

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Tuesday, October 11, 2005
Leacock Council Room - L232**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book.

DOCUMENTS: S-05-7 to S-05-17

Dean Grant called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

The motion carried.

(2) CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

a) Bachelor of Science S-05-8

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Mucci, 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-05-9

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gyakum, 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-05-10

There were no candidates recommended for this Diploma.

d) Diploma in Meteorology S-05-11

There were no candidates recommended for this Diploma.

Associate Dean Burns further **moved**, seconded by Prof. Mucci, 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.

202.1 Associate Dean Leighton thanked the unit advisors and the Student Affairs Office for their outstanding work in preparing the degree lists.

(3) **MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2005** **S-05-7**

Prof. Gyakum **moved**, seconded by Prof. Sengupta, 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-05-12**

205.1 Associate Dean Leighton said that there had been no business, and therefore there was no CSS Report.

b) Disciplinary Officer **S-05-13**

205.2 Associate Dean Leighton highlighted the Report on disciplinary cases.

c) Nominating Committee/Minor Changes to Faculty of Science Committees **S-05-14**

205.3 Dean Grant said that the Nominating Committee Report involved only a simple change in representation on the Academic Committee.

Prof. Rutledge **moved**, seconded by Ms. Upham, that the Report be approved.

The motion carried.

205.4 Dean Grant suggested that for the future, the Dean be given the power to approve minor changes in the membership of Faculty committees.

Prof. Ewing **moved**, seconded by Mr. Pasternak, that the Dean be given discretionary power to approve minor changes to Faculty Committee memberships, and to simply report such changes to meetings of Faculty.

The motion carried.

d) Academic Committee **S-05-15/S-05-17**

The Academic Committee approved the following on Tuesday, September 27, 2005:

SECTION A: NEW PROGRAMS

Mathematics & Statistics

- Description of the Bioinformatics Option (**AC-05-7/8**)
- M.Sc.; Mathematics & Statistics; Bioinformatics Option (**AC-05-7**)
- Ph.D.; Mathematics & Statistics; Bioinformatics Option (**AC-05-8**)

Several typographical errors in unit names were pointed out.

Prof. Wolfson **moved**, seconded by Prof. Drury, that the Option be adopted.

The motion carried.

SECTION B: MAJOR PROGRAM CHANGES

None

SECTION C: NEW COURSES

None

SECTION D: MAJOR COURSE CHANGES

None

SECTION E: MINOR COURSE CHANGES (For Information Only)

- Report on Minor Course Changes (AC-05-2)

SECTION F: MINOR PROGRAM CHANGES (For Information Only)

- Report on Minor Program Changes (AC-05-P1)

SECTION G: OTHER (For Approval)

- WebCT

S-05-17

205.5 Associate Dean Hendren introduced the above document and answered members' questions.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Ms. Upham, that Recommendation 1(a) in Document S-05-17 be approved.

205.6 **Recommendation 1(a):** The Faculty of Science recommends that the default configuration of WebCT should support public access (with absolutely no need for any entry of IDs or passwords) to the course outlines associated with WebCT courses.

205.7 A member suggested that there should be no reference to 'default configuration,' and that all course outlines on WebCT should be publicly available.

205.8 Associate Dean Hendren accepted this as a friendly amendment.

205.9 A member raised the issue of whether course outlines were the intellectual property of McGill University or the intellectual property of the instructor who created them.

205.10 A vote was held.

The amended motion carried.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gale, that Recommendation 1(b) in Document S-05-17 be approved.

205.11 **Recommendation 1(b):** The Faculty of Science recommends that WebCT support a mechanism whereby instructors have the choice to make other course materials publicly available so that these materials can be accessed without any entry of an ID or password.

- 205.12** There was some discussion on the recommendation during which it was pointed out that making course materials publicly available could raise copyright issues. However, upon further discussion it became clear that these issues of copyright already exist for current WebCT material.

The motion carried.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ronis, that Recommendation 2 in Document S-05-17 be approved.

- 205.13** **Recommendation 2:** The Faculty of Science, fully recognizes that the academic laptop program is an excellent initiative for supporting the use of technology in teaching. The Faculty of Science recommends that Academic Laptop Program should be modified, starting with the next offering, so that any bona fide use of laptops in teaching could be used as a sufficient condition for qualifying for the laptop program. This could include, but should not be restricted to, the use of WebCT.

- 205.14** A member asked how one would determine a 'bona fide' use. Associate Dean Hendren replied that the application form could be amended to allow for a short description of the intended use of the laptop.

The motion carried.

- **Course & Program Proposal Forms (<http://www.mcgill.ca/sctp/guidelines>)**

- 205.15** Associate Dean Hendren explained that SCTP would be introducing new Course and Program Proposal Forms, and that these could be filled out online. She said that it would be beneficial to the Faculty of Science to be involved in the pilot project, in order to soon be able to use the new online forms, and to provide feedback to SCTP.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Andrews, that the Faculty of Science be involved in the pilot project for online forms.

The motion carried.

SECTION H: OTHER (For Information Only)

- Update on Research Project Courses (3 Credits)

- 205.16** Associate Dean Hendren said that participating units in the Faculty of Science would be offering three-credit elective undergraduate research courses (XXXX 396) which would be available to B.Sc. students at all levels, thus promoting undergraduate research in the Faculty. She said she would provide more details at a future Faculty meeting.

(6) DEAN'S BUSINESS

i) Family-Friendly Policies

Discussion: Committee of the Whole (15 minutes)

- 206.1** Associate Dean Burns took over the chair of the Committee of the Whole at 3:53 p.m.

Report of the Committee of the Whole

- 206.2** There was a general discussion on family-friendly policies that would ease the transition of professors into their new life at McGill. Among the issues that commonly arose for

new professors were access to daycare, access to doctors, jobs for spouses and schools for children. Mentioned as well were immigration issues, problems relating to obtaining mortgages and opening checking accounts, and importation of automobiles. The predominance of French as the language of Québec was emphasized as a factor that had wide-spread effects; every effort should be made to assist new professors and their spouses to learn French.

- 206.3** It was suggested that departments should be provided with incentives to hire the spouse of someone already hired by McGill, or at least that McGill should help in finding employment for spouses, possibly by means of an outside agency.
- 206.4** There is no one central office at McGill that deals specifically with issues facing new professors and their families.
- 206.5** At the end of the discussion, Associate Dean Burns said that members should feel free to e-mail him with more comments.
- 206.6** Dean Grant resumed the chair of the meeting at 4:06 p.m.

ii) Faculty of Science Nominees for Principal's Prizes for Excellence in Teaching

- 206.7** Dean Grant announced that the 2005 Faculty of Science nominees for the Principal's Prizes for Excellence in Teaching were:

Lecturer	-	Dr. Axel Hundemer (Mathematics & Statistics)
Assistant Professor	-	Prof. Nilima Nigam (Mathematics & Statistics)
Associate Professor	-	Prof. Daniel Levitin (Psychology)
Professor	-	Prof. Donald Taylor (Psychology)

- 206.8** Dean Grant said that the winners of the 2005 Principal's Prizes for Excellence in Teaching from the Faculty of Science were:

Assistant Professor	-	Prof. Nilima Nigam (Mathematics & Statistics)
Professor	-	Prof. Donald Taylor (Psychology)

- 206.9** Thus two of the four 2005 Principal's Prizes were awarded to the Faculty of Science. On behalf of the Faculty, Dean Grant congratulated Prof. Nigam and Prof. Taylor.

iii) Introduction of Ms. Linda Cooper, Faculty Lecturer - Science Writing and Publishing (EDEC-645)

- 206.10** Associate Dean Hendren mentioned that at the previous Faculty of Science meeting, a number of new staff members had been welcomed to the Faculty. She said that she would now like to welcome Ms. Linda Cooper, who was a new Faculty Lecturer. Associate Dean Hendren said that Ms. Cooper was an expert in the scientific writing of English, and had been teaching EDEC 645, Science Writing and Publishing, to graduate students for the last five years.

(7) SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE SOCIETY (SUS)

Peer Tutoring Program in the Faculty of Science

S-05-16

- 207.1** Ms. Monisha Sudarshan, tutor coordinator, briefly described the SUS Peer Tutoring Program.

207.2 Dean Grant thanked Ms. Sudarshan for the Report.

(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 September 14, 2005 – Prof. M. Baines

In response to a previous question, Professor Masi indicated that he will report back to Senate on daycare services at McGill within a month.

1. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Principal updated Senate on a number of matters including the **Master Plan, Capital Campaign, private giving, and the Principal's Task Force on Student Life and Learning**. The Task Force hoped to receive input from many in the community before the October 15 deadline. She further advised Senate that McGill was working with its sister institutions in Quebec and Canada, and in the AAU, to promote the importance of post-secondary education with government and non-governmental organizations at all levels.

2. MOTION RE REVISED TENURE REGULATIONS FOR FULL-TIME LIBRARIAN STAFF

Ms. Rankin, seconded by Professor Glenn, proposed the motion regarding the Revised Tenure Regulation for Full-Time Librarian Staff that had been circulated by Senate as Document D05-02. Ms. Rankin, the mover of the motion, briefly noted that the proposed regulations simply sought to extend to tenure-track librarians the benefit of the same procedures and processes that had introduced for tenure-track academic staff by the Tenure Regulations for Full-Time Academic Staff adopted last May. The reasons for which the new academic staff regulations had been adopted, applied equally to the librarian staff. She noted that the proposed regulations would apply until new, long overdue, librarian regulations were eventually brought to Senate.

Dean of Law, Professor Kasirer, speaking against the motion, stated that customary governance practices and procedures should be followed in bringing regulations to Senate for action. He noted that the Tenure Regulations for Full-Time Academic Staff had been developed through extensive discussion between the interested parties and had been subject of consideration and review by the Deans, the Administration and MAUT before being presented to Senate last year for approval. He suggested that the house was not ready to engage in a full debate of the regulations and proposed that the matter be referred to the Interim Provost for fuller consideration and that the regulations be brought back to Senate by a specified date.

Ms. Rankin stated that the librarians understand the importance of following accepted governance procedures, but noted that she viewed the motion simply a matter of "housekeeping" as the proposed regulations paralleled those applicable to academics. The proposed regulations introduced no substantive changes – they simply addressed matters of tenure process and procedures for librarians.

Professor Glenn, in favour of the motion, stated that this is clearly a housekeeping matter. Librarians are just asking to be treated on the same footing as academic staff. She noted that no substantive changes were proposed in the regulations. Moreover, it was imperative to have parallelism and coherence in our regulations for the proper working of the University Appeals Committee.

Professor Pেকেles stated that he feared that by referring the motion for fuller consideration and review considerable time will elapse before these regulations are brought before Senate for approval. He observed that librarians should not have to continue under the old regulations. Moreover, despite the scale of this initiative on the part of the librarians, this was purely a housekeeping matter which will not change our practices. Its object was simply to apply consistency to our regulations relating to librarians and academic staff until a new proposal effecting librarians is brought before Senate. Professor Pেকেles urged Senate to vote for the motion.

Dean of Dentistry, Professor Lund, speaking against the motion, stated that this was not merely a housekeeping matter but one that needed more serious reflection. He explained that the Tenure Regulations for Full-Time Academic Staff had undergone a long process of discussions until all groups concerned came to agreement. This had not been the case with the proposed regulations.

Professor Pare enquired about the substantial differences between the Academic Staff Tenure Regulations and the proposed Librarian Tenure Regulations.

The Interim Provost, Professor Masi spoke at some length against the motion, not because he was of the view that the regulations should be changed or because he is, in principle, opposed to "housekeeping" changes where appropriate. His opposition lay in the fact that the proposed changes did not originate from a parity committee or from an administrative work group charged with the task of revising and/or updating McGill's regulations relating to the employment of academic librarians. The proposed changes did not reflect collegial discussions, they have not undergone iterations, they have not been checked to ensure that the language has been adapted or perfected for the librarians, there has been no official vetting of these changes by the Director of Libraries or other administrators, and no one has made sure that the "i's" have been dotted and the "t's" have been crossed. Adoption of the proposed regulations cannot be compared to the adoption of the academic staff tenure regulations since the latter has been prepared in collegial fashion, iterated, checked and cross-checked. Further there had been no consideration or discussion of the impact and effect that the proposed regulations may have on other aspects of the regulations in question.

Professor Masi explained that the librarian regulations were made parallel to those for faculty only six years ago and that had it been intended to continue the parallelism, the librarian regulations would have been moved simultaneously last spring.

Professor Masi noted that changes to librarian regulations were long-coming, but stated that he will work with the Director of Libraries, who only arrived in February, to get the process of change back on track. He urged his fellow Senators to vote against the motion to change the current regulations.

Professor GowriSankaran reiterated the concerns raised by Professor Glenn, observed that the proposed regulations introduced no substantive change, and stressed on the importance of having a consistent and coherent system. He said that if these regulations were not adopted then there would exist two sets of regulations which may create problems especially in appeal cases. He urged Senate to vote for the motion.

Professor Foster, Interim Secretary-General, intervened to clarify a remark made by one of the Senators. He explained that indeed he read the proposed regulations simply to verify that terminology appropriate to librarians had been substituted for that appropriate to academic staff used in the Tenure Regulations for Full-Time Academic Staff. He had not read the proposed regulations to ascertain whether the regulations were appropriate for librarians or the organization of the library system.

Professor Noumoff expressed agreement with the views expressed by Professor GowriSankaran. He stated that the University should have a coherent set of regulations and should not deprive Librarians from their rights and dignity. He urged Senate to adopt these regulations until new ones come forward.

Dean of Science, Professor Grant supported referring these regulations to the Interim Provost for further consultations and asked for a timeframe for bringing them back to Senate.

Mr. Hobbins supported the need to keep parallelism until new library regulations are brought forward.

The Director of University Libraries Schmidt spoke against the motion noting that the proposed regulations could not be viewed as simply a matter of housekeeping, nor was parallelism appropriate since neither faculties nor departments were structured in the same way as the library. Thus, extreme caution should be taken when discussing these regulations. Ms. Schmidt recognized the need to address the current regulations governing librarians and that action should be taken for the benefit of all librarians. She informed Senate that she has been working to obtain information and documentation from other universities on this issue, and a group has been struck to work through the drafts available. She noted that three meetings have been scheduled within the coming six weeks to discuss these regulations.

Ms. Schmidt then moved, seconded by Dean Lund, to refer the regulations back to the Interim Provost Professor Masi with a timeframe to bring the new regulations to Senate in February.

The vote on the motion was called. The motion carried with the Chair of Senate, breaking the tie between members of Senate.

3. 373Rd REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Professor Masi presented the 373rd Report of the Academic Policy and Planning Committee (D05-01).

4. REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Professor Masi presented the Report of the Nominating Committee (D05-05).

5. NOTICE OF MOTION TO AMEND THE STATUTES REGARDING THE RETIREMENT OF D.D.S.

The Notice of Motion to Amend the Statutes regarding the retirement of D.D.S. (D05-12) was received.

6. NOTICE OF MOTION TO AMEND THE UNIVERSITY STATUTES

The Notice of Motion to Amend the University Statutes (D05-13) was received.

7. THE 23Rd ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY APPEALS COMMITTEE

The 23rd Annual Report of the University Appeals Committee (D05-06) was received. Mr. Hobbins indicated that there are usually three stages for an appeal and asked at what stage was the case, mentioned in the report, settled. Professor Healy replied that this case was resolved at a preliminary level.

8. 2004-2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

The 2004-2005 Annual Report of the Committee on Student Affairs (D05-10) was received. In reply to a question from Ms. Yaloui regarding the contract with Turnitin.com, Dean Shore explained that the mandate of CSA is restricted to policy issues; it does not extend to implementation of decisions. The Interim Provost then advised that the

contract will likely be signed by January but that it is unlikely the software would be available for general use until the beginning of the next academic year.

9. 2004-2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE COORDINATION OF STUDENT SERVICES

The 2004-2005 Annual Report of the Committee on the Coordination of Student Services (D05-09) was received. Ms. Cox asked whether Athletics would be included in the student services fee. Dean Shore replied that Athletics is a student service and will be dealt with as a separate cost.

10. 2003-2004 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES

The 2003-2004 Annual Report of the Committee on Libraries (D05-09) was received.

11. REPORT TO SENATE FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Report to Senate from the Board of Governors (D05-03) was received.

The meeting ended at 4:10 p.m.

- Senate Meeting of September 28, 2005 – Report prepared by Prof. K. GowriSankaran and read by Prof. M. Baines

This was one of the shortest meetings of Senate in a while. In the absence of the Principal the meeting was chaired by Dean Kasirer of the Faculty of Law.

The Steering Committee agenda contained announcement of the following results of election to Committees of Senate.

Senate Steering Committee: Newly elected for a three year term are K. GowriSankaran, Anthony Pare (Education) and Bernard Robaire (Medicine). FYI: The continuing academic members are Malcolm Baines (Medicine) and Michael Smith (Arts).

Senate Representative on Board of Governors. Gary Pেকেles (Medicine) was elected to fill the remaining term of the office of Morton Mendelson who resigned to take up the position of Associate Provost. FYI: The other academic representatives on the Board are Dan Guitton (Medicine), Sam Noumoff (Arts) and GowriSankaran (Science).

This was followed by questions from individual members.

The first question was from the student Senator Adam Conter. He noted that in Dawson Hall, which serves students in the two large faculties that of Arts and Science, the counter service hours have been drastically reduced. He wanted to know the reason for such a drastic change. He wanted to know what the effects on the service to the students were.

The Interim Provost, Masi, replying to the question said that there was considerable decentralization and he was relying on reports of the Dean of Arts and the Dean of Science. He indicated that this was a trial arrangement. He also observed that the Science Faculty has introduced newly the "Undergraduate Research Office" and also a coordinator of "Freshmen Interest Groups". He indicated that situation will obviously be monitored.

The second question was from Senator Pare. He wanted to know if the 'bar has been raised' in the matter of reappointment of Faculty members.

The Interim Provost responded that the University recognizes the importance of the reappointment stage in the careers of tenure track Assistant Professors. It applies standards of rigour and fairness in the review of reappointment dossiers. However, practices relating to the preparation of dossiers for reappointment have varied. For this

reason the Office of the Provost has undertaken a review of reappointment procedures across the University

Deans of Faculties have already been contacted with regard to this matter and have been asked to provide descriptions of the reappointment processes in their units. The Interim Provost noted that he will report back to Senate when the analysis is complete.

Senator Pare also asked a second question which was "*A Task Force on Non-Tenure Track Academic Personnel began work in January 2002 and completed its mandate at some point in 2004. When will the report from that Task Force be made public?*"

The Interim Provost replied that the Principal had set up a "Task Force" on non-tenure track academic staff" and that group presented a report in April, 2004. However, no actions were taken on the basis of that report for two reasons. First, the Task Force was not provided with appropriate terms of reference, and it was not given detailed guidelines as to structure that the report should follow. Second, the internal data that were employed were inadequate to the task of reviewing the rather complex situation of non-tenure track staff at McGill and no attempt was made to obtain information from peer publicly funded, research intensive universities in the G10 or AAU. Thus, the review of the role of non-tenure track academic staff will be continued this semester with the goal of developing more effective policies and practices for the recognition and regulation of our non-tenure track colleagues. It is hoped to communicate the next phase of this review to the University community in early October.

There were a number of nominations from the Nominating Committee of Senate.

Besides, some 'housekeeping' amendments to Statutes were approved. Also Senate received 2003-04 and 2004-05 Annual Report of the Committee on Continuing Education.

(9) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD

There were no members' questions.

(10) OTHER BUSINESS

210.1 Prof. Shaver said that he would like to propose a resolution of thanks to Prof. Morton J. Mendelson for his service to the Faculty of Science in the capacity of, initially, Associate Dean (Academic & Student Affairs) and, later, Associate Dean (Academic). He said that over the years Prof. Mendelson had had a large impact not only on the Faculty of Science, but also on the university. Prof. Shaver said that during his time in the Student Affairs Office, Prof. Mendelson both set high standards and developed a well-deserved reputation for compassionate dealings with students. Prof. Mendelson also engaged students in an ongoing discussion concerning the ethics of being a student, thus introducing an avant-garde approach to ethics in the Faculty of Science. Nor did Prof. Mendelson hesitate to become engaged in controversial issues.

210.2 Prof. Mendelson was intimately associated with the Faculty of Science's success in meeting its enrolment targets, hence avoiding strain on the Faculty's resources. He served the Faculty both as a Senator and as a member of the Board of Governors, representing not just the Faculty of Science but the values of the Faculty of Science, and he had great influence on the university in general.

210.3 Prof. Mendelson was deeply involved in the development of the new Bachelor of Arts and Science degree, placing his stamp on the education of students at McGill.

Prof. Shaver **moved**, seconded by Associate Dean Hendren, the following resolution:

210.4

Be it resolved that the Faculty of Science extends its sincere appreciation and gratitude to the outstanding work of Morton Mendelson over the past years, and wishes him continued success in his new appointment as Associate Provost.

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.