S-23-15

Meeting of Faculty
Monday, 5 December 2023
Leacock Council Room - L232

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book

DOCUMENTS: **S-23-14**

Dean Lennox called the meeting to order at 3 p.m., and welcomed members to the fourth Faculty of Science Council 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 14 NOVEMBER 2023 S-23-13

The minutes of the meeting of 14 November 2023 will be circulated prior to the next Faculty of Science Council meeting on Monday, 15 January 2024.

3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

As the minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2023 are not yet available, there was no business arising from the minutes at this time.

4) REPORT OF COMMITTEE

- Academic Committee **S-23-14**

The following proposals were approved at the Academic Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 21 November 2023.

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

1. Mathematics & Statistics
New Courses:

MATH 206	Applied Calculus and Linear Algebra 3 credits	AC-23-47

Associate Dean Hundemer introduced the first of two new courses designed for students enrolling in the upcoming B.A. Major Concentration in Data Science, which will be presented in the Winter 2024 semester. One of the challenges in the Major Concentration is a credit limitation; therefore, courses need to be developed that combine disciplines. The idea is to integrate essential topics in multivariable calculus and second-level linear algebra, presenting them in one semester without going into as much depth as full-blown courses.

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

The motion carried.

MATH 209 Fundamentals of Statistical Modeling and Inference **AC-23-48**
3 credits

Associate Dean Hundemer said that MATH 209 follows a similar approach and is designed for the new B.A. Major Concentration in Data Science. The goal is to expose students in the B.A. and also current students in Statistics programs to important statistical tools at an earlier stage without diving too deeply into theoretical aspects. This course aims to provide practical applications, aligning with the needs of students in Data Science.

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

The motion carried.

MATH 510 Quantitative Risk Management **AC-23-49**
4 credits

Associate Dean Hundemer introduced another new course, Math 510. This course is designed for senior undergraduate students and focuses on imparting a skill set in risk assessment. The course is widely offered at other universities and provides valuable knowledge for students entering industries where risk management skills are in high demand, making it an important addition to the curriculum in Mathematics & Statistics.

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

The motion carried.

Course Revisions:

MATH 462 Machine Learning **AC-23-50**
Changes: title, description, prerequisites, restrictions
3 credits

Associate Dean Hundemer said MATH 462 is an existing course in the Department of Mathematics & Statistics that was originally intended for Honours students only. However, it is now being revised to make it attractive to Majors students as well. The course content and description are being adjusted accordingly to accommodate this change, making it accessible to a broader range of students in the Majors program.

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

The motion carried.

2. Psychology

New Course:

PSYC 339 Introduction to Applied Psychology **AC-23-51**
3 credits

Associate Dean Hundemer introduced a new course in Psychology, PSYC 339, focusing on applying basic psychological principles to real-world problems. The course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive perspective on the practical applications of psychology across various contexts, offering valuable insights into career development pathways within the field.

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

The motion carried.

3. Physics

PHYS 459D1/D2	Research Thesis Changes: title, description, restrictions 6 credits	AC-23-92

Associate Dean Hundemer said that the revisions to PHYS 459D1/D2 are mainly to highlight its accessibility to both Majors and Honours students. The modification aims to clarify eligibility for all students interested in taking the course, removing any potential restrictions, and making the course more appealing to a wider audience.

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

The motion carried.

B.Sc. and B. Engineering Program Changes:

- Major in Physics and Geophysics AC-23-53

Associate Dean Hundemer said that the proposed changes are mainly of the housekeeping type. Complementary courses have been revised, a course that is no longer offered has been removed, and some other courses have been added. Additionally, there has been a change to one course title.

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

The motion carried.

- Minor in Physics AC-23-54

Associate Dean Hundemer said that the only change to the Minor in Physics for Engineering students is to update the program description for the new calendar platform, Course Catalogue, replacing the eCalendar for the 2024-2025 academic year.

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

The motion carried.

4. Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences

ATOC 182	Introduction to Oceanic Sciences Changes: description, restrictions, suppl. Calendar info 3 credits	AC-23-55
ATOC 214	Introduction: Physics of the Atmosphere Change in course description 3 credits	AC-23-56
ATOC 215	Oceans, Weather and Climate Changes: description, prerequisites	AC-23-57

	3 credits	
ATOC 312	Rotating Fluid Dynamics Changes: description and suppl. Calendar info 3 credits	AC-23-58
ATOC 512	Atmospheric and Oceanic Dynamics Change in course description 3 credits	AC-23-59
ATOC 513	Waves and Stability Change in course description 3 credits	AC-23-60
ATOC 521	Cloud Physics Changes: description and restrictions 3 credits	AC-23-61
ATOC 531	Dynamics of Current Climates Change in course description 3 credits	AC-23-62
ATOC 557	Research Methods: Atmospheric and Oceanic Science Change in course description 3 credits	AC-23-63
ATOC 568	Ocean Physics Changes: description and restrictions 3 credits	AC-23-64
ATOC 751/751D1/D2	Seminar: Atmosphere and Ocean Changes: title and description 1 credit	AC-23-65

Associate Dean Hundemer presented the above course revisions in the Department of Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences. The proposed modifications primarily housekeeping in nature involved updating course descriptions, adjusting restrictions, and renaming certain courses to better align with their current content.

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

The motion carried.

5. Earth & Planetary Sciences
Course Revisions:

EPSC 355	Sedimentary Geology Changes: prerequisites and restrictions 3 credits	AC-23-66
EPSC 425	Sediments to Sequences Changes: description and prerequisites 3 credits	AC-23-67
EPSC 510	Climate and Geodynamics Changes: title and description 3 credits	AC-23-68
EPSC 547	Modelling Geochemical Processes Change in course description 3 credits	AC-23-69

Associate Dean Hundemer said that the above course revisions are relatively minor and mostly involve updating prerequisites, restrictions, and course titles to better align with the current content.

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

The motion carried.

Program Changes:
- Honours in Geology **AC-23-70**
- Major in Geology **AC-23-71**

Associate Dean Hundemer presented the program revisions for the Honours in Geology and the Major in Geology. The adjustments primarily involve adding or changing complementary courses to meet requirements set by a professional organization for geoscientist professional registration in certain provinces.

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

The motion carried.

6. Earth System Science

Course Revisions:

ESYS 200	Earth-System Interactions Changes: title and description 3 credits	**AC-23-72**
ESYS 300	Earth Data Analysis Changes: title and description 3 credits	**AC-23-73**
ESYS 301	Earth System Modelling Change in course description 3 credits	**AC-23-74**
ESYS 500	Collaborative Research Project Changes: title and description 3 credits	**AC-23-75**

Associate Dean Hundemer presented changes to above courses in the Earth System Sciences Programs. The modifications primarily involved alterations to course titles and descriptions, emphasizing research-oriented aspects and preparing students for potential careers in research.

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

The motion carried.

7. Bieler School of Environment

B.A.&Sc. Interfaculty Program in Environment **AC-23-76**

Associate Dean Hundemer described the changes to the B.A.&Sc. Interfaculty Program in Environment. The adjustments are primarily housekeeping in nature, involving the addition and removal of courses to strengthen the program and improve its readability. Courses have been added to enhance the program, while others have been removed due to infrequent offerings or easy accessibility for students.

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

The motion carried.

8. Anatomy & Cell Biology
Program Changes:

- Honours in Anatomy & Cell Biology	AC-23-77
- Major in Anatomy & Cell Biology	AC-23-78
- Liberal – Core Science Component in Anatomy & Cell Biology	AC-23-79

Associate Dean Hundemer presented program changes for Anatomy and Cell Biology. The modifications primarily include the removal of a note and link from the program requirements, specifically in courses such as Anatomy 261 in the Major in Anatomy, and the Liberal – Core Science Component in Anatomy & Cell Biology.

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

The motion carried.

9. Computer Science
Course Retirements:

COMP 364	Computer Tools for Life Sciences 3 credits	AC-23-80
COMP 652	Machine Learning 4 credits	AC-23-81
COMP 655	Distributed Simulation 4 credits	AC-23-82
COMP 667	Software Fault Tolerance 4 credits	AC-23-83

Associate Dean Hundemer said the above Computer Science courses are being retired because the courses are no longer being deemed necessary or relevant.

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

The motion carried.

10. Chemistry
Program Changes:

- Honours in Chemistry	AC-23-84
- Honours in Chemistry; Bio-Organic	AC-23-85
- Honours in Chemistry; Biophysical Chemistry	AC-23-86
- Major in Chemistry	AC-23-87
- Major in Chemistry; Bio-Organic	AC-23-88
- Major in Chemistry; Biophysical Chemistry	AC-23-89
- Liberal – Core Science Component in Chemistry – General Chemistry	AC-23-90

Associate Dean Hundemer described the above program changes in Chemistry programs. The adjustments make the program more flexible, allowing students to choose between non-calculus and calculus-based physics introductions, preferring Biology 112 over Biology 111 for relevance to the program. Moreover, the Department of Chemistry will cease offering exemptions for CHEM 222 taken in CEGEPs. These systematic changes are implemented across various chemistry programs.

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

The motion carried.

11. Policy on Assessment of Student Learning (PASL) **AC-23-91**

Associate Dean Hundemer introduced the Policy on Assessment of Student Learning (PASL). The policy will become effective in Fall 2024 and instructors are encouraged to familiarize themselves with it. The PASL was discussed at the Academic Committee meeting on 21 November 2023, and there will be a Faculty of Science-specific commentary/addendum to be discussed at the Academic Committee meeting on 23 January 2024.

Some of the key points from the policy include the need for instructors to explain assessment tasks and provide concrete descriptors for each level of performance (paragraph 5.5). There are also details about the course outline's required level of detail, including listing every assessment task, including due dates.

Associate Dean Hundemer highlighted concerns about paragraph 8.1 related to third-party re-reads, expressing challenges about the practicality of implementing it, especially for assignments, and the potential impact on different departments with significant student populations.

Some of the suggestions were that the Faculty may institute a threshold for rereads, wherein a student becomes eligible to request a reread of their assessment if they meet certain predetermined criteria. Another suggestion was that there be a Faculty Town Hall to address questions and concerns about the policy, followed by a Q&A. Dean Lennox emphasized the importance of including student perspectives in the discussion.

A member noted that requests for re-evaluation in their department were not overwhelming, and the meeting concluded with Dean Lennox concurring that a Faculty Town Hall would be an effective platform for a comprehensive discussion involving all stakeholders, ensuring transparency and inclusivity in the policy implementation process.

Changes to Calendar Program Descriptions – Course Catalogue
Mathematics & Statistics

Program name: Master of Science (M.Sc.) Mathematics & Statistics (Non-Thesis)

Associate Dean Hundemer said that the program description for the above graduate program has been revised in preparation for the transition to the new calendar platform, Course Catalogue. This platform will replace the current eCalendar and will be effective starting the 2024-2025 academic year.

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

The motion carried.

For Information Only: Master of Arts (M.A.) Mathematics & Statistics (Non-Thesis)

5) DEAN'S BUSINESS

- Announcements

(i) Kudos

On behalf of the Faculty of Science, Dean Lennox congratulated the following outstanding achievements from Faculty members across various disciplines in the Faculty of Science:

Professor Simon Caron from the Department of Physics received the prestigious Larkin Junior Researcher Award from the Fine Theoretical Physics Institute, University of Minnesota.

During the recent Convocation (20 November 2023), two out of the four Principal's Prizes for Excellence in Teaching were awarded to members of the Faculty of Science. These awards highlight the tremendous talent within the Faculty.

Professor Pallavi Sirjoosingh from the Department of Chemistry received the Principal's Prize for Teaching Excellence in the Faculty Lecturer Category.

Professor Rustum Choksi, Chair of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, received the Principal's Prize for Excellence in Teaching in the Full Professor Category.

Additionally, **Professor Martin Grant**, former Dean of Science and Chair of the Department of Physics, as well as the former Interim Chair of the Institute of Islamic Studies, was honored with the Morty Yalovsky Lifetime Achievement Award. This award was granted unanimously by a University Committee, comprised of senior members, expressed deep admiration for Prof. Grant's accomplishments as a researcher, teacher, mentor, and administrator.

On behalf of the Faculty of Science, Dean Lennox proposed a congratulatory motion to recognize the great honour of receiving this award, acknowledging Prof. Grant's significant contributions and talent within the Faculty of Science and the University community.

Prof. Roulet **moved** to extend congratulations to Prof. Grant, seconded by Prof. Perepichka.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dean Lennox added that kudos are an integral part of recognizing the substantial talent within the Faculty of Science.

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

(ii) Computational Data Systems Initiative (CDSI)

Dean Lennox provided an overview of the recent Computational Data Systems Initiative (CDSI) kickoff event held on December 4, 2023. The initiative, spearheaded by Prof. Eric Kolaczyk, Director of CDSI, and collaborating colleagues, marked the launch of the McGill Collaborative for AI and Society (McCAIS).

Dean Lennox said that this initiative follows the McGill Sustainability Systems Initiative (MSSI) and stands as the University's pioneering research and teaching venture in this field. Dean Lennox emphasized the unique power of the University, bringing attention to the impact of AI on society—a topic evolving from background noise to the forefront over the past 30 years. The launch event attracted 70 participants from across the university, featuring lightning talks from four professors, showcasing a broad spectrum of activities. Also, the event included Prof. Samira Abbasgholizadeh-Rahimi, Director of Artificial Intelligence in Family Medicine at McGill, who demonstrated expertise in AI and machine learning methods applied to clinical data.

The co-Director of this initiative, Prof. Golnoosh Farnadi**,** is an Assistant Professor in the School of Computer Science. Prof. Farnadi holds prestigious fellowships and is actively involved in various United Nations approaches to AI and society.

Dean Lennox encouraged Faculty members to participate in events and activities organized by the McCAIS, emphasizing its relevance to research, teaching, interdisciplinary intersections, and personal lives.

(iii) Update: Tuition Increases and Concerns

Dean Lennox reported that the Principal and senior administration have been working tirelessly on the tuition increases proposed by the Québec Government, and assured that more information would soon be made available. Despite the challenges, Dean Lennox remained optimistic, emphasizing the strength of the Faculty of Science in terms of enrollment and the quality of its professors. He stressed the crucial role that clear communication has in addressing concerns and preventing misinformation. Plans were discussed for adapting to changes in admissions patterns and enrollments. It was clarified that graduate students (Ph.D. and research M.Sc.) would not be affected by this specific tuition increase, as detailed on the Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies website: https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/.

(iv) Burnside Hall Renovations

Dean Lennox reported that he received a report from Marilena Cafaro, Associate Director of Faculty of Science Building Infrastructure, regarding the Burnside Hall renovations. There are a few minor adjustments and fine-tunings still needed, but the space is expected to be open at the beginning of the Winter 2024 semester. The project is a collaboration with the Science Undergraduate Society (SUS) and other students.

Additionally, Dean Lennox encouraged members to visit the Schulich Library to witness the remarkable renovations that have been completed.

6) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD

- Question Submitted by Prof. Fussmann (Department of Biology):
  - Will the Faculty/University make arrangements to facilitate students and staff in witnessing the solar eclipse in Montreal on 8 April 2024?

In response to Prof. Fussmann's inquiry about facilitating students and staff to observe the solar eclipse in Montreal on 8 April 2024, Dean Lennox said that there is presently no University policy regarding this event. However, he expressed his intention to discuss the matter with the Deputy Provost to explore the possibility of accommodating students and staff during the eclipse, recognizing the uniqueness of the event. Additionally, efforts will be made to explore the acquisition of safe viewing glasses through collaboration with the Department of Physics. Furthermore, the choice of location for observing the solar eclipse, whether on the campus field, the stadium, or reservoir, will also be addressed in due course.

7) SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE SOCIETY (SUS) REPORT

Asma Khamis, President of the Science Undergraduate Society, reported on the activities of the SUS.

President Khamis said that many exciting projects and initiatives are ongoing at the SUS, even as the semester comes to a close. I have been continuing to plan for the annual SUS Spring Gala in February 2024, and communicate with departmental executives to ensure smooth operations on those fronts. I am also working with Dr. Tamara Western to

explore the possibility of student-led 1-credit courses in the Faculty of Science. The SUS Equity and Accountability teams I oversee have been providing departments with resources and are soon launching a brief health and wellbeing guide for students to navigate now that exam season is upon us, so that they are aware of the resources available to them. The SUS also recently ran its Fall 2023 Referendum for two student fee questions, and have reported the official results. Under the Academic portfolio, the Academic Resources Committee has been posting final exam information and tips to remind students what the expectations are. Our VP Academic and VP Sustainability have been working hard to set up an NTC Bursary workflow so that course notes can be more accessible to students who may not otherwise have the means to access them. Additionally, the VP Academic is working to resolve several academic concerns. Our VP Internal and Science Games Committee successfully ran their Hype Night event on November 20, and the Science Internal Committee held a movie night, tote bag painting event, and trivia night within the past month. The Science Games Committee is continuing to plan for their week-long event from January 9-13, 2024. Our VP Communications has launched several projects, including an organization-wide calendar to track and promote events, and a French translation initiative for our website and governing documents. We have been gathering inclusive language translation resources and hope to work on this project next semester. Under the External portfolio, we have been working on by-law reform to add representation from SUS Clubs and Services to our governing General Council. The VP External is also looking into sponsorships from local businesses. Our VP Sustainability has been overseeing many committee activities this month. The Charity Week committee raised $555.55 this year for Open Door Montreal, a local organization providing services to low-income and unhoused individuals, thanks to their spin class, plant sale, and trivia fundraising events. The Mental Health and Environment Committees also held events this month including cookie decorating and a climate anxiety panel, to great student turnout. Our team wishes the Faculty a wonderful end-of-term and is looking forward to the new year!

Dean Lennox thanked President Khamis for her report, acknowledging the multitude of activities organized by the SUS. On behalf of the Faculty of Science, he extended warm wishes to the SUS for the upcoming holiday season and offered best wishes for success during the upcoming examination period.

8) <u>SCIENCE EQUITY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE</u>

Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson reported on the meeting of the Science Equity Climate Committee (SECC) held on 21 November 2023. She and Dr. Rebecca Maymon, Academic Associate, had met with the graduate student leadership across the Faculty. The primary objectives of these meetings are to foster relationships with departmental graduate student societies, encourage collaboration across departments, and address concerns. The meeting covered three main issues. Firstly, students reported delays in pay and other complications due to staff shortages. Secondly, they raised concerns about their low pay, an ongoing issue under study by Dr. Maymon and herself. Lastly, the common frustration with expense reporting was expressed, and practical tips were offered to mitigate challenges.

Dr. Diane Dechief from the Office of Science Education (OSE) presented a report on efforts to develop tools to further support a healthy student learning climate, with potential future updates. Additionally, Dr. Dechief also reported on the draft policy developed by the working group on Indigenous Citizenship Verification in Employment-Related Opportunities. This initiative is in response to specific Calls to Action (#44 and #52, outlined in McGill's Provost Task Force on Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Education) aimed at increasing indigenous faculty and staff representation. Associate Dean Nilson encouraged members to visit the website on the Office of Indigenous Initiatives for more information:

https://www.mcgill.ca/indigenous/resources/indigenous-citizenship-verification-employment-related-opportunities-icvero-working-group

The SECC meeting concluded with a workshop module led by Prof. Rosalie Bélanger-Rioux from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, addressing the recognition and response to microaggressions. This workshop, a pilot for a series of three, aims to enhance awareness and bystander intervention. Prof. Bélanger-Rioux will be leading these workshops throughout the Faculty of Science during the Winter 2024 semester. These efforts align with the SECC's goal of improving the working and learning climate across the Faculty of Science.

Within the context of Associate Dean's SECC report, Dean Lennox reminded members that the 34th anniversary of the tragic event at the Université de Montréal's École Polytechnique occurred on 6 December 1989. He emphasized the significance of taking a moment to reflect and engage in discussions about violence against women. The McGill community is invited to attend a memorial at 12:00 p.m., which will take place at the commemorative site located in front of University Centre, 3480 McTavish Street.

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

- Inclusive Teaching Initiative Year 2 – Office of Science Education
https://reporter.mcgill.ca/lessons-learned-from-the-inaugural-inclusive-teaching-initiative/

Associate Dean Laura Nilson introduced Dr. Diane Dechief, a Faculty Lecturer in the Office of Science Education (OSE), and Marcy Slapcoff, the Director of the OSE, to provide a report on the inaugural Faculty of Science Inclusive Teaching Initiative. This initiative, funded by the budget provided by the Provost to the Faculty of Science in support of the Provost's Action Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism (ABR) 2020-2025. The Inclusive Teaching Initiative is a key component of the Faculty of Science's response to both the McGill Provost's Action Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism (ABR) 2020-2025 and the Strategic Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Plan 2020-2025.

Director Slapcoff explained that the 2022-2023 Science Initiative had been developed in partnership with the SECC, Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson, Tynan Jarrett (Director, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Office), Charlene Lewis-Sutherland (Senior Advisor, Equity and Anti-Racism Teaching and Learning), Andrea Miller-Nesbitt (Liaison Librarian), and Victoria Glynn, a Ph.D. candidate in Biology. The organizing committee delved into the Strategic Plan and the ABR, aiming to bring its principles to the Faculty of Science. While acknowledging the ongoing activities at SECC, Director Slapcoff emphasized the need for dedicated time to collaborate with Faculty, examining syllabi to understand how these principles translate into concrete classroom practices. She highlighted this Initiative as a successful example of collaborative efforts. She encouraged members to share the call for applications announcement with instructors in their departments, as additional spots are available.

Dr. Dechief, who led the pilot project on the Inclusive Teaching Initiative, reported that there were seven Faculty members from various departments (Biology, Chemistry, Earth & Planetary Sciences, Mathematics & Statistics, Psychology, and Redpath Museum). These Faculty members, already engaged in anti-racist efforts, collectively worked to further enhance their courses to make courses more inclusive and more anti-racist. The monthly meetings covered topics such as assessments, challenging classroom discussions, and classroom management. The focus was on sharing experiences, addressing challenges, and fostering a learning environment. Collaboration with the Science Undergraduate Society (SUS) was a valuable experience. Dr. Dechief stressed the importance of creating a space for Faculty members in the Science departments to work on anti-racist and inclusive practices. Plans for 2023-2024 included working with

another cohort of instructors, joint meetings, and opportunities for instructors from the pilot year to work with students for further adaptation.

Associate Dean Nilson thanked Dr. Dechief and Director Slapcoff for the report and for all the work done for the first Inclusive Teaching Initiative, and she looks forward to seeing the developments for the upcoming 2023-2024 edition.

In closing, Associate Dean Nilson highlighted the initiative's alignment with the “Student Experience” pillar of the ABR plan and the EDI plan. She emphasized the collective action needed to implement these plans and the significance of fostering inclusivity in the classroom.

Dean Lennox concluded by acknowledging the importance of universities as places for conversations on exclusion and its implications, including talent mobilization. It is important to recognize the significant impact of discrimination on the loss of talent and underscore the crucial role of universities as spaces for these critical conversations.

10) THE NEW VIC PROJECT UPDATE

Dean Lennox reported that McGill had received a favorable ruling regarding the continuation of the archaeological investigation on site. The oversight of these investigations is set to continue, following the directive by the judge. The deconstruction and the next steps in the project are anticipated to proceed according to the terms of the agreement, with the judge granting an extension for the oversight of the archaeological investigation.

11) REPORTS OF ASSOCIATE DEANS

a) Vice-Dean David Stephens

Vice-Dean Stephens provided an update on the new B.A. Major Concentration in Data Science. This program will be presented at the Academic Committee and Faculty Council meetings during the Winter 2024 semester. The focus for the Winter is to collaborate closely with the Faculty of Arts to ensure prompt inclusion of the Major Concentration in Data Science. Progress is positive at this stage, and there will also be a BSc Minor Program in Data Science.

Vice-Dean Stephens said the next step involves obtaining external approval for the new programs from the Québec Ministry of Education. The aim is to construct a dossier over the next few months, anticipating University-level approval by the end of the 2023-2024 academic year. As part of the external dossier, consultations will be conducted, with a specific emphasis on engaging with students and other University stakeholders.

b) Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer

Associate Dean Hundemer emphasized the importance of instructors and/or associate examiners being available during their final examinations.

c) Associate Dean (Student Affairs) Anthony Mittermaier

Associate Dean Mittermaier reminded members the importance of submitting their Fall 2023 grades by 4 January 2024.

d) Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson

Associate Dean Nilson emphasized the critical importance of safeguarding enrollment for the 2024-2025 academic year during this period. She stressed the need to proactively engage with students, actively extend offers, and encourage them to accept offers. A pivotal initiative in this process is to ensure that all offer letters include a comprehensive funding plan, explicitly outlining the level of financial support students can anticipate. Associate Dean Nilson emphasized the significance of students as integral contributors to research endeavors and valuable assets to the University in diverse ways.

e) Associate Dean (Research) John Stix

Due to Associate Dean Stix's teaching schedule, he was unable to attend the current meeting.

12) Reports on Actions of Senate

- Joint Senate-Board Meeting, 14 November 2023: Senator David Stephens

The theme of the meeting was *Building on McGill's Record of Excellence for the Third Century: Challenges and Opportunities Ahead.*

There were introductory comments from the Chair of the Board and the Principal. The Principal cited a survey commissioned by Universities Canada stating that the percentage of Canadians regarding a University degree as value for money as being only 46% (down 9% since 2017), with only 52% of participants having a positive impression of Universities. The Board Chair stressed that despite current challenges, McGill would survive.

There were three discussion topics:
A. Changing Perceptions of Higher Education / "Value" of a University Degree/ Accessibility
B. Universities' challenging roles in helping to curb the spread of misinformation /public distrust in institutions and Science
C. Educating a Future-Ready Generation with the knowledge, skills, and drive to navigate their careers and their lives.

Much advanced reading material was provided. Some key ideas:
For A: to stress interdisciplinarity.
For B: to teach critical thinking, and to engage all stakeholders.
For C: to teach transferable skills, to train global citizens, and to foster resilience.

The meeting adjourned for cocktails at about 7.20 p.m.

- Senate Meeting, 15 November 2023: Senator Laura Nilson

The meeting was Chaired by Dean Lennox as Acting Chair, standing in for Principal Saini who was unable to attend.

<u>The Acting Chairs remarks included:</u>
Updates on the ongoing situation relating to tuition increases for out of province students.

Information on an energy storage conference held on campus at Redpath Hall, which focused on thinking about how Quebec can work use its mineral resources, together with its research, innovation, and manufacturing strengths, to develop the batteries for a sustainable future. Speakers included Pierre Fitzgibbon, Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy, and Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

The next section of the Senate meeting is Questions and Motions by Members:
Focused on a question that had been submitted about Communications on the Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza and a response provided by Principal Saini.

This was followed by standard business items:
Senate approved the recommendations contained in the Report of the Senate Nominating Committee and the Report of the Academic Policy Committee
There was also Report from the Board of Governors to Senate – two highlights

- the Board of Governors approved amendments to the University Statutes to reflect the change of title of "Principal" to "President" and "Vice-Principal" to "Vice-President." The proposed amendments are subject to disallowance within a 60-day period by the Governor General of Canada, which will conclude on December 11, 2023.
- the Committee on Sustainability and Social Responsibility is expected to present a report to the Board of Governors at its upcoming meeting of December 14, 2023.

Open Discussion:
Planning and Adapting Teaching, Learning, and Assessment as AI Technologies Emerge and Advance. Senators broke down into small discussion groups and reported their thoughts back to the group.

Annual Reports:
Received reports of the Academic Policy Committee, the Committee on Physical Development, the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures, the Committee on Staff Grievances and Disciplinary Procedures.

Confidential session:
Reviewed the Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee.

The meeting ended at 5:03 pm.
Minutes will be available on the Senate website after they are approved by Senate on 6 December 2023.

13) OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other business, Prof. Perepichka **moved**, seconded by Prof. Jeon, that the meeting be adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

The motion carried.