Meeting of Faculty  
Monday, 13 February 2024  
Robert Vogel Council Room (L232), Leacock Building

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book

DOCUMENTS: S-23-16 to S-23-23

Dean Lennox called the meeting to order at 3 p.m., and welcomed members to the sixth Faculty of Science Council meeting of the 2023-2024 academic year.

1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

During the adoption of the Agenda, it was noted that there was a typographical error in the French version of the Agenda concerning "Diplôme en météorologie".

Prof. Fabry moved, seconded by Prof. Halverson, that the Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

2) CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

   a) Bachelor of Arts and Science S-23-17
   b) Bachelor of Science S-23-18

Associate Dean Mittermaier said there were 28 students graduating with the B.A. & Sc. degree, and 198 students graduating with the B.Sc. degree. The corresponding figures for 2023 were 36 and 184. The CGPA cut-offs for both the Dean's Honour List (top 10%) and for Distinction (top 25%, but below the top 10%) would be set prior to the May 2024 graduation.

Associate Dean Mittermaier moved, seconded by Prof. Fabry, that the above degree lists be recommended to the Senate Steering Committee for the Bachelor of Arts and Science degree, and for the Bachelor of Science degree.

The motion carried.

Associate Dean Mittermaier further moved, seconded by Prof. Fabry, that the Dean be given discretionary power to make such changes as would be necessary to prevent injustice.

The motion carried.

Associate Dean Mittermaier highlighted that while the current graduation list may not be as extensive as the one in May, it still requires substantial effort to ensure that all students fulfill their degree and program requirements. This accomplishment is credited to the collaborative efforts of the SOUSA advisors and departmental program advisors. Associate Dean Mittermaier thanked everyone for their dedication and tireless efforts in preparing the graduation lists.

   c) Diploma in Environment S-23-19
   d) Diploma in Meteorology S-23-20

There were no students graduating with the Diplomas in Environment and Meteorology.

3) MINUTES OF 15 JANUARY 2024 S-23-16
Prof. Choksi moved, seconded by Prof. Halverson, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

4) **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Regarding the Academic Salary Policy for 2024-2025, mentioned under item 7(iii) in the Dean's Announcement, Dean Lennox informed members that all academic staff would receive a memo within the next ten days. However, the memo has not yet been distributed because they are awaiting harmonization with expectations being distributed by other Faculties. The memo will be shared soon, once all information is received, anticipated to be before the next Faculty Council meeting.

5) **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

- Academic Committee  
  
  The following proposals were approved at the Academic Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 23 January 2024.

**Part A - New/Revised Courses and Programs**

1. Psychology  
   
   **New Course:**  
   PSYC 349D1/D2  
   Psychology Research Experience  
   3 credits  
   
   Associate Dean Hundemer introduced a new course, PSYC 349D1/D2, with the primary goal of addressing the issue where many psychology students volunteer in labs and contribute work without receiving recognition for their efforts. The rationale behind this initiative is to acknowledge students' contributions and potentially create opportunities for further research projects. The course will be structured as a three-credit course spread over two semesters, providing students with exposure to research through their work.

   There was a lengthy discussion concerning PSYC 349D1/D2, and the following issues were raised: differentiation of the new course from independent studies in other departments; the three-credit allocation over two semesters and suggestions for a one-term, three-credit version; exploration of the complex landscape of research and independent study courses across departments and potential confusion among students; consideration of potential implications for student loans and scholarships; attention to potential complications of implementing the course during the summer, including alignment with regulations on payment for courses; and a recommendation for broader discussion at the Academic Committee on simplifying research course offerings.

   Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Prof. Ditto, that the course be adopted.

   The motion carried.

PSYC 302  
Pain  
Change in title  
3 credits  

Associate Dean Hundemer explained that the rationale behind changing the title to PSYC 302 is because the course's subject matter extends beyond solely focusing on the psychology of pain. It encompasses all facets of the phenomenon of pain, thus justifying the adjustment to the course title.
Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Prof. Ditto, that the change be approved.

The motion carried.

2. Mathematics & Statistics

New Course:
MATH 511  Analysis of Categorical Data  AC-23-96
4 credits

Associate Dean Hundemer highlighted the introduction of the new course MATH 511, which explores the analysis of categorical data. Categorical data pertains to information divided into groups where values are categorical, like colors or categories, rather than numerical. This course targets this specific statistical area, previously absent from the departmental curriculum.

Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Prof. Choksi, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

Course Revisions:
MATH 122 Calculus for Management  AC-23-97
Changes: course description, restrictions
3 credits
MATH 123 Linear Algebra and Probability  AC-23-98
Changes in restrictions, supplementary Calendar info.
3 credits
MATH 133 Linear Algebra and Geometry  AC-23-99
Changes in restrictions
3 credits
MATH 139 Calculus 1 with Precalculus  AC-23-100
Changes in restrictions
4 credits
MATH 140 Calculus 1  AC-23-101
Changes in restrictions
3 credits
MATH 141 Calculus 2  AC-23-102
Changes in restrictions
4 credits
MATH 150 Calculus A  AC-23-103
Changes in restrictions
4 credits
MATH 151 Calculus B  AC-23-104
Changes in restrictions
4 credits

Associate Dean Hundemer provided an overview of courses MATH 122 to MATH 151, highlighting that they entail minimal revisions focused on enhancing course details. The revisions primarily aim to clarify prerequisites and their correlation with other courses in the Department's curriculum.

Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Prof. Choksi, that the above course changes be approved.
The motion carried.

Graduate Program Changes:
- Ph.D. Program in Mathematics & Statistics

Associate Dean Hundemer said that a change in the Ph.D. Program in Mathematics & Statistics regarding the limitation of Pass/Fail credits, which has been adjusted to a maximum of four. This adjustment aims to reduce the number of seminar courses, typically taken as Pass/Fail, and encourages enrollment in lecture-based courses, thereby striking a balance between the two types of courses.

Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Prof. Choksi, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

3. Chemistry
   Course Revisions:
   CHEM 593 Statistical Mechanics and Machine Learning for Chemistry
   Changes: title, description, prerequisites
   3 credits

Associate Dean Hundemer described the changes to CHEM 593, previously named Statistical Mechanics. The revised description introduces a more computational aspect, reflected in the new title: Machine Learning for Chemistry, while the prerequisites are now recommended.

Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded Prof. Perepichka, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

   CHEM 612 Organometallic Chemistry
   Changes in credit weight [from 5 to 3 credits]
   AC-23-107

   CHEM 621 Reaction Mechanisms in Organic Chemistry
   Changes in credit weight [from 5 to 3 credits]
   AC-23-108

   CHEM 629 Organic Synthesis
   Changes in credit weight [from 5 to 3 credits]
   AC-23-109

Associate Dean Hundemer explained that the above Chemistry courses entail a reduction in credit hours from 5 to 3. While historically assigned 5 credits, the workload does not justify this allocation. The adjustment seeks to alleviate confusion among students who may perceive the courses as more demanding than they actually are. Importantly, this alteration does not impact the program's requirements, as the course content remains unchanged.

Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Prof. Perepichka, that the above course changes be approved.

The motion carried.

4. Computer Science
   200-level Courses:
   New Course:
   COMP 260 Applied Algorithms and Data Structures
   3 credits
Associate Dean Hundemer introduced COMP 260, a new course designed for the upcoming B.A. programs in data science. Due to constraints imposed by the Faculty of Arts regarding credit allocations, adjustments were necessary, leading to the combination of some courses. COMP 260 serves as a less math-intensive alternative to COMP 251, allowing students in data science to enroll without strict math prerequisites. This adjustment aims to enhance flexibility for students within the data science program. Associate Dean Hundemer addressed members' questions regarding the new course.

Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Prof. Choksi, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

Course Revisions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMP 202</td>
<td>Foundations of Programming</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Changes: prerequisites, suppl. Calendar information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP 204</td>
<td>Computer Programming for Life Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Changes in prerequisites</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Associate Dean Hundemer explained that the proposed changes to the two courses aimed to clarify the actual content students need to be familiar with, thereby eliminating confusion among students and advisors regarding formal course requirements. Additionally, students who count COMP 202 for their Foundation Year (U0) cannot count COMP 202 in their major program. In reply to a member’s question about how departments will track students’ course usage, Associate Dean Hundemer highlighted that the revisions are now more visible, promoting awareness among students and advisors.

Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Prof. Choksi, that the above changes be approved.

The motion carried.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMP 250</td>
<td>Introduction to Computer Science</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Changes: description, prerequisites, corequisites, restrictions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Associate Dean Hundemer highlighted significant changes to the course prerequisites for COMP 250. Previously, requirements only included familiarity with a programming language and basic math skills. Now, prerequisites have been strengthened to include Calculus I and Linear Algebra. This adjustment underscores the course's substantial nature and clarifies the expected level of math proficiency. The absence of these prerequisites has caused difficulties, particularly for B.A. students unprepared for the course's mathematical demands. Starting in Fall 2024, B.A. students must take Math 140 and 133 unless they have equivalent course credits. This reinforcement of prerequisites aims to better communicate expectations to students.

Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Prof. Fabry, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

B.Sc. Program Changes:
Associate Dean Hundemer said that the changes primarily affect the computer science block, which is part of a Joint program with Biology. Previously, students had a limited selection of courses to choose from. The modifications now offer students more flexibility by allowing them to select from a broader range of Complementary courses, including COMP 273 and other Computer Science courses at the 300 level or higher. This adjustment aims to provide students with greater freedom in course selection while still meeting program requirements. These changes also apply to the Honours version of the program.

Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Prof. Fussmann, that the above program changes be approved.

The motion carried.

500-level Courses:
New Courses:
COMP 594  Topics in CS: Theory 1  4 credits  AC-23-116
COMP 595  Topics in CS: Theory 2  4 credits  AC-23-117

Course Revisions:
COMP 596  Topics in CS: Systems and Programming 1  AC-23-118
Changes: credit weight [from 3 to 4 credits], title, description
COMP 597  Topics in CS: Systems and Programming 2  AC-23-119
Changes: title, description
COMP 598  Topics in CS: Applications 1  AC-23-120
Changes: credit weight [from 3 to 4 credits], title, description
COMP 599  Topics in CS: Applications 2  AC-23-121
Changes: title, description

Associate Dean Hundemer introduced two new topics courses and revisions to four existing ones, all pertinent to the M.Sc. Program in Computer Science. These courses are organized into three distinct blocks: theory, applications, and systems and programming. The changes aim to align the courses with the upcoming breadth requirement in the M.Sc. program, which segments courses accordingly. Currently, the titles of the Topics courses do not specify their subdiscipline, posing challenges for categorization. To address this, the courses will be updated to clearly indicate their subcategory in the title. This update involves creating two new topics courses, Theory 1 and 2, and renaming some existing ones to ensure clarity. Each group will have two topics courses to accommodate semesters with multiple offerings.

Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Prof. Pereg-Barnea, that the above new and revised courses be approved.

The motion carried.

Graduate Program Changes:
- Ph.D. Program in Computer Science  AC-23-122
Associate Dean Hundemer explained the addition of a new one-credit required course, COMP 604 Graduate School Fundamentals, to the Ph.D. Program in Computer Science. A statement has been added to emphasize the shift from credits to the number of required courses. It outlines that students need to complete the new course along with eight graduate-level courses. Additionally, students entering the Ph.D. program with a Master's degree may receive course reductions, but they still must complete at least two courses unique to the Ph.D. program.

Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Prof. Choksi, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

- M.Sc. Program in Computer Science  

Associate Dean Hundemer explained that the changes entail adding the above two newly approved Topics courses and removing those no longer offered. As outlined in the program revision form, the courses are categorized into theory, applications, and systems. The new topics courses are seamlessly integrated within these categories, reflecting the program's adjustments.

Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Dr. Dechief, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

5. Physics
   B. Engineering Program Changes:
   - Minor in Physics

Associate Dean Hundemer said that the only revision in the Minor in Physics for Engineering Students is that a maximum of 9 credits is allowed to be double-counted with the major program. The Minor is exclusively available to Honours students in Electrical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering, who have demanding main programs with heavy credit loads.

Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Prof. Choksi, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

Section B: New/Revised Program Descriptions for New Online Calendar Platform, Course Catalogue

Faculty Council Approval Needed on behalf of the Academic Committee

1. Earth & Planetary Sciences
   Master of Science (M.Sc.) Earth and Planetary Sciences (Thesis) (45 credits)
   **Program Description:**

   The Master of Science in Earth and Planetary Sciences (Thesis) provides students with the opportunity to conduct research and develop expertise in a broad range of geological, Earth systems, and planetary science topics. Research may encompass natural physical and chemical processes across the age of the solar system, their interaction with life forms, and the impact of human activities on our environment. Students pursuing an M.Sc. are required to take four courses and the major component of the program is an M.Sc. thesis that reports the main findings of the research. Research for the thesis
typically begins in the first year of residence and is completed, with mentorship from our faculty, in the second year of residence.

2. Mathematics & Statistics
   a) Master of Arts (M.A.) Mathematics and Statistics (Thesis) (45 credits)
      **Program Description:**
      The Master of Arts (M.A.) in Mathematics and Statistics (Thesis) is an advanced program that focuses on the areas of applied mathematics, pure mathematics, and statistics.

   b) Master of Arts (M.A.) Mathematics and Statistics (Non-Thesis) (45 credits)
      **Program Description:**
      The Master of Arts (M.A.) in Mathematics and Statistics (Non-Thesis) is an advanced program that focuses on the areas of applied mathematics, pure mathematics, and statistics.

   c) Master of Science (M.Sc.) Mathematics and Statistics (Thesis) (45 credits)
      **Program Description:**
      The Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Mathematics and Statistics (Thesis) is an advanced program that focuses on the areas of applied mathematics, pure mathematics, and statistics.

   d) Master of Science (M.Sc.) Mathematics and Statistics (Non-Thesis) (45 credits)
      **Program Description:**
      The Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Mathematics and Statistics (Non-Thesis) is an advanced program that focuses on the areas of applied mathematics, pure mathematics, and statistics.

In continuation of the initiative to incorporate program descriptions into the new calendar platform, Course Catalogue, Associate Dean Hundemer presented the updated program descriptions for the following graduate programs:

- M.Sc. in Earth & Planetary Sciences (Thesis)
- M.Sc. (Thesis and Non-Thesis) in Mathematics & Statistics

During the meeting, it was determined that since the rest of the program descriptions in document # S-23-21 had not been distributed prior to the current meeting, only the descriptions for Earth & Planetary Sciences and Mathematics & Statistics would be reviewed for approval at this time. The remaining program descriptions were deferred to the next Faculty of Science Council meeting, scheduled for 12 March 2024.

Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Prof. Choksi, that the revised program descriptions for the graduate programs in Earth & Planetary Sciences and in Mathematics & Statistics be approved.

The motion carried.

The Following Graduate Program Descriptions will be Considered at next Faculty of Science Council Meeting (12 March 2024):

3. Geography
   a) Master of Science (M.Sc.) Geography (Thesis) (45 credits)
      **Program Description:**
      The Master of Science in Geography; Thesis program is a thesis-based program of 45 credits. In its scope, the M.Sc. program in Geography provides the opportunity to conduct research, including field-based studies, focusing on the natural (i.e., biophysical) sciences, supervised by a faculty member, and culminating in a thesis. Thematic areas of study may include: Land Surface Processes, Ecosystem Biogeochemistry, Ecohydrology,
and Earth System Science; Geographic Information Science and Remote Sensing; Sustainability Science, Environmental Management, and Global Change. The core program consists of a thesis component, required, and complementary graduate (500- or 600-level) courses. Geography also offers a number of M.A. and M.Sc. options in association with other McGill departments and programs that students may choose to follow.

b) Master of Science (M.Sc.); Geography (Thesis) — Environment (45 credits)

**Program Description:**

The Master of Science in Geography; Thesis program; Environment option is a thesis-based program of 45 credits. The Environment option is offered in association with the Bieler School of Environment (BSE) and includes a thesis component; required Geography and Environment courses; and complementary Geography and Environment courses. In its scope, the Environment option provides M.Sc. Geography students with an appreciation for the role of science in informed decision-making in the environmental sector, and its influence on political, socio-economic, and ethical judgments. Students who have been admitted through their home Department or Faculty may apply for admission to the option. Option requirements are consistent across academic units. The option is coordinated by the BSE, in partnership with participating academic units.

c) Master of Science (M.Sc.); Geography (Thesis) — Neotropical Environment (45 credits)

**Program Description:**

The Master of Science in Geography; Thesis program; Neotropical Environment option is a thesis-based program of 45 credits. The Neotropical Environment Option (NEO) is a research-based option for M.Sc. Geography students offered in association with several university departments, the Bieler School of Environment, and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI-Panama). The option includes a thesis; required courses in Geography, Environment, and Biology; and complementary courses chosen from Geography, Agricultural Sciences, Biology, Sociology, Environment, and Political Science. NEO is aimed at students who wish to focus their graduate research on environmental issues relevant to the Neotropics and Latin American countries. NEO favours interdisciplinary approaches to research and learning through the participation of researchers from McGill and from STRI. Students will complete their research in Latin America and NEO's core and complementary courses will be taught in Panama. NEO's educational approach seeks to facilitate a broader understanding of tropical environmental issues and the development of skills relevant to working in the tropics.

d) Master of Arts (M.A.); Geography (Thesis) (45 credits)

**Program Description:**

The Master of Arts in Geography; Thesis program is a thesis-based program of 45 credits. In its scope, the M.A. program in Geography provides the opportunity to conduct research, including field-based studies, focusing on the social sciences, supervised by a faculty member, and culminating in a thesis. Thematic areas of study may include: Political, Urban, Economic, and Health Geography; Environment and Development; Geographic Information Science and Remote Sensing; Sustainability Science, Environmental Management, and Global Change. The core program consists of a thesis component, required, and complementary graduate (500- or 600-level) courses. Geography also offers a number of M.A. and M.Sc. options in association with other McGill departments and programs that students may choose to follow.

e) Master of Arts (M.A.); Geography (Thesis) — Development Studies (45 credits)

**Program Description:**

The Master of Arts in Geography; Thesis program; Development Studies option is a thesis-based program of 45 credits. In its scope, the Development Studies Option (DSO) is cross-disciplinary within the existing master's programs in Geography, Anthropology, History, Political Science, Economics, and Sociology. The option includes a thesis component; required International Development and Geography courses; and complementary courses from the participating departments. This thesis option is open to master's students specializing in development studies. Students enter through one of the participating departments and must meet the M.A. requirements of that unit. Students will
take an interdisciplinary seminar and a variety of graduate-level courses on international development issues. The M.A. thesis must be on a topic relating to development studies, approved by the DSO coordinating committee.

f) Master of Arts (M.A.); Geography (Thesis) — Environment (45 credits)

**Program Description:**
The Master of Arts in Geography; Thesis program; Environment option is a thesis-based program of 45 credits. The Environment option is offered in association with the Bieler School of Environment (BSE) and includes a thesis component; required Geography and Environment courses; and complementary Geography and Environment courses. In its scope, the Environment option provides M.A. Geography students with an appreciation for the role of science in informed decision-making in the environmental sector, and its influence on political, socio-economic, and ethical judgments. Students who have been admitted through their home Department or Faculty may apply for admission to the option. Option requirements are consistent across academic units. The option is coordinated by the BSE, in partnership with participating academic units.

g) Master of Arts (M.A.); Geography (Thesis) — Neotropical Environment (45 credits)

**Program Description:**
The Master of Arts in Geography; Thesis program; Neotropical Environment option is a thesis-based program of 45 credits. The Neotropical Environment Option (NEO) is a research-based option for M.A. Geography students offered in association with several university departments, the Bieler School of Environment, and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI-Panama). The option includes a thesis; required courses in Geography, Environment, and Biology; and complementary courses chosen from Geography, Agricultural Sciences, Biology, Sociology, Environment, and Political Science. NEO is aimed at students who wish to focus their graduate research on environmental issues relevant to the Neotropics and Latin American countries. NEO favours interdisciplinary approaches to research and learning through the participation of researchers from McGill and from STRI. Students will complete their research in Latin America and NEO's core and complementary courses will be taught in Panama. NEO's educational approach seeks to facilitate a broader understanding of tropical environmental issues and the development of skills relevant to working in the tropics.

h) Master of Arts (M.A.); Geography (Thesis) — Gender and Women's Studies (45 credits)

**Program Description:**
The Master of Arts in Geography; Thesis program; Gender and Women's Studies option is a thesis-based program of 45 credits. In its scope, the Gender and Women's Studies option provides an interdisciplinary program for M.A. Geography students wishing to focus on gender and women's studies and issues in feminist research and methods. The option includes a thesis component on gender and women's studies; and required and complementary courses from Geography and Women's Studies.

i) Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.); Geography

**Program Description:**
In its scope, the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program in Geography provides the opportunity to conduct research, including field-based studies, in both the natural (i.e., biophysical) and the social sciences, supervised by a faculty member, and culminating in a thesis. Thematic areas of study may include: Political, Urban, Economic, and Health Geography; Environment and Development; Geographic Information Science and Remote Sensing; Land Surface Processes, Ecosystem Biogeochemistry, Ecosystem Hydrology, and Earth System Science; Sustainability Science, Environmental Management, and Global Change. The doctoral degree in Geography includes the successful completion of the comprehensive examination, a thesis based on original research, a required Methods of Geographical Research course, and a minimum of two complementary courses chosen in collaboration with the student's supervisor and/or research committee. Geography also offers a number of Ph.D. options in association with other McGill departments and programs that students may choose to follow.

j) Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.); Geography — Environment

**Program Description:**
The Doctor of Philosophy in Geography; Environment option is offered in association with the Bieler School of Environment (BSE). It consists of a doctoral thesis and comprehensive examination; required courses from Geography and Environment; and complementary courses in Environment or other fields recommended by the research committee and approved by the Environment Option Committee. In its scope, the Environment option provides students with an appreciation for the role of science in informed decision-making in the environmental sector, and its influence on political, socio-economic, and ethical judgments. Students who have been admitted through their home Department or Faculty may apply for admission to the option. Option requirements are consistent across academic units. The option is coordinated by the BSE, in partnership with participating academic units.

k) Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.); Geography — Neotropical Environment

Program Description:
The Doctor of Philosophy in Geography; Neotropical Environment option is a research-based option for Ph.D. Geography students offered in association with several university departments, the Bieler School of Environment, and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI-Panama). The option includes a doctoral thesis; comprehensive examination; required courses in Geography, Environment, and Biology; and complementary courses chosen from Geography, Agricultural Sciences, Biology, Sociology, Environment, and Political Science. NEO is aimed at students who wish to focus their graduate research on environmental issues relevant to the Neotropics and Latin American countries. NEO favours interdisciplinary approaches to research and learning through the participation of researchers from McGill and from STRI. Students will complete their research in Latin America and NEO’s core and complementary courses will be taught in Panama. NEO’s educational approach seeks to facilitate a broader understanding of tropical environmental issues and the development of skills relevant to working in the tropics.

l) Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.); Geography — Gender and Women’s Studies

Program Description:
The Doctor of Philosophy in Geography; Gender and Women’s Studies option is an interdisciplinary program for Ph.D. students who meet the degree requirements in Geography and who wish to earn 9 credits of approved coursework on gender and women’s studies and issues in feminist research and methods. It includes a doctoral thesis centrally related to gender and/or women’s studies; a comprehensive examination; required courses in Geography and Women’s Studies; and complementary courses, one of which must pertain to gender and/or women’s issues.

4. Psychology

a) Master of Science (M.Sc.) Psychology (Thesis) (45 credits)

Program Description:
The M.Sc. program is designed for students who have strong research interests. This program supports the development of advanced intellectual understanding and specialized research skills. The M.Sc. program includes course work and a significant research component, culminating in the submission of a thesis. The program’s objective is to equip students with skills in critical reading, data collection, and scientific communication to either continue their studies or pursue professional opportunities. This program typically takes 2 years to complete.

b) Master of Arts (M.A.) Psychology (Thesis) (45 credits)

Program Description:
The M.A. program is designed for students who have strong research interests. This program supports the development of advanced intellectual understanding and specialized research skills. The M.A. program includes course work and a significant research component, culminating in the submission of a thesis. The program’s objective is to equip students with skills in critical reading, data collection, and scientific communication to either continue their studies or pursue professional opportunities. This program typically takes 2 years to complete.
6) DEAN'S BUSINESS
   a) Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List (DMURL) S-23-22
   Associate Dean Mittermaier informed members of the DMURL, which offers recognition to students fulfilling specific criteria. Students must have completed a minimum of 9 credits of graded research-based courses across at least two different units, maintaining a minimum GPA of 3.00 in these courses. Document S-23-8 outlined four B.Sc. students and five B.A. & Sc. students eligible for graduation with this designation.

   b) B.Sc. Global Designation S-23-23
   Associate Dean Mittermaier reminded members that the B.Sc. Global was a designation being given at graduation. Students must have at least three credits of a second language course, at least three credits of an independent research project course, plus a third component, chosen from various preselected options. There were three candidates who would graduate with the B.Sc. Global designation in document S-23-23.

   c) Announcements
      (i) Kudos
      Dean Lennox began by extending kudos to colleague Professor Martin Robillard in the School of Computer Science. Martin received the 2024 SIGSOFT Influential Educator Award, a significant accolade within the software engineering community. He emphasized Martin's noteworthy contributions to both research and education.

      Further, Dean Lennox acknowledged the outstanding achievements of three Faculty of Science professors cited in Québec's 2023 Top 10 Discoveries: Professor Alfonso Mucci, an Emeritus Professor in Earth & Planetary Sciences, and Professors Carolina Dufour and Galen Halverson from the Department of Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences. Dean Lennox commended having three faculty members out of the top ten discoveries.

      Dean Lennox congratulated Prof. Robillard and the three Québec Science contributors, Professors Dufour, Halverson, and Mucci, for their exceptional contributions and awards.

      For more in-depth information about the above awards, please visit Kudos

      (ii) McGill24 on 13 March 2024
      Dean Lennox announced McGill24, a global fundraising effort spanning 24 hours. This program, which aims to engage our alumni worldwide and the campus community, has become a tradition. Many first-time donors, including recent graduates, contribute amounts as small as $100, collectively making a substantial impact. Last year, the Faculty of Science received about $350,000, contributing to the university's overall fundraising total of $4.4 million.

      McGill24, starting on 13 March 2024, involves various alumni groups worldwide organizing events to raise funds. For example, the alumni group in Hong Kong hosts a party to kickstart fundraising efforts, while athletic teams organize events either in person or through Zoom, fostering community building and philanthropy.

      Each year, the Faculty of Science offers a panel of choices for donors to contribute to various initiatives, including those initiated by students or departmental activities. Additionally, the Dean's fund is a crucial platform for supporting student-led initiatives, such as the International Student Competition in Paris, where student teams often require financial support.

      Overall, McGill24 serves as a vital platform for fundraising and supporting meaningful student-led initiatives.
Jennifer Abbott, Faculty of Science Advancement Officer, informed members that as McGill24 goes live on 13 March 2024, they will have the opportunity to view the challenge funds, track progress, and observe the release of funds. This will provide insight into the various initiatives and donors across the university coming together. T-shirts will also be distributed on McGill24 as part of a social media effort to engage the community.

(iii) Update: Tuition Increases and Concerns
- Enrollment
Dean Lennox began by reporting that the application deadlines for rest-of-Canada and International students closed on 1 February 2024. Last year, there were approximately 14,000 applications, with 1,250 students registered, indicating a slightly lower number this year. However, the total number of applications remains comparable to previous years, excluding the impact of COVID-19.

Vice-Dean Stephens informed members that the application deadline for Québec CEGEPs students was 1 March 2024. So far, about 11,500 applications have been received at this stage. Despite the slight decrease compared to last year, it's consistent with the typical application volume. Additionally, Enrollment Services has been prompt in sending out offers, with approximately 1,600 offers already extended to B.Sc. and B.A. & Sc. students.

Dean Lennox said that the next pivotal stage following the reception of an offer is the student's acknowledgment, succeeded by enrollment, which signifies their dedication to the university. A joint initiative is currently in progress to motivate accepted students to complete the enrollment process. This effort involves composing congratulatory letters and providing support through diverse communication platforms such as telephone, Zoom, and teams. It is anticipated that this strategy will yield significant results.

Dean Lennox highlighted the strength of the team, which includes Vice-Dean David Stephens, Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer, Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson, Associate Dean (Student Affairs) Anthony Mittermaier, Associate Dean (Research) John Stix, Communications Officer Grace Kiser, and SOUSA, as they are currently deliberating on approaches to provide guidance and respond to queries from potential and accepted students.

Dean Lennox mentioned that there had been discussions about reviving the "Sun and Science" program, initially launched during the COVID-19 pandemic, which featured virtual science sessions held over Zoom and garnered substantial student engagement. The program aimed to emphasize the uniqueness of McGill University to prospective students, focusing on creating meaningful interactions rather than traditional marketing approaches. Dean Lennox expressed confidence in meeting enrollment targets but highlighted the ongoing need for effort and attention.

Dean Lennox mentioned his lack of specific details regarding the President's meeting with the Québec Premier. Concerning the budget, there is a projection of a higher deficit than usual, primarily due to enrollment uncertainties. He expressed confidence in the Faculty's revenue management capabilities, given the applications received and Science's historical performance, anticipating that the Faculty will continue to generate revenue for the university.

7) SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE SOCIETY (SUS) REPORT
Since President Khamis couldn't remain at the meeting to deliver her report, the SUS Report will be distributed before the upcoming Faculty of Science Council meeting on 12 March 2024.
8) **SCIENCE EQUITY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE**

9) **PROVOST’S ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS ANTI-BLACK RACISM**

As Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson was unable to attend the current meeting, no reports were provided for Items 8 and 9.

10) **THE NEW VIC PROJECT UPDATE**

Dean Lennox mentioned that an Open Meeting for the New Vic Project took place on Friday, 9 February 2024, for the McGill community. Around 300 individuals attended the session, which included presentations from various university officials, including the Provost, Executive Vice-President (Academic), President and Vice-Chancellor, Associate Provost, Teaching and Academic Planning, Academic Lead for the New Vic Project, Dean of the Faculty of Science, Academic Design Lead for the New Vic Project, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, and Executive Director of the New Vic Project.

Additionally, there will be structured town hall environments, primarily targeting the units in the Faculties of Engineering and Science, which are most directly impacted by the New Vic Project. Stakeholders will be engaged through in-person meetings and departmental town halls. The Community of Practice, advising on the project’s next stages, has completed its pilot phase and is transitioning to version 2.0, with a membership expansion to about 50 individuals. Details will soon be accessible online, and the Community of Practice aims to engage stakeholders and provide continuous contributions to the project.

11) **REPORTS OF ASSOCIATE DEANS AND VICE-DEAN**

a) Vice-Dean David Stephens

**Zero Enrollment and Low Enrollment Courses**

Vice-Dean Stephens informed members that the Office of the Associate Provost for Teaching and Academic Planning, led by Chris Buddle, has once again requested faculties to review their zero enrollment and low enrollment courses that do not impact programs. Each unit has received a list of these courses for assessment, and it is anticipated that they will be approved at the next Academic Committee meeting and then brought to the Faculty meeting for final approval.

b) Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer

**Policy on Assessment of Student Learning (PASL) Science Addenda AC-23-91(Rev2)**

Associate Dean Hundemer reported that the Policy on Assessment of Student Learning (PASL) Science Addenda was discussed during the Academic Committee meeting on 20 February 2024. Members were tasked with disseminating it to their respective units and colleagues for review, discussion, and feedback. The Policy is slated for approval at the upcoming Academic Committee meeting on 19 March 2024, and subsequent Faculty of Science Council meeting on 9 April 2024. He emphasized that the PASL must receive approval from the Faculty Council no later than the meeting on 21 May 2024 to be effective starting September 2024.

Furthermore, he underscored the significance of addressing the Policy within departments due to varied disciplinary traditions. Clear guidelines and the use of a default Faculty-wide rubric were emphasized in the absence of course-specific ones. Compliance with the PASL was highlighted as non-negotiable to prevent issues for students. He urged departments to discuss and comprehend the PASL, allocate time for responses, and prepare for its implementation by Fall 2024.
c) Associate Dean (Student Affairs) Anthony Mittermaier

There was no report for the current meeting.

d) Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson

As Associate Dean Nilson was unable to attend the current meeting, there was no report.

e) Associate Dean (Research) John Stix

Associate Dean Stix introduced Sam Darling, the latest addition to the Research Grants office in the Faculty of Science, where she joins Kerstin Tiedemann and himself in overseeing research matters. Both Sam and Kerstin are invaluable resources for crafting research grants, offering institutional support, and guiding through various processes. They are currently conducting visits to departments to establish personal connections and better understand departmental needs. If they have not visited your department yet, please reach out to schedule a visit. We are delighted to have you on board, and I look forward to our collaboration.

Dean Lennox emphasized the exceptional functionality and effectiveness of the Faculty of Science Research Office, which handles a substantial amount of work exceptionally well. Strong writers are crucial for ensuring successful grant applications. Welcome, Sam, to the team!

12) REPORT ON ACTIONS OF SENATE

- Senate Meeting, 17 January 2024: Senator Brigitte Vachon

The Senate meeting was chaired by Dean Lennox, as the President was attending the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos.

In view of the President being away on university business, comments from the Chair for the January 2024 meeting of Senate were distributed in written form [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-34_chairs_remarks.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-34_chairs_remarks.pdf).

On the topic of government relations, the Chair reminded Senate that on December 14, 2024, the Government of Quebec released new measures affecting tuition and university funding. The likely impact of these measures is that enrolment may drop. The original estimate of the financial impact of these measures on McGill was between $42M and $94M annually, but this estimate did not consider the most recent requirements for French proficiency announced in December 2023, which could increase the upper range of this estimate. The President has called upon Premier Legault to reverse this decision and has also made a commitment to the McGill community to explore all avenues necessary to maintain the University’s standards of excellence in support of its mission. One of the steps that has been taken to offset the tuition increase and maintain a diverse student body is to temporarily institute a $3,000 annual award (the Canada Award) for new undergraduate students from other provinces. The new award will benefit approximately 80% of new Canadian students from outside Quebec coming to McGill. The final application numbers are still to come in. Senator Labeau indicated that it is a priority of the University, in collaboration with Francisation Québec, to ensure that community members have adequate access to resources which may serve to support them in their endeavours to bolster their French language skills.
Senate approved the report of the Academic Policy Committee, which included recommended revisions to the Regulation on Conflict of Interest and to the Policy on the Ethical Conduct of Research Involving Human Participants [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-36_report_of_the_academic_policy_committee.pdf].

The most recent report from the Board of Governors to Senate was presented for information and contains a description of a new Deputy Chancellor Position [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-37_report_from_the_board_of_governors_to_senate.pdf]. The Secretary-General explained that this new position will not translate into the creation of a new seat on the Board of Governors, and that although there is no structural requirement for the occupant of an existing Board seat to be the person who serves as Deputy Chancellor, it is anticipated that the position would normally be filled in this manner.

As part of its other normal business matters, Senate approved the recommendations contained in the report of the Senate Steering Committee and the report of the Senate Nominating Committee. Senate also received for information the annual report from the Senate Committee on Libraries [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-38_annual_report_of_the_committee_on_libraries.pdf], the annual report on the Investigation of research misconduct [https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d23-39_annual_report_on_the_investigation_of_research_misconduct.pdf] and the annual report of the Advisory Council on the Charter of Students’ Rights.

The next meeting of Senate will take place on February 14, 2024.

13) **MEMBERS’ QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no members’ questions.

14) **OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no other business, Prof. Roulet moved, seconded by Prof. Perepichka, that the meeting be adjourned at 5 p.m.

The motion carried.