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

1) **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

   Prof. Zuend *moved*, seconded by student member Rafique, that the Agenda be adopted.

   The motion carried.

2) **MINUTES OF 12 MARCH 2024**

   Prof. Perepichka *moved*, seconded by Prof. Blanchette, that the Minutes be approved.

   The motion carried.

3) **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

   Regarding the discussion on the peaceful demonstration at the Faculty of Science Council meeting on 12 March 2024, Dean Lennox noted that the scheduled meeting with the SUS leadership did not occur due to ongoing portfolio changes. He invited any SUS representative to comment. President (SUS) Khamis expressed intent to continue the conversation, arrange a meeting, and thanked Dean Lennox. Dean Lennox confirmed the continuation of discussions, emphasizing free expression and supporting students’ initiatives.

4) **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

   (i) **B.A.&Sc. Program Administration Committee (PAC)**

   The following proposals were approved at the B.A.&Sc. Program Administration Committee (PAC) meeting held on Wednesday, 3 April 2024.

   **Computer Science**

   **B.A.&Sc. Program Changes:**

   - Major Concentration in Computer Science
   - Minor Concentration in Computer Science

   Associate Dean Hundemer explained that the B.A.&Sc. is a joint degree offered in collaboration with the Faculty of Arts. He noted that the degree operates under the oversight of the Program Administration Committee (PAC), mirroring the structure of the Academic Committee. Additionally, the B.A.&Sc. degree is supported by a Director, Professor Andrew Piper, and an administrative framework for the PAC.

   Associate Dean Hundemer emphasized the degree’s significance by highlighting its success in student enrollment, noting that it has been in existence for nearly 25 years.
with approximately 700 students. Decisions made during PAC meetings will subsequently be presented to the Faculty of Science Council for approval.

Associate Dean Hundemer provided an overview of the changes to the B.A. Minor and Major Concentrations in Computer Science, relevant to B.A. & Sc. students. He explained the rationale behind integrating prerequisite math courses into the program. Dean Hundemer said that the changes may not significantly affect B.A. & Sc. students, as they typically complete these prerequisites. The PAC Committee ultimately confirmed the suitability of the revised B.A. versions for B.A.&Sc. students.

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

(ii) Academic Committee

The following proposals were approved at the Academic Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 19 March 2024.

New/Revised Courses and Programs

1. Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences
   - ATOC 396 Undergraduate Research Project
     - Change in restrictions
     - 3 credits

   Associate Dean Hundemer elaborated on the nature of the 396 courses. He highlighted that these courses, traditionally offered by multiple departments, were originally intended for interdisciplinary research. However, historically, they were restricted to students within the Faculty of Science. Recently, there was a discussion in the Academic Committee regarding the rationale behind maintaining this restriction and the possibility of opening these courses to students from other faculties, such as the Faculty of Arts. The Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences was the first to act upon this discussion, deciding to open their 396 course to students from various faculties, including Arts and Engineering. Associate Dean Hundemer explained that other departments interested in similar actions could do so by submitting a course revision form.

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

   - ATOC 555 Field Course 1
     - Changes: description, restrictions, Supplementary Calendar Information
     - 3 credits

   Associate Dean Hundemer highlighted ATOC 555, a field study course in Barbados in May, noting its clarified description. Adjustments to restrictions allowed students with diverse backgrounds, not limited to Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences programs. He also mentioned minor expansions in the supplementary calendar information.

   Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Prof. Zuend, that the changes be approved.
2. Physiology

New Course:
PHGY 200  Cutting-Edge Research in Physiology
1 credit

Associate Dean Hundemer provided details about a one-credit course, PHGY 200, "Cutting Edge Research and Physiology," which meets for one hour per week. The course addresses the challenge faced by physiology students in grasping research concepts due to large, shared classes in their first year. It aims to clarify research in physiology and potential interests for second and third-year studies. The course will be team-taught by several members of the Department of Physiology, each covering topics within their area of expertise. Associate Dean Hundemer noted that weekly guest speakers will help students identify research areas for potential projects.

President (SUS) Khamis highlighted that students are pleased with the implementation of PHGY 200, viewing it as a valuable addition to their education.

Dean Lennox inquired about whether other departments are considering similar courses, noting the absence of freshman courses in the Departments of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, and Earth and Planetary Sciences. Associate Dean Hundemer endorsed the idea, emphasizing its potential to attract students, particularly in smaller departments.

Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by President (SUS) Khamis, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

Program Changes:
- Honours in Physiology
- Major in Physiology
- Liberal Program – Core Science Component in Physiology

Associate Dean Hundemer explained that the approval of the new course, PHGY 200, necessitated adjustments in the programs. This included updating the calendar description in the Honours Program and making a slight modification to the complementary courses under CHEM 212. The primary change was the introduction or incorporation of the new course into the Major and Liberal programs in Physiology.

Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by student member Rafique, that the above program changes be approved.

The motion carried.

Secretary’s Note: During the meeting, a member suggested the removal of BIOL 373 from the above programs due to its lack of offering. However, it was subsequently determined post-meeting that BIOL 373 would be retained within the programs, as it has not undergone the official retirement process.

3. Physiology/Mathematics & Statistics

Program Description Changes:
- Major in Physiology and Mathematics

Associate Dean Hundemer said that the only change in the Major Program in Physiology and Mathematics is a new program description.
Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Prof. Blanchette, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

4. Zero Enrollment and Low Enrollment Courses (for information)

Associate Dean Hundemer thanked departments for their participation in the review process of zero enrollment and low enrollment courses, initiated by the Provost's office. He also noted that this assessment will recur in the future, typically every three years.

5. Policy on Assessment of Student Learning (PASL) Science Addenda AC-23-91(Rev3)

Associate Dean Mittermaier initiated the discussion by reminding members of the Policy on Assessment of Student Learning (PASL). He noted that the policy had passed the Senate on 11 May 2022 and the Board of Governors on 19 May 2022 and is scheduled to take effect in September 2024.

PASL, which replaces the former student assessment policy, grants faculties flexibility in its implementation. The document under consideration had been collaboratively developed with the Academic Committee over months, incorporating departmental feedback.

Not delving into every article, Associate Dean Mittermaier highlighted key points. One significant change introduced by PASL is allowing students to request a regrade of any graded item, a provision absent in the previous policy. Guidelines on handling regrades at the departmental level have been provided. Additionally, PASL mandates instructors to furnish detailed grading descriptions, requiring inclusion of a grading rubric with assessments.

Addressing accommodations, Associate Dean Mittermaier noted PASL's lack of specific instructions compared to the former policy. Therefore, guidelines on accommodations in the Faculty of Science have been appended.

PASL also stipulates that in case of conflicting assessments between courses, both instructors must offer accommodations, allowing students to choose. In conclusion, Associate Dean Mittermaier opened the floor for questions and discussions.

During the discussion, Associate Dean Mittermaier emphasized the importance of familiarizing oneself with the document for future reference. President (SUS) Khamis proposed creating infographics or flowcharts to aid B.Sc. and B.A.&Sc. students in understanding the policy.

In response to a member, Associate Dean Mittermaier explained that the PASL is designed to handle individual disputes rather than group protests. Associate Dean Hundemer clarified that faculty members were only voting on interpretations and addenda to PASL, not on the policy itself, which had already been approved by the Senate.

Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Associate Dean Mittermaier, that the Policy on Assessment of Student Learning (PASL) Science Addenda (document AC-23-91(Rev3) be adopted.

The motion carried.

Dean Lennox thanked Associate Deans Hundemer and Mittermaier for their invaluable contributions. This is a significant milestone, long overdue, and it is evident that a
tremendous amount of effort has gone into it. Ensuring accuracy is paramount, and the questions raised underscore the complexity of standardizing the University’s structure. As formalization of this framework progresses, it’s essential to recognize that it may encounter unforeseen scenarios. Therefore, Dean Lennox anticipated that this will evolve into a living document, subject to periodic updates.

Dean Lennox commended the University Committee and the Academic Committee for their collaborative efforts in reaching this stage. Great work.

5) DEAN’S BUSINESS
(a) Announcements

(i) Kudos

(a) Recognition of Faculty of Science Canada Research Chair Recipients:

- **Louigi Addario-Berry (Mathematics & Statistics)**
  - Canada Research Chair in Discrete Probability, NSERC
  - Tier 1 (New)

- **Matthew Harrington (Chemistry)**
  - Canada Research Chair in Green Chemistry, NSERC
  - Tier 2 (Renewal)

- **Katelin Schutz (Physics)**
  - Canada Research Chair in Astrophysics Beyond the Standard Model, NSERC
  - Tier 2 (New)

Canada Research Chairs:
- Tier 1 Chairs, awarded to outstanding researchers acknowledged by their peers as world leaders in their fields, are valued at $200,000 annually for seven years with one opportunity for renewal.
- Tier 2 Chairs, valued at $120,000 annually for five years and renewable only once at a value of $100,000 annually, are for exceptional emerging researchers, acknowledged by their peers as having the potential to lead in their field.

These awards are highly competitive and only a limited number are available through the Faculty. They are obtained via Faculty nominations, entering into a university-wide competition. Subsequently, these nominations proceed to Ottawa for further evaluation. Congratulations to the three outstanding scholars for their remarkable proposals.

Dean Lennox also extended a warm appreciation to Associate Dean (Research) John Stix and his team for their dedicated stewardship in managing these complex applications. Their guidance greatly contributes to the success of the applicants, ensuring the submission of winning proposals.

(b) Eclipse Event (8 April 2024) - Trottier Space Institute (TSI) and Department of Physics

Dean Lennox congratulated the Trottier Space Institute team and the Department of Physics for their recent achievement. The eclipse event hosted by McGill was a resounding success, described as one of its largest. Over 110 graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, staff, and professors from the Department of Physics and the TSI, along with volunteers, contributed to its success. Special recognition is due to the McGill Security team for ensuring the safety and smooth execution of such a significant event. This accomplishment has garnered substantial attention from both local and national press, underscoring the widespread public interest. It is a testament to the exceptional leadership within the TSI and its impact on the broader community.
(ii) AGSEM TA Strike
Dean Lennox briefly reported on the TA strike, noting its impact on the entire university community, including students, professors, and instructors, particularly those involved in laboratory courses. There has been significant confusion regarding the legal responsibilities and permissions. Negotiations between the Union and the University, the employer of Union members, are ongoing. It's prudent to avoid commenting on legal matters and allow the concerned parties to resolve the issue. Given the complexity of labor law, it's essential to rely on legal experts to clarify possible actions. Meanwhile, our priority remains delivering courses to students to the best of our abilities. Faculty members are collaborating with departments and instructors to ensure course delivery and assessment.

(III) Budgetary Matters
Dean Lennox reported on budgetary matters, noting the receipt of a budget proposal on 1 March 2024. The proposal aimed to manage reductions in base funding, which is permanent rather than contingency funds. The Faculty must find $1.2 million within a budget of approximately $78 million. Reorganization is needed to identify these funds without compromising the teaching infrastructure. While this may be the easiest source of funds, it is not the preferred approach unless absolutely necessary. The process of identifying the $1.2 million is ongoing, with a plan to be outlined in the May Faculty of Science Council meeting. Dean Lennox hopes to have a comprehensive plan developed with the assistance of the Science Finance Office and the leadership in Dawson Hall. There were no questions or comments.

6) SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE SOCIETY (SUS) REPORT

President (SUS) Asma Khamis reported that the SUS Executive team for the 2024-2025 year had been elected, commencing their terms on 1 May 2024. They were actively involved in scheduling meetings and preparing exit documents to facilitate a smooth transition. Fee renewal questions were successfully passed by referendum this term, becoming effective in Fall 2024.

On 4 April 2024, President Khamis organized the annual SUS Appreciation Night (SUSANs), welcoming 200 attendees from departmental councils, committees, and staff to celebrate the year's accomplishments.

The SUS and AUS Graduation Ball was held on 5 April 2024, with over 900 participants from the Faculties of Arts and of Science enjoying a night of celebration. Additionally, the 'Birds of a Feather' Kiki ball, in collaboration with Queer McGill and Montreal Godfathers Broadway Mulan, Dream Louboutin, and Silver Old Navy, took place on 13 April 2024 preceded by free workshops on ballroom history and technique the night before.

The Winter 2024 Charity Week was held from 18-22 March 2024, featuring events like a ceramic's sale and trivia night, raising funds for the Animal Rescue Network Montreal. The Environment Committee organized a plant sale, while the Mental Health Committee distributed finals goodie bags and is hosting a journaling workshop on 10 April 2024.

On 3 April 2024, the VP External hosted a small Burnside reopening celebration, providing free refreshments for students. There were plans to host more events in the Burnside space in the semesters to come. Additionally, the SUS co-hosted the Blue's Engineering Pub on 15 March 2024, bringing Science and Engineering students together to celebrate St. Paddy’s Day.

As the end of her term approached, President Khamis thanked all for an incredible year. She expressed that it had been a pleasure to work with colleagues, new and old, to contribute to furthering the interests and development of the Faculty together. She
expressed excitement for everyone to meet her successor as President, Amelia Whitcomb, in the coming academic year.

Dean Lennox thanked President Khamis as well and remarked that it had been great to work with her and her team. He mentioned looking forward to meeting with her and her successor. Reflecting on the year, he noted that every year brings its unique aspects, and this year was no exception. He emphasized the importance of partnering with the SUS, stating that it remained crucial in the Faculty of Science.

7) SCIENCE EQUITY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE
8) PROVOST’S ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS ANTI-BLACK RACISM

There were no reports from Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson as she was unable to attend the current meeting.

9) THE NEW VIC PROJECT UPDATE

Dean Lennox provided an update on the New Vic Project, indicating that it is progressing rapidly. Several lots, encompassing various construction activities, have been put out for tender, including electrical and structural infrastructure. The project involves numerous bids. He noted the removal of limestone cladding from the 1950s Medical and Surgical Wards, with plans to reuse the material for detailed facades. He highlighted that 70% of materials removed during deconstruction are being recovered for reuse, emphasizing the project’s sustainability. Dean Lennox expressed amazement at the high recovery rate and praised the considerable effort invested in the recovery process. The project is set to continue through the summer, with tangible progress expected by next fall, although the exact schedule for major developments is yet to be determined.

10) REPORTS OF ASSOCIATE DEANS AND VICE-DEAN

a) Vice-Dean David Stephens

Vice-Dean Stephens provided a brief update on admissions, stating that the admissions season is well underway. He reported that there are currently around 460 accepted offers, which is significantly ahead of last year's numbers at the same stage, amounting to 150% of last year's figures. He attributed this success to the early offer protocol used by the admissions team this year. Vice-Dean Stephens emphasized the need to ensure that accepted offers are converted into registrations. He mentioned that the SOUSA team has created a Science-specific page: https://www.mcgill.ca/science/undergraduate/accepted/connect allowing applicants to interact with students, professors, and advisors to address any questions or concerns they may have before or after making their decision. Vice-Dean Stephens highlighted the accessibility of this page and anticipated that applicants would be eager to utilize the opportunities it offers.

Vice-Dean Stephens responded to a member's question about the potential size of the incoming class for the following fall semester compared to the previous year. He mentioned that the intake last year was around 1,460 for the B.Sc. degree, excluding the B.A.&Sc. degree. He assured that there is currently no concern about the class size, as it is being effectively managed and controlled by the admissions team and Enrollment Services. Vice-Dean Stephens emphasized the importance of closely monitoring the situation over the next few months, particularly regarding the possibility of further offers being extended compared to the previous year's base of 1,460, which could be viewed as positive.
Dean Lennox added that while admissions data is crucial, predicting the ratio of accepted offers to registrations remains challenging. He emphasized the uncertainty surrounding such forecasts due to unpredictable events and narratives. Dean Lennox assured ongoing monitoring of admissions and committed to providing updates to the Faculty Council and through department Chairs/Director in the coming months.

b) Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer

There was no report for the current meeting.

c) Associate Dean (Student Affairs) Anthony Mittermaier

Associate Dean Mittermaier emphasized the upcoming deadline for submitting final grades, set for 7 May 2024, immediately following the final exam period. He stressed the importance of timely submissions, particularly for graduating students, whose transcripts need human review to ensure program completion. Late submissions could lead to students missing convocation. Associate Dean Mittermaier advised instructors to check Minerva's grade submission to identify graduating students and ensure prompt grading. He underscored the negative consequences of delays and urged all instructors to prioritize meeting the deadline. Timely submissions are crucial for other students, such as those applying for scholarships. Associate Dean Mittermaier asked for assistance in disseminating this message to all instructors.

Associate Dean Hundemer reminded instructors to be present at final examinations and, if unable to attend, to ensure an associate examiner is informed. He stressed the importance of providing contact information to the Exam Office and Director/Chairs to address any unforeseen circumstances during exams. Dean Lennox highlighted the significance of associate examiners, stressing their equal importance to principal examiners. He emphasized that associate examiners must review the exam beforehand and be readily accessible on campus, barring exceptional circumstances.

Associate Dean Mittermaier added that instructors should ensure that SAA (formerly OSD) has their contact phone numbers. He emphasized the need for instructors to personally communicate any exam-related issues or updates to SAA during the exam period.

Chief Advisor Peter Barry informed members about unresolved deferred grades from Fall 2023, with approximately 50 unresolved grades across 20 courses, which instructors will receive this week.

In response to a member who raised concerns about SAA's unresponsiveness during exams and suggested a more proactive approach for instructors to communicate issues to SAA, Associate Dean Mittermaier acknowledged the issue and offered to gather feedback on any problems encountered during the exam period to address with SAA.

Associate Dean Mittermaier recognized the growing demands on SAA alongside their limited resources, acknowledging their commendable efforts despite the challenges. He emphasized the importance of SAA's responsiveness during exams, particularly regarding changes or corrections. Associate Dean Mittermaier underscored the need to prioritize accessibility to students during exams for effective administration.

Dean Lennox thanked Associate Dean Mittermaier for the report.

d) Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson
There was no report for the current meeting.

e) Associate Dean (Research) John Stix

Associate Dean Stix provided updates on ongoing research activities. Currently, there is a James McGill and William Dawson competition underway at McGill, and efforts are being made to ensure its success.

Additionally, there may be an upcoming CRC open call competition this summer, expected to take place in early May 2024.

Furthermore, the CFI IF competition is ongoing, with applications being carefully reviewed. McGill faces tough decisions due to limited funding compared to the number of proposals received. The Faculty will provide input to the university, and decisions are anticipated by the end of May or early June. Researchers may then learn the status of their proposals and funding allocations.

Regarding recent events, Associate Dean Stix reported being invited to speak at the McGill Science Undergraduate Research Journal (MSURJ) launch. MSURJ, which recently launched its latest issue. The event was attended by a large group, generating significant excitement. Furthermore, Associate Dean Stix noted the financial support provided by SUS, the Faculty of Science, and some departments to make MSURJ possible, highlighting its role in promoting undergraduate research.

Dean Lennox thanked Associate Dean Stix for his report on the ongoing research activities.

11) REPORT ON ACTIONS OF SENATE

- Senate Meeting, 20 March 2024: Senator Mathieu Blanchette

The Senate meeting opened with touching memorial tributes to Prof. Radoslav Zuk (School of Architecture) and Monica Popescu (Department of English).

The report of the Steering Committee was followed by a question regarding the rejection by the committee of a proposed question to Senate on the topic of Divest McGill. President Saini explained that financial investments is within the purview of the Board, not the Senate.

The President announced to Senate the nomination of our new Chancelor, Pierre Boivin, who will start in July. Boivin is a successful Quebec businessman, best known for his charitable work and for having been the President of the Montreal Canadiens for 12 years. He thanked Chancelor John McCall-McBain for his outstanding work and explained that McCall-McBain will continue being a McGill ambassador.

The President then addressed the recent protests linked to the conflict between Israel and Palestine. He reiterated that university campuses should be the hubs for passionate discussions, and applauded the relative spirit of collaboration among most protesters. However, he also reminded senators that Universities must protect students’ rights to learn on campus, and that protests must not interfere with this. The President also indicated that the McGill administration is in touch with students, but that their demands cannot be met in the manner they are seeking. He further announced the creation of a new policy on doxing.

On the topic of government relations, the President mentioned the University’s legal challenge against the Government of Quebec’s new policies on tuition fees and university
funding. The University asked the court to suspend the two measures until the court considers the cause. He also commented on the new Quebec budget, which brings little new funds to higher education, but instead is redistributing it. Finally, he expressed the need for McGill to better articulate its value proposition for the province. He is considering the creation of roadshow for three anglophone Quebec universities.

Then switching to better news, President Saini reported that despite the difficult times, McGill 24 amassed a record-breaking $4.86M in donations. He further announced that McGill was named top employer in Montreal, and achieved the Platinum rating for sustainability (13th university in the world to get that rating).

The senators took part in a small group discussions on the topics of the challenges of interactions among social sciences, humanities, and health sciences. Ideas brought forward included supporting curiosity-driven projects with small research grants, the co-curricular recognition for internships, and offer better funding for interdisciplinary internships.

The new policy on safety abroad was presented for information. It defines more clearly the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders. Academics and their departments now have the responsibility of informing students, predeparture training. A revision of the policy on COI was also announced, clarifying a simplifying the reporting process.

Provost Manfredi presented his budget planning, under the theme of uncertainty. The good news the FY24 budget will actually be balanced, contrary to concerns expressed in the Fall. For FY25, things are challenging due to the uncertainty in enrolment, especially for international students. The impact of the upcoming francisation requirements is also unknown. He explained that the Canada Scholarship for entering students will cost $2.5M and that its continuation in future year is uncertain. Overall, he expects CNRQ enrolment to remain similar to this year, but expects a loss of $6.5M on the income generated by international students. This loss will likely become larger in future years.

The Provost then explained how the university plans to meet this financial challenge through compressions of expenditures, which he compared to a year of "stabilization of the patient". The university is looking for $30M in cost savings, with specific compressions targets in different types of expenditures. Savings on salaries will largely come from attrition.

The Provost further commented on a very recently announced change to Quebec's funding formula for Universities, which would decrease the component of funding that is proportional to enrolment, while increasing base funding. This would have a very negative impact on the university.

Associate Provost Labeau presented his report on strategic enrolment management, highlighting the University's priority to increase the number of Quebec applicants. This year, the number of Quebec applications has increased, and the number of enrolled students is stable. R score shows stability in quality. He also reminded Senators about McGill's target of 1000 indigenous students. While we are still far from the target, he notes a 37% increase since 2018.

Senator Nalbantoglu presented the GPS Annual report and highlighted key statistics about student funding, and explained that our students are highly successful at obtaining external scholarships. The University is working toward a harmonized minimum stipend for PhD students, aiming around $19-20K (after tuition fees).

The meeting concluded with a confidential session on upcoming honorary doctorate recipients.
12) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD

There were no members' questions.

13) OTHER BUSINESS

Dean Lennox extended his wishes for all students to have a successful end of term, end of year, and a productive exam period.

There being no other business, Prof. Blanchette moved, seconded by Prof. Perepichka, that the meeting be adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

The motion carried.