

S-23-13

**Meeting of Faculty
Monday, 14 November 2023
Leacock Council Room - L232**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book

DOCUMENTS: S-23-11, S-23-12

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

1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

The motion carried.

2) MINUTES OF 16 OCTOBER 2023

S-23-11

Item #4, Page 7: Dean's Business
b) Announcements
(ii) Service Milestones - 25 plus years

The following correction was noted for the record:

- Regarding Prof. Parisa Ariya's service milestones, the correct departments are:
 - Department of Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences
 - Department of Chemistry

Prof. Fussmann **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ditto, that the amended Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

4) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- Academic Committee

S-23-12 Part A/Part B

The following proposals were approved at the Academic Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 24 October 2023.

Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer provided an overview of the following new and revised courses and programs.

Part A - New/Revised Courses and Programs

1. Psychology
New Course:
PSYC 303 Introduction to Human Memory
3 credits

[AC-23-15](#)

Associate Dean Hundemer mentioned that the Department of Psychology proposed the course, PSYC 303, as its first dedicated course on human memory, covering various aspects that have been addressed in other courses.

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

The motion carried.

2. Chemistry

New Courses:

CHEM 242	Organic Chemistry 1 for Chemistry and Biochemistry 4 credits	AC-23-24
CHEM 252	Organic Chemistry 2 for Chemistry and Biochemistry 4 credits	AC-23-25

Associate Dean Hundemer introduced two new courses, CHEM 242 and CHEM 252, titled Organic Chemistry 1 for Chemistry and Biochemistry and Organic Chemistry 2 for Chemistry and Biochemistry. These courses aim to address overcrowding in the existing Organic Chemistry courses (CHEM 212 and CHEM 222), particularly in labs. Due to the large enrollment, not all required experiments could be performed, impeding students' progress in Chemistry and Biochemistry. In response, the Department decided to propose new courses exclusively for Chemistry and Biochemistry students, allowing for more time in labs. The lectures in CHEM 242 and CHEM 252 will mirror those in CHEM 212 and CHEM 222. Associate Dean Hundemer answered members' questions.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Prof. Roulet, that the above courses be adopted.

The motion carried.

Course Revisions:

CHEM 212	Introductory Organic Chemistry 1 Changes: course activities, description, prerequisites, corequisites, restrictions, supplementary calendar information 4 credits	AC-23-26
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Associate Dean Hundemer said that the course description has been updated to align with current teaching practices. With the approval of CHEM 242 (mentioned above), the focus of CHEM 212 is now tailored for non-Chemistry and non-Biochemistry students. The remaining revisions are primarily housekeeping in nature.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

CHEM 222	Introductory Organic Chemistry 2 Changes: course activities, prerequisites, restrictions, supplementary calendar information 4 credits	AC-23-27
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Subsequent to the approval of CHEM 252 (above), Associate Dean Hundemer said that the role of CHEM 222 has been redefined for students not pursuing majors in Chemistry or Biochemistry. The course descriptions have been updated to match the current delivery method. Additionally, course equivalencies will no longer be granted.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

CHEM 213	Introductory Physical Chemistry 1: Thermodynamics Removal of course restriction 3 credits	<u>AC-23-28</u>
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Associate Dean Hundemer mentioned that the restriction for CHEM 213 has been removed to make it easier for students to enroll in the course.

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

The motion carried.

CHEM 273	Introductory Physical Chemistry 2: Thermodynamics Changes: prerequisites, removed blocking for web Registration 3 credits	<u>AC-23-29</u>
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Associate Dean Hundemer said that the revised prerequisites for CHEM 273 aim to explicitly specify that Calculus 3 taken in CEGEP is considered equivalent to MATH 222. Furthermore, the restriction on web registration has been removed, allowing students to register without requiring a permit.

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

The motion carried.

CHEM 302	Introductory Organic Chemistry 3 Change in supplementary calendar information 3 credits	<u>AC-23-30</u>
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Associate Dean Hundemer said that the only revision in CHEM 302 is that the course will exclusively be offered in the Fall semester.

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

The motion carried.

3.	Biology BIOL 575	Human Biochemical Genetics Changes: description, supplementary calendar information 3 credits	<u>AC-23-18</u>
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Associate Dean Hundemer said that the proposed changes to BIOL 575 include a revision of the course description to better reflect its current focus. Moreover, the course will now be offered only in the Fall semester rather than the Winter semester.

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

The motion carried.

4. Computer Science
COMP 251 Algorithms and Data Structures [AC-23-19](#)
Change in supplementary calendar information
3 credits

Associate Dean Hundemer explained that due to a technical glitch in Minerva, an outdated note in the supplementary calendar information was not removed during the last modification of COMP 251 a couple of years ago. Consequently, this information remains on the eCalendar when it should not be there.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Prof. Fabry, that this calendar mistake be corrected.

The motion carried.

5. Faculty of Science
Program Revisions:
- B.Sc. Minor in Entrepreneurship for Science Students [AC-23-17](#)

Associate Dean Hundemer explained the proposed changes to the Minor in Entrepreneurship for Science Students. While primarily overseen by the Faculty of Management, adjustments are made to accommodate students from the Faculty of Science. The purpose of these revisions is to realign the program, placing a greater emphasis on entrepreneurship essentials. Currently, students in this Minor must complete two courses, Integrated Management Essentials 1 and Integrated Management Essentials 2. The proposed revisions recommend substituting the two courses with a new course tailored to focus specifically on entrepreneurship, aligning more closely with the Minor's objectives. To offset the loss of 3 credits due to the removal of the previous required courses, students will now have increased flexibility in choosing from core management courses offered by the Faculty of Management.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

6. Mathematics & Statistics
B.Sc. Program Changes:
- B.Sc. Honours Mathematics [AC-23-20](#)
- B.Sc. Honours Applied Mathematics [AC-23-21](#)
- B.Sc. Joint Honours Mathematics and Computer Science [AC-23-22](#)
- B.Sc. Joint Honours Statistics and Computer Science [AC-23-23](#)

Associate Dean Hundemer said that the program revisions aim to introduce an Honours version of Algebra 1, providing Honours program students with an alternative to the regular Algebra 1. Additionally, program descriptions have been added or revised.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.**B.A. Program Changes (for information)**

- B.A. Honours Mathematics
- B.A. Honours Applied Mathematics
- B.A. Joint Honours Mathematics and Computer Science

Part B - New/Revised Program Descriptions for New Online Calendar Platform, Course Catalogue

Changes to eCalendar Program Descriptions Only

[AC-23-16](#)

a) Anatomy & Cell Biology

- Program Name:

Major Program in Anatomy & Cell Biology
 Liberal Program – Core Science Component
 in Anatomy & Cell Biology

[AC-23-34](#)

[AC-23-35](#)

b) Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences:

- Program Name: Liberal Program - Core Science Component
 Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences

[AC-23-36](#)

c) Computer Science:

- B.Sc. Program Name: Honours Program in Computer Science

[AC-23-37](#)

d) Earth System Science:

- Program Name: Minor Program in Earth System Science

[AC-23-38](#)

e) Mathematics & Statistics:

- B.Sc. Program Names: Major Program in Mathematics
 Liberal Program - Core Science Component
 in Mathematics

[AC-23-39](#)

[AC-23-40](#)

f) Physics

- B.Sc. Program Names: Liberal Program - Core Science Component in
 Physics

[AC-23-41](#)

Associate Dean Hundemer gave a brief overview regarding McGill's new calendar platform, Course Catalogue, which is set to replace the eCalendar for the upcoming academic year 2024-2025. He emphasized a crucial distinction in the format of program overviews on Course Catalogue, noting that pages would be blank if no program descriptions were provided. A list of programs lacking descriptions was identified, prompting some departments to review or include program descriptions, as outlined in Part B of Document S-23-12. Due to the short notice for submission to SCTP and the impending implementation in the first edition of the Course Catalogue, Associate Dean Hundemer is asking Faculty members to consider the program descriptions on behalf of the Academic Committee. It is important to highlight that departments are encouraged to include or expand on their program descriptions, thereby improving the accessibility of program information for students. Associate Dean Hundemer answered members' questions.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, that the program descriptions in Part B section of Document S-23-6.

The motion carried.

5) **DEAN'S BUSINESS**

Announcements

(i) Kudos

Dean Lennox extended congratulations on behalf of the Faculty of Science to Prof. Nicolas Cowan from the Departments of Physics and Earth and Planetary Sciences, for receiving the 2023 Arthur B. McDonald Fellowship. Additionally, Professors Charles Gale, Kenneth Ragan, and Mark Sutton, all from the Department of Physics, were recognized and appointed as Fellows of the Canadian Association of Physicists for their exceptional accomplishments and contributions.

For more in-depth information about the above awards, please visit [Kudos](#)

(ii) Update: Tuition Increases and Concerns

Dean Lennox provided a brief summary of the Québec Government's announcement on 13 October 2023, concerning tuition increases and the recovery plan. Despite the complexity of the situation, Dean Lennox expressed optimism regarding the Faculty of Science and McGill's capacity to navigate challenges. He underscored the significance of effective messaging, recommended incorporating student voices to articulate the distinct value of the McGill experience, and stressed the importance of proactive communication to prospective students, highlighting the value of a McGill education. The primary focus is on sustaining enrollment numbers through targeted initiatives and portraying the University as a worthwhile investment. Dean Lennox also addressed inquiries from members.

6)**SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE SOCIETY (SUS) REPORT**

Asma Khamis, the President of the Science Undergraduate Society (SUS), provided an overview of the SUS activities during the recent meeting. Operations within the SUS have been running smoothly, focusing on supporting student well-being and academics while remaining accessible to address concerns. As part of the President's portfolio, internal operations and administration were a key focus, involving amendments to governing documents and support for departmental activities. Planning for the annual SUS Spring Gala in February 2024 has also commenced. On 6 November 2023, President Khamis attended the monthly meeting with other Faculty Presidents to discuss current student issues and coordinate efforts. The Science Senator is leading an inter-faculty project focused on a food insecurity initiative currently in the survey stage.

The Vice-President (Academic) successfully organized the Graduate School Fair on 6 November 2023, attracting over 400 students, and received positive feedback from students and program representatives. Ongoing efforts include collaborating with departments to provide student accommodations for course notes and addressing academic concerns within specific courses.

The Internal portfolio, led by the Science Internal Committee (SIC), hosted a movie night on 2 November 2023 and has upcoming events, including a Trivia Night on 22 November 2023, and Tote Bag Painting on 23 November 2023. The Science Games Hype Night event is scheduled for 20 November 2023.

The Vice-President (Sustainability) introduced a sustainable event workflow for departments during event planning and has several upcoming events within their committees. The Mental Health Committee will host a Cookie Decorating event on 22 November 2023, the Environment Committee has a Climate Anxiety panel on 29 November 2023, and Charity Week is planned for the week of 27-30 November 2023. Additionally, the week of 13 November 2023, will feature a plant sale, spin class, and trivia night, with all proceeds going to Open Door Montreal, a centre providing services to people without homes in the greater Montreal area.

Dean Lennox thanked President Khamis for her comprehensive report, acknowledging the multitude of activities organized by the SUS.

7) **SCIENCE EQUITY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE**

Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson provided a report on the October meeting of the Science Equity and Climate Committee. The focus was primarily on issues brought forth by members for consideration within the committee, serving as a vital function to identify areas for improvement within their domains at the university and propose collaborative efforts.

One notable issue discussed was the planning of accessible and sustainable events on campus. The Vice-President of Sustainability from SUS raised this issue, emphasizing the importance of planning Science events with accessibility and sustainability in mind. A meeting is scheduled later in the month to further address and plan an initiative that will provide information and guidance to help ensure that all Science events are as accessible and sustainable as possible.

Another topic involved the experience of Faculty members from underrepresented groups navigating the tenure and promotion process. The committee aims to gather data on potential biases and challenges faced by these faculty members, seeking ways to address any issues that may arise.

To implement these discussions, the committee compiled a list of projects falling under its mandate. Working groups have been formed to initiate progress on these projects, with membership varying depending on the nature of each project.

Associate Dean Nilson encouraged individuals with project suggestions to reach out to their respective representatives or directly contact her. She also welcomed inquiries about the committee's list of projects and future plans, emphasizing the collaborative and action-oriented nature of the committee's work.

8) **PROVOST'S ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS ANTI-BLACK RACISM**

Associate Dean Nilson reported that each year the Provost's office provides an annual budget to each faculty to support initiatives that align with and contribute to the pillars of the Provost Plan Against Anti-black Racism. A major component of this year's Faculty budget request is for the Office of Science Education's Inclusive Teaching Initiative Year 2. The outcomes of Year 1, will be presented by the Office of Science Education at the upcoming Faculty Council Meeting on 5 December 2023.

In addition to the Inclusive Teaching Initiative, the budget request encompasses support for student participation in field studies and support for student participation in summer research internships.

9) **THE NEW VIC PROJECT UPDATE**

Dean Lennox provided a brief update on the New Vic Project, highlighting two key aspects. Firstly, he noted that the project is progressing at a full pace, with the deconstruction phase in full swing. He said that decontamination is complete, emphasizing the distinction between deconstruction and demolition.

The second aspect of the update involved the legal engagement with a group called the Mohawk Mothers and the SQI (the real estate arm of the Government of Québec), the owners of the site. The legal proceedings are ongoing, with a hearing held on 26 October 2023. The judge has received the presented information, and the committee

anticipates his decision in the coming weeks. This information is already in the public domain and has been reported in the press.

10) **REPORTS OF ASSOCIATE DEANS**

a) Vice-Dean David Stephens

There was no report for the current meeting.

b) Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer

- New Models of Academic Program Delivery (NewMAD) Update ([AC-23-31](#))

Associate Dean Hundemer reported that the NewMAD document was presented at a recent Senate meeting. The document highlights the future of teaching at McGill. Associate Dean Hundemer urged professors to carefully review it for detailed insights. The report explains the distinctions between hybrid and blended learning, with clarification on Page 10. It also serves as a reminder of the current permission for instructors to teach 15% of a course remotely. For percentages between 15% and 50%, approval from the Academic Committee and Faculty Council meeting is required. Beyond 50%, the Sub-Committee on Teaching and Programs (SCTP) approval is necessary. The report suggests that departments consider retaining elements from the online teaching experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. The final aspect addresses ongoing efforts to define contact hours and ensure meaningful interaction with students. The subcommittee of the Academic Program Committee (APC) is assigned to explore this matter over the next 1.5 years, with faculty involvement expected during the process.

c) Associate Dean (Student Affairs) Anthony Mittermaier

Due to Associate Dean Mittermaier's absence from the current meeting, no report was provided.

d) Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson

There was no report for the current meeting.

e) Associate Dean (Research) John Stix

Associate Dean Stix reported on two items:

- (1) The CFI 12 for the new CFI Innovation Fund projects is in progress. Expressions of interest have been submitted, and the team is currently reviewing the proposals. There is a high level of interest, resulting in many intriguing projects.
- (2) There will not be an open call for the James McGill, William Dawson, and CRC Chairs this year due to budget constraints and other factors. This annual tradition is being paused for one year, with plans to resume, possibly this summer and certainly next year. Questions about this can be directed to Associate Dean of Research after the meeting.

Further to Associate Dean Stix's updates, Dean Lennox explained that the Government of Canada evaluates the total grant intake at each university every three to five years, determining the distribution of Canada Research Chairs (CRCs) proportionally. McGill has experienced a shift in equilibration within the U15 Group, resulting in the loss of nine CRCs out of its previous 164. This reallocation trend is observed in other universities, with institutions like Calgary becoming more active and successful in research, leading to a redistribution of CRCs.

11) Report on Actions of Senate

- Senate Meeting of 19 October 2023: Senator Peter Grütter

Principal Saini Chaired the Senate meeting, which began with memorial tributes including two by Dean Lennox for Professor Emerita Marta C. Bunge and for Professor Wilbur Jónsson both from Mathematics and Statistics.

Chair's remarks (relevant to the Faculty of Science):

Principal Saini discussed the University's response to the report on asbestos at the Mac campus, which has relevance for many in our community, including Faculty from Biology and Psychology, and noted the two town halls for McGill community members about asbestos that took place on 22 September 2023.

Principal Saini talked about a new long-term strategic plan for the University: McGill 2050, for which he will start consulting this fall.

Additionally, he outlined immediate strategic plans, and this included trying to accelerate major infrastructure projects such as the New Vic Project.

There were several reports that were approved, including of the Senate Steering, the Senate Nominating, and the EDI committee.

Then there was a report from Associate Provost Celeste Pedri-Spade, who gave an update on the Indigenous Advisory Council, which is part of McGill's approach to fulfil its responsibilities from the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action. There was some discussion centred on this.

Then there was a report to Senate from the Board of Governors. This had one specific item to be discussed at Senate: Discussion of change of title from Principal to President.

At the international level, "President" is more universally understood than the term "Principal," making it easier for administrators when traveling internationally. Principal has Scottish roots and is rare within Canada. This would reflect on vice-Principals, Associates, and Assistants too – everything would be altered.

The French translation of President is Recteur, which would align more with the other Universities in Québec. There was some discussion, although most did not seem to have strong opinions on it.

Finally, there were reports on the Committee on Enrolment and Student Affairs and the Committee on Student Services. The last one was interesting for members of Faculty of Science. They described that there have been changes in their services as they adapt to post-pandemic student needs. More students access student services virtually than in person (60-40 split) which has some advantages and some disadvantages. They are dealing with increased student isolation and loss of life's skills among students. The issue of food insecurity among students was raised, and efforts are currently in progress to address this concern.

14) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD

Due to time constraints, the question from a member (*Will the Faculty/University make arrangements to facilitate students and staff in witnessing the solar eclipse in Montreal on 8 April 2024?*) will be postponed until the next meeting on 5 December 2023.

15) OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other business, Mr. Barry **moved**, seconded by Prof. Jeon, that the meeting be adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

The motion carried.