

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE**  
**Meeting of Faculty**  
**Tuesday, October 13, 2009**  
**Leacock Council Room - L232**

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

**DOCUMENTS:** S-08-39, S-08-40, S-09-1 to S-09-10, S-09-10A

Dean Grant called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

The following **new professors** were acknowledged, and if present at the meeting were introduced by their chairs/delegates:

<b>Biology</b>	DANKORT	David
<b>Computer Science</b>	WALDISPUHL	Jerome
<b>Computer Science</b>	RUTHS	Derek
<b>Earth &amp; Planetary Sciences</b>	GALBRAITH	Eric
<b>Earth &amp; Planetary Sciences</b>	HALL	Sarah
<b>Geography</b>	FORD	James
<b>Geography/MSE</b>	RHEMTULLA	Jeanine
<b>Mathematics &amp; Statistics</b>	ADDARIO-BERRY	Louigi
<b>Mathematics &amp; Statistics</b>	KHALILI MAHMOUD	Abbas
<b>Mathematics &amp; Statistics</b>	NESLEHOVA	Johanna
<b>Mathematics &amp; Statistics</b>	TSOGTGEREL	Gantumur
<b>Physics</b>	REISNER	Walter
<b>Psychology</b>	DIRKS	Melanie
<b>Psychology</b>	RISTIC	Jelena
<b>Psychology</b>	YU	Hsiu-Ting

The following **recently tenured professors** were acknowledged, and introduced if present at the meeting:

<b>Biology</b>	SCHOECK	Frieder
<b>Biology</b>	WESTERN	Tamara
<b>Chemistry</b>	AUCLAIR	Karine
<b>Chemistry</b>	MOITESSIER	Nicolas
<b>Chemistry</b>	KAMBHAMPATI	Patanjali
<b>Chemistry</b>	TSANTRIZOS	Youla
<b>Computer Science/ECE</b>	MAHESWARAN	Muthucumaru
<b>Computer Science</b>	PIENTKA	Brigette
<b>Computer Science</b>	ROBILLARD	Martin
<b>Geography/MSE</b>	SENGUPTA	Raja
<b>Physics</b>	WARBURTON	Andreas Thomas
<b>Physics</b>	CLERK	Aashish
<b>Physics</b>	CUMMING	Andrew
<b>Physics</b>	VACHON	Brigitte
<b>Redpath</b>	LARSSON	Hans Erling

The following **recently promoted full professors** were acknowledged, and introduced:

<b>Mathematics &amp; Statistics</b>	GOREN	Eyal
<b>Mathematics &amp; Statistics</b>	WISE	Dani

All professors present at the meeting gave a very brief description of their research.

Dean Grant welcomed the new professors to the Faculty of Science, and congratulated the recently tenured professors and recently promoted full professors. He gave each of the professors a small gift as a token of the Faculty's appreciation.

(1) **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**The motion carried.**

(2) **RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR WALLACE EARL LAMBERT,  
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY**

Prof. David Ostry from the Department of Psychology read the Resolution on the Death of Prof. Lambert.

It is with great sadness that I must inform the Faculty that **Wallace (Wally) Earl Lambert** passed away on Sunday, August 23, 2009, as a result of complications due to pneumonia. Wally was born on December 31, 1922, in Amherst, Nova Scotia, and he and his family moved to Taunton, Massachusetts during the Great Depression. He completed his undergraduate studies at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, and went on to complete MA and PhD degrees at Colgate University and at the University of North Carolina. His studies were interrupted for several years by military service during World War II, and this experience marked the rest of his life. After graduating from the University of North Carolina, Wally joined the Department of Psychology at McGill University in 1954, where he worked until his retirement in 1990, when he was awarded emeritus status. Wally was a world-renowned researcher in the field of social psychology and bilingualism. In addition to his ground-breaking work on cognitive and social aspects of bilingualism, he is perhaps best known for his pioneering work on early French immersion programs. Indeed, he is fondly and respectfully acknowledged to be the "father of bilingualism."

His many contributions led to international recognition and multiple honors: the Queen's Jubilee Medal of Distinction (1978), Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (1973), Fellow of the National Academy of Education (1976), Honorary President of the Canadian Psychological Association (1982-83), Canadian Psychological Association Award for Distinguished Contribution to Psychology (1984), American Psychological Association Distinguished Scientific Award for the Applications of Psychology (1990), James McKeen Cattell Fellow of the Association of Psychological Science (1992), and five honorary doctorates.

Wally Lambert's research tells us that bilingualism offers intellectual and social advantages of all kinds, that it is possible to circumvent barriers of language and culture, that our attitudes towards another group affect and are in turn affected by our motivations to learn the language of that group, that learning a second language has social, cognitive, and personal consequences that depend very much on the way the language is taught and on the cultural context in which the teaching occurs, and perhaps most importantly, that we are not doomed forever to live in one of "two solitudes."

The Faculty of Science, and the wider academic community, extend their condolences to his beloved wife Janine Fraissinet-Lambert, his daughter Sylvie, his son Philippe, his grandchildren Viviane and Sidney and his brother Bill Lambert's two daughters, Hilary and Holly.

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

**(3) SEATING OF STUDENT MEMBERS S-09-1**

**203.1** Dean Grant welcomed the student members to the first Faculty meeting, and asked them to stand by way of introduction.

**(4) CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES**

a) Bachelor of Arts and Science **S-09-2**

**204.1** Ms. Allard said that there were 17 students, and that the cut-off for the Dean's Honour List was 3.91 for the B.A. & Sc.

Ms. Allard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Franklin, that the above degree list be recommended to the Senate Steering Committee for the Bachelor of Arts and Science degree.

**The motion carried.**

b) Bachelor of Science **S-09-3**

**204.2** There were 85 students, and the cut-off for the Dean's Honour List was 3.90 for the B.Sc.

Ms. Allard **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, that the above degree list be recommended to the Senate Steering Committee for the Bachelor of Science degree.

**The motion carried.**

c) Diploma in Environment **S-09-4**

**204.3** There were no candidates for the Diploma in Environment.

d) Diploma in Meteorology **S-09-5**

**204.4** There were no candidates for the Diploma in Meteorology.

**204.5** Ms. Allard further **moved**, seconded by Prof. Franklin, 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.**

**(5) MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2009 S-08-39**

Mr. Barry **moved**, seconded by Prof. Lasko, that the Minutes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**(6) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

**(7) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**(a) Nominating Committee****S-09-6****1. Science Nominating Committee (for information):**

The Nominating Committee consists of the Science Senate Representatives; the Convenor was Prof. Laurie Hendren.

**2. Science Chairs' Council (for information):**

The Science Chairs' Council serves as an advisory committee to the Dean, and consists of the Dean, the two Associate Deans, the Director of Student Advising, and the heads of all units in the Faculty of Science, including the MSE and the Redpath Museum.

**3. Tenure Committee (for information):****4. Committee on Student Standing (for approval):**

The Committee on Student Standing reviews student appeals of decisions made by the Director of Student Advising.

Prof. Hurtubise **moved**, seconded by Prof. Moore, that the membership of the Committee on Student Standing be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**5. Academic Committee (for approval):**

The Academic Committee reviews and approves all academic content taught in the Faculty of Science.

Prof. Panangaden **moved**, seconded by Prof. Paquette, that the membership of the Academic Committee be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**6. Scholarships Committee (for approval):**

The Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Education serves as the Chair of the Scholarships Committee.

Prof. Hurtubise **moved**, seconded by Prof. Lasko, that the membership of the Scholarships Committee be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**7. Leo Yaffe & Principal's Prizes Committee (for approval):**

The Leo Yaffe and Principal's Prizes Committee recommends candidates for these awards for excellence in teaching.

Prof. Franklin **moved**, seconded by Prof. Green, that the membership of the Leo Yaffe and Principal's Prizes Committee be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**8. Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (for approval):**

Representatives of all faculties sit on the Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

Prof. Damha **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ostry, that the membership of the Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**9. B.A. & Sc. Program Administration Committee (for approval):**

The B.A. & Sc. PAC reviews changes and coordinates the administration of the B.A. & Sc. degree programs.

Prof. Moore **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hurtubise, that the Science membership of the B.A. & Sc. Program Administration Committee be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**(b) Scholarships Report S-08-40**

**207.1** Associate Dean Grütter said that the Scholarships Report lists the awards given to non-graduating students for the 2009-2010 academic year. He said the Faculty had not been given any University money for this year's scholarships, but thanks to Dean Grant the awards had been 'topped up' with money from the Faculty of Science. This meant that the top 5% of students in the Faculty of Science had received monetary awards. The SGPA cut-off for the awards was 3.97, and the cut-off for the Dean's Honour List was 3.89.

Associate Dean Grütter **moved**, seconded by Prof. Franklin, that the Scholarships Report be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**- New Awards S-09-7**

- (i) Bubar Family Scholarships in Earth Sciences
- (ii) The M. Amirfathi - Ali Torabi Scholarships in Biology

**207.2** Associate Dean Grütter introduced the above new awards for continuing students.

Associate Dean Grütter **moved**, seconded by Prof. Paquette, that the two new scholarships be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**(c) Academic Committee S-09-8**

**The Academic Committee approved the following on Tuesday, September 29, 2009:**

**SECTION A: MAJOR PROGRAM CHANGES**

**(1) Computer Science**

- M.Sc. in Computer Science (Thesis) **AC-09-9**
- M.Sc. in Computer Science (Thesis); Computational Science & Engineering Option **AC-09-10**
- M.Sc. in Computer Science (Thesis); Bioinformatics Option/Conc. **AC-09-11**
- M.Sc. in Computer Science (Project/Non-Thesis) **AC-09-12**

**Associated New Courses:**

- |          |                                |                |
|----------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| COMP 691 | Thesis Research 1<br>2 credits | <b>AC-09-5</b> |
| COMP 693 | Thesis Project 1<br>3 credits  | <b>AC-09-6</b> |

COMP 696	Thesis Research 2 3 credits	<b>AC-09-7</b>
COMP 697	Thesis Research 3 4 credits	<b>AC-09-8</b>

**207.3** Associate Dean Hendren briefly described the above M.Sc. program changes, as well as the four new courses.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Panangaden, that the above program changes and new courses be approved.

**The motion carried.**

## **(2) Geography**

- M.Sc. in Geography (Thesis)	<b>AC-09-17</b>
- M.Sc. in Geography (Thesis); Environment Option/Concentration	<b>AC-09-18</b>
- M.Sc. in Geography (Thesis); Neotropical Environmental Option/Conc.	<b>AC-09-19</b>

### **Ph.D. Programs**

- Ph.D. in Geography	<b>AC-09-20</b>
- Ph.D. in Geography; Environment Option/Concentration	<b>AC-09-</b>

**21**

- Ph.D. in Geography; Gender and Women's Studies Option/Conc.	<b>AC-09-22</b>
- Ph.D. in Geography; Neotropical Environment Option/Concentration	<b>AC-09-23</b>

### **Associated Courses:**

GEOG 631	Meth of Geographical Research Change in credit weight [from 6 to 3 credits]	<b>AC-09-15</b>
GEOG 696 ( <b><u>New</u></b> )	Accelerated Thesis Preparation 3 credits	<b>AC-09-16</b>

**207.4** Associate Dean Hendren introduced the above course and program changes along with the new course and the revised course, and explained the reason for the changes.

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

**The motion carried.**

## **SECTION B: NEW COURSE**

### **Biochemistry**

- BIOC 570	Biochemistry of Lipoproteins 3 credits	<b>AC-09-3</b>
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**207.5** Associate Dean Hendren said that BIOC 570 was a new Biochemistry course for senior undergraduate and graduate students.

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

**The motion carried.**

## **SECTION C: MINOR COURSE CHANGES (For Information Only)**

- Report on Minor Course Changes	<b>AC-09-2</b>
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- 207.6** Associate Dean Hendren said that the Report on Minor Course Changes contained mainly housekeeping revisions, and she welcomed instructors to regularly monitor their courses and update them as appropriate.

#### **SECTION D: OTHER**

(1) Guidelines for Ad hoc Programs

- (i) that students should propose ad hoc programs near the beginning of their undergraduate degree
- (ii) that the Director of Advising Services would check to see if an existing program could accommodate the student, and if so, propose that the student follow the existing program
- (iii) that the number of credits for a joint honours program should not exceed 81, and for a majors program should not exceed 75 (with the aim of 72).

- 207.7** Associate Dean Hendren said that one of the recommendations of the Academic Program Review Committee was to limit the number of credits in joint major and joint honours programs. The Academic Committee had reviewed the above guidelines for ad hoc programs.

(2) Geography M.A. Programs (***For Information Only***):

- M.A. in Geography (Thesis)
- M.A. in Geography (Thesis); Environment Option/Concentration
- M.A. in Geography (Thesis); Neotropical Environment Option/Conc.
- M.A. in Geography (Thesis); Development Studies Option/Conc.
- M.A. in Geography (Thesis); Gender and Women's Studies Option/Conc.
- M.A. in Geography (Thesis); Social Statistics Option/Concentration

**(d) Committee on Student Standing (CSS)**

**S-09-9**

There being no meeting, there was no CSS Report.

**(8) DEAN'S BUSINESS**

**(a) Enrolment - Associate Dean Hendren**

**S-09-10/S-09-10A**

- 208.1** Associate Dean Hendren said that the current year's problem was that there were too many good students.

- 208.2** Associate Dean Hendren then described the process of admission at McGill. A number of pools of students apply to McGill, including students from CEGEPs, Ontario high schools, rest-of-Canada high schools, U.S. high schools and overseas high schools. Each pool was assigned an admission threshold based on grades, designed to generate approximately the desired number of offers based on past experience. Offers were made on a rolling basis. Pools had different deadlines. Students with better grades often received offers earlier.

- 208.3** Fall 2009 was the first year for the institution of admission pools. High school students applied to one of three pools:

- (i) Biological, Biomedical and Life Sciences (BBL) pool — students planning to major in the Departments of Anatomy & Cell Biology, Biochemistry, Biology, Microbiology & Immunology, Physiology or Psychology.
- (ii) Physical, Earth, Math and Computer Science (PEMC) pool — students planning to major in the remainder of the units in Science.

(iii) Education pool — students planning to take the concurrent B.Sc./B.Ed. (Science for teachers) program.

**208.4** At the end of the freshman year, students would be able to freely choose their program from within their pool, apply for an intrafaculty transfer to change pools, or apply to Microbiology & Immunology or Neuroscience.

**208.5** Incoming CEGEP students were able to choose from pools (i) – (iii) or apply to the Microbiology & Immunology or Neuroscience pools. Students would be able to freely change majors within a pool or apply for an intrafaculty transfer to change pools.

**208.6** Associate Dean Hendren listed the admissions cutoffs for Science, and said they remained high. However, the number of students admitted to the B.Sc. and the Science portion of the B.A. & Sc. had increased by about 10%.

**208.7** Associate Dean Hendren said it was desirable for the Faculty to increase registration in the PEMC pool. She said this could be done in several ways: by increasing high school (particularly Ontario high school) PEMC registrations by way of active recruitment; by encouraging intrafaculty transfers to the PEMC pool; by increasing interest in eventually applying to medicine among PEMC majors and joint majors.

**208.8** Associate Dean Hendren said there were a number of points to consider concerning both high schools and CEGEPs:

- the historical yield was not a good predictor for the high school pools
- the institution of earlier decisions for Canadian high school students may have increased the yield
- the poor economy and increases in foreign student tuition may have decreased the number of overseas high school students
- a problem occurred when Enrolment Services predicted a decrease from U.S. high schools but an increase occurred
- thought should be put into ways to interest more high school applicants in the PEMC pool
- there was a need to increase the number of CEGEP students and to increase interest in Science at both high schools and CEGEPs within Québec
- advantage should be taken of the expected increase in the number of CEGEP graduates over the next few years
- however, in the long term the proportion of freshman admissions was expected to increase, so the University should prepare for further pressure on UO courses

**208.9** Dean Grant mentioned that the Faculty had received an increase in funding as a result of the increase in admissions. Some of the money had already been disbursed, and the remainder would be forthcoming.

**208.10** Dean Grant thanked Associate Dean Hendren for her presentation. He said that he expected that in the future, the tools she had developed would be useful in working closely with Enrolment Services.

**(b) Priorities for budgets in tough times**

**208.11** Faculty moved into the Committee of the Whole, with Associate Dean Grütter as Chair.

**208.12** Associate Dean Grütter said that budgets had already been cut, and that the question was that in the event of further cuts, which priorities should be protected and which should be let go?



**208.13** Among the points raised were:

- that the issue could be looked at from two angles: how to increase income? and how to reduce expenditures?
- the possibility of admitting more international and non-Québec Canadian students relative to Québec students, to take advantage of the higher fees
- that the University receives funding from Québec to educate Québec students
- that there would soon be a change in the proportion of money that McGill receives from international students
- whether some of the money the University received from research grants could be transferred to the Faculty
- the possibility of charging fees for UO laboratory courses for non-Science students
- that it was difficult to discuss budgets in the abstract, without visible numbers
- that the University was expecting a budget shortfall of possibly \$20M, or 4%; the Faculty's budget was about \$40M of which about 75% was salaries; the Faculty's budget would presumably be reduced by 4%

**(9) 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 May 20, 2009 - **Prof. P. Grütter**

**Principal's Report:**

The Principal noted, at the request of the Steering Committee, that she sometimes distributes thought-provoking opinion pieces to colleagues, which are not indicative of her own views as to McGill's future direction but rather are intended for reflection. For example, the recently distributed *New York Times* article entitled „The End of University As We Know It“ , which called for various university reforms including the abolition of tenure, and a mandatory retirement age. The Principal clarified that such measures are not on the horizon at McGill, and invited those who were interested to visit the *New York Times* website and read the comments generated by the article.

Vanier Scholarships – prestigious awards designed to attract and retain world-class doctoral students with support of \$50,000 per year for three years – the Principal congratulated 12 McGill students who have won these awards. From Science: Glen Deleavey – Dept. of Chemistry; Jennifer Gordon – Dept. of Psychology; William Paul – Dept. of Physics; and Anqi Xu – School of Computer Science.

**PART “A” – QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS BY MEMBERS**

**1. Question re Feedback on Coursework [Mr. Luther]**

Background: According to the most recent results of the National Survey of Student Engagement (presented to Senate on February 11th, 2009), only 27% of first year students and 34% of senior students received prompt oral or written feedback from faculty. McGill scores significantly lower than its peers in the AAU and G13.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. What potential solutions might be instituted to ensure that students receive feedback in a timeframe that facilitates deeper learning?
2. What can McGill do to encourage or support professors in providing more detailed feedback to students?
3. How could the University community engage with this topic in the coming year?

**Answer: (Deputy Provost Mendelson)**

*I'd like to point out that Article 14 of the Charter of Students' Rights affords students the right to discuss any written submission with the examiner, which means, in effect, that students are actually entitled to feedback.*

*One of the goals of the (Re)Design Project on Enhancing Student Engagement involving the use of a student response system (i.e., —clickers//) has been to help instructors provide ungraded feedback to their students, often in large classes, where providing individualized feedback can be most difficult.*

*However, there are many other ways that instructors can and should provide feedback to their students. TLS has already begun a project, which will extend over the next year, to develop a new stream of support for professors that will concentrate on formative and summative assessment of student learning.*

*In response to the last question, I will ensure that the issue of assessing student learning and providing timely feedback are put on the fall agenda of APC's Subcommittee on Teaching and Learning. The Subcommittee has student members, but we would very much welcome input from student groups to help us make progress in this important area.*

## **2. Question re April 2009 Economic Statement [Ms. Labban]**

### **Background:**

In February and April 2009, Principal and Vice-Chancellor Munroe-Blum released Economic Statements to the McGill community outlining the challenges facing the institution with respect to global, national, and regional economic realities, and putting forward a series of measures that the University is taking to face these challenges. Among the suggestions received were:

Implementing time-limited salary freezes and strategic attrition "numerous means of increasing and further diversifying our revenues."

Full document at [http://www.mcgill.ca/principal/speeches/economic/econstat\\_043009/](http://www.mcgill.ca/principal/speeches/economic/econstat_043009/)

### **Questions:**

Q1: What precisely is meant by the phrase "strategic attrition"?

Answer: (given by Principal)

The steps we take to balance our budget over the next two years will be taken in the context of our mission and our commitment to core goals (increase quality; continue to retain and recruit the best academic talent (students, profs); increase level of service; remain one of Canada's top employers).

*Every year, there is a turnover of approximately 300 people in administrative and support positions at McGill. Going forward, we will assess every position vacated, from the perspective of the opportunities to redesign work processes so as to work more efficiently, and without an automatic assumption of replacing any one individual who has left McGill.*

*Our goal is to reduce, overall, the number of administrative and support positions by 5% of the positions vacated—or 15 positions annually—where doing so will result in progress for the University.*

Q2: What "means of increasing and further diversifying our revenues" are being actively pursued, and how do these fit in with the mission of the University?

Answer Q2:

*Please rest assured that all means of revenue generation we are actively pursuing are wholly consonant with and supportive of our academic mission:*

*support to enhance success in applications for research grants and research related contracts, with support for students and faculty and to defray the significant indirect costs of research;*  
*broadening the base of donor support for purposes that support the academic mission;*  
*advocacy in support of increased compensation for the indirect or institutional costs of research;*  
*advocacy in support of the reregulation of tuition fees, combined with enhanced financial assistance for students in need;*  
*and the limited allocation of CRC chairs to McGill professors, thus freeing up funding for additional James McGill professors and William Dawson scholars.*

## **PART “B” – MOTIONS AND REPORTS FROM ORGANS OF UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENT**

- 1. Confidential Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee**
- 2. University Budget (Draft) confidential**
- 3. 412th Report of the Academic Policy Committee**
- 4. Final Program Review Summary Sheets Faculty**

Each faculty presented its progress in implementing the program review.

Science: The Dean of Science thanked those involved in the review process, and noted that the full reports had been discussed at faculty council meetings and were available on the Faculty's website.

- 5. Committee on the Rights of Senate Membership (3-year renewable terms)**

Professor David Harpp (Science) – 2012

### **Statutory Selection Committees**

For a Professor in the Department of French Language and Literature

Professor Timothy Moore (Geography) [alternate]

- 6. Decanal Advisory Search Committees**

### **Advisory Committee for the Selection of a Dean of the Faculty of Science**

#### Senate Representatives:

Professor Claudio Cuello (Medicine)

Professor Katherine Gray-Donald (AES)

Professor Eliot Fried (Engineering)

Professor Elisabeth Gidengil (Arts)

#### Senate Representative from science:

### **Advisory Committee for the Selection of a Dean of the Faculty of Engineering**

Professor David Stephens (Science)

### **Advisory Committee for the Selection of a Dean of the Desautels Faculty of Management** Professor Gillian O'Driscoll (Science) (consent pending)

### **Advisory Committee for the Selection of a Director of Libraries**

Professor David Harpp (Science) (consent pending)

Advisory Committee for the Selection of a Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences Professor Lauren Chapman (Science)

## **II. For the Information of Senate**

- 1. Several committees were dissolved:**

**Committee on Ancillary Services, Committee on Technology Transfer** [Vice-Principal Thérien replied that the dissolution of the Committee did not mean that the issues were any less important; he stressed that the issues form an integral part of the research portfolio, and accordingly there was no logic in maintaining the Committee. Technology transfer was not being removed from Senate oversight, but was being repositioned within the Research Policy Subcommittee that will be reporting to the Academic Policy Committee.]

## **2. Regulation on Conflict of Interest:**

The Provost presented the Regulation on Conflict of Interest (D08-69), noting that it had first been brought to Senate as a policy in September 2008 and was now being presented in a more streamlined version dealing only with conflict of interest, with provisions relating to duty of loyalty and conflict of commitment having been excised. He added that the University was behind the times in having a policy in this area, and although it was being presented for information, the Regulation could now be submitted for approval if during the course of discussion, Senate was amenable to that.

*Senate approved to recommending to the Board of Governors that they approve the Regulation on Conflict of Interest, as amended, be adopted and be substituted for existing policies or sections thereof that address conflict of interest, was approved.*

## **3. Administrative Response to the Presentation on Academic Salary Differentials by Gender**

Professor Smith noted that more examination of the data was needed, for instance in relation to the different promotion rates for men and women in the Faculty of Medicine, and the differing proportions of those who end up as full professors in Arts and Education compared with some other faculties.

**Adjourned at 5:55 p.m.**

### **- Senate meeting of September 16, 2009 - Prof. T. Moore**

After the presentation by Dean Grant of a Resolution on the death of Professor Keith Worsley, of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, the Interim Secretary-General explained irregularities in the election of Senate Steering Committee, which seem to have been resolved amicably.

Three questions were raised by Senators. The first concerned the tardy delivery of Coursepacks to students. Associate Vice-Principal Nicell was grilled on this and explained that the decision to transfer coursepack production from Eastman to McGill was predicated by government regulations requiring tenders and that there had been ill-defined contractual issues, so that a month was lost. The situation was compounded by instructors not respecting submission deadlines, but by now, week 3 of classes, 97% of coursepacks were delivered. One hopes that this will not be repeated.

The second question concerned the university's response to the H1N1 pandemic. Associate Vice-Principal Nicell gave an eloquent and detailed exposition of what is being done. Medical advice will not be provided to university employees, but a web site has been established and is frequently updated. Stay in bed and hand-washing seem to be the main strategies adopted to contain the pandemic. Although hand sanitizers will be placed in ill-defined 'strategic locations', Nicell urged that everyone have their own personal sanitizer and that the community take the medical threat seriously and develop a strict personal hygiene.

In response to a question on the process whereby a new Secretary-General was selected, the Principal responded by saying that the choice was made by her and the Chair of the Board of Governors, after due consultation, and the process would not change.

In the main Agenda, the following are of main interest to members of the Faculty of Science:

Enrolment increased this year by 1.7%, including a 4% increase in PhD students. In response to a question from Fellow Hendren, the Provost replied that undergraduate enrolment above accepted targets was unplanned, because of the difficulty in predicting yield rates and other errors.

McGill had benefited most among the Quebec universities in the recently announced Knowledge Infrastructure Program, due in large part to the effective mobilization of plans by Associate Vice-Principal Nicell and others. For Science, the Otto Maass Chemistry building will receive a long overdue renovation.

Bill 38 in the Quebec legislature aims to change governance and there is a concerted campaign by CREPUQ, Quebec university professor unions, McGill Alumni and other bodies to have the bill changed.

The Principal noted that she and the leaders of the other 4 major 'research-intensive' universities had been quoted incorrectly in Maclean's magazine in terms of resource allocation among Canadian universities, though she thought the creation of a three-tiered system had worked very well in California, until the recent economic collapse. Indicators of 'Performance' and their quantification will become important at the Faculty and unit level.

Finally the McGill campaign had reached almost \$500 million of its \$750 million target and the Campus Community Campaign, targeting 40000 people, was being launched with contribution themes of student support, greening the campus and beautification/renovation.

**(10) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD**

**210.1** In response to a member, Dean Grant said that during the previous period of budget shortfalls in the early 1990's, there had been retirement incentive packages, but he had not heard mention of them during the current shortfalls. Dean Grant said he would ask chairs/directors to look closely at their budgets and see where cuts might be made. He suggested examining sessional teaching costs in particular. Dean Grant added that McGill's deficit was in line with other Québec universities. The Provost's Task Force on Economic Uncertainty was meeting regularly, and Prof. Bruce Lennox, Chair, Department of Chemistry, was a member of the Task Force. The Provost would also be holding regular meetings with the deans.

**210.2** In reply to a member who said that many people were applying for sabbatical leaves because of a rumour that 100% salary would not be paid in the future, Dean Grant said that no formal announcement had been made, and he agreed that people too often acted on rumour.

**(11) OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.