit of members of other units, including graduate students
  - 3** - providing options for graduate students to learn about the business world and about making presentations
  - 4** - teaching graduate students about applying for grants, publishing results, and other practical aspects concerning research
  - 5** - providing information to students about McGill's infrastructure, especially scientific equipment that is available
  - 6** - the possibility of holding workshops to teach various skill sets
  - 7** - setting up a science journal club to discuss current issues
  - 8** - that professors encourage students in their laboratories to attend seminars, especially by setting the example themselves
  - 9** - the introduction of informal departmental seminars given weekly by students and professors
  - 10** - the partial supervision of undergraduate research by graduate students, which could provide the potential for graduate student-undergraduate student synergy
- 206.5** Associate Dean Burns thanked members for their excellent suggestions.
- 206.6** The Committee of the Whole ended, and Dean Grant resumed as Chair.

**(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/>.

**- Prof. D. Ryan: Senate Meeting of September 20, 2006**

**Principal's remarks**

Following a minute of silence in recognition of the recent events at Dawson College, the Principal outlined McGill's involvement and the support provided during the crisis. She also indicated that while McGill's crisis response plans were in good shape, they were to be reevaluated in light of these events, with mechanisms for clear and accurate dissemination of information to offsite parties (*i.e.* students' parents) to be developed as a priority.

The second issue raised during the Principal's remarks concerned funding. The Quebec government has declared new money, but it is a hedge against the Federal government

providing more funding so some of it could be clawed back at a later date. She observed that education had been slipping as a priority for many years. Back in the 1960's as much as 60% of provincial budgets went on education, no the priority has shifted to health care. She neglected to note that in both cases, the spending is directed at the same people and that much of the shift reflects demographics.

#### **Awarding of degrees**

During the presentation of the report by the senate steering committee, the question of who exactly awards degrees at McGill arose. The wording of the report suggested that the steering committee did it, however it is supposed to be the job of the senate, even though the formal work never actually passes through the senate. The steering committee does the job "on behalf of senate" but they have been doing it for so long that they appear to have forgotten. Wording was fixed.

#### **Questions**

The effects of the "Summer Fridays Memo" continued to play out as a commitment to avoid another such ill-timed attempt to change operating procedures in midsummer was sought.

McGill intends to buy back all summer Fridays eventually and return to a conventional 5-day week, but random fixes will be avoided in future.

#### **<sup>nd</sup> 382 report of the academic...**

The title alone provides a clear reason for dating meetings rather than numbering them.

#### **Senate Nominating Committee**

The Principal is up for reappointment.

An attempt was made to break with past practice and limit faculty membership of the committee to senators only. Not clear why this might be desirable, but it did not pass.

#### **White paper Planning Document**

Seeks to maintain McGill's position as one of the sixty Universities worldwide who claim top10 status.

Long document. Long presentation.

Contribution of TA's to the teaching environment was noted as absent (by a student member) but there was a good reason: One cannot use a strategic planning document to negotiate with unionised bodies.

### **(8) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no members' questions.

### **(9) OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

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Following the meeting, short research presentations were given by:

Professor Michel Loreau, Department of Biology  
 Professor Bernhard Lehner, Department of Geography  
 Professor Brigitte Vachon, Department of Physics