

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Tuesday, February 14, 2012
Leacock Council Room – L232**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book.

DOCUMENTS: S-11-14 to S-11-21

Before the start of the meeting, **Professor Jaime Palter from the Department of Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences** gave a three-minute presentation on her research.

Dean Grant said that the quality of the new professors was extremely high, and that it was always fascinating to learn about the different research in the Faculty. He said Prof. Palter had already given her presentation to students at Soup & Science in January 2012. Dean Grant thanked Prof. Palter for her presentation.

Dean Grant called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Prof. Gale **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hurtubise, that the Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

(2) CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

602.1 Director Allard thanked the Chief Academic Adviser from SOUSA, Mr. Peter Barry, the SOUSA advisers, and departmental advisors, for their hard and dedicated work on graduation.

602.2 Director Allard said that the CGPA cut-off for the Dean's Honour List (top 10%) and for the designation of Distinction (the next 15% below the top 10%) would be established at the June Convocation for both February and June graduands.

a) Bachelor of Arts and Science S-11-15

602.3 Director Allard said that there were 9 students currently graduating with the B.A. & Sc. degree, whereas there had been 17 students in February 2011.

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

The motion carried.

b) Bachelor of Science S-11-16

602.4 There were 139 students approved for graduation, versus 132 students in February 2011.

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

The motion carried.

c) **Diploma in Environment** **S-11-17**

602.5 There was one student approved for the Diploma in Environment.

Director Allard **moved**, seconded by Ms. Chau, that the above degree list be recommended to the Senate Steering Committee for the Diploma in Environment.

The motion carried.

d) **Diploma in Meteorology** **S-11-18**

602.6 There were no candidates for the Diploma in Meteorology.

602.7 Director Allard further **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hurtubise, that the Dean be given discretionary power to make such changes in the degree list as would be necessary to prevent injustice.

The motion carried.

(3) **MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2011** **S-11-14**

Prof. Moore **moved**, seconded by Mr. Verma, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

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

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

(5) **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

a) **New Awards:** **S-11-19**

- (i) **Kenneth Eade Fellowships in Science**
- (ii) **David Noble Harpp Fellowships in Chemistry**

605.1 Dean Grant read out the terms of the above two new fellowships. The value for both is variable.

605.2 Dean Grant said that the above fellowships were a small example of the valuable work done by the Faculty of Science's Director of Development, Ms. Jennifer Kambhampati.

b) **Academic Committee** **S-11-20**

The Academic Committee approved the following on Tuesday, December 13, 2011, Tuesday, January 17, 2012 and Tuesday, February 7, 2012:

SECTION A: NEW PROGRAM

- Ad Hoc Joint Honours in Computer Science and Biology **AC-11-31**

605.3 Associate Dean Hendren introduced the above ad hoc Joint Honours Program in Computer Science and Biology. The ad hoc was based on the Joint Major in Computer Science and Biology. The GPA requirement for Honours was the Faculty's requirement, which must be at least 3.00, and at least 3.50 for the designation of First-Class Honours.

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

The motion carried.

Associated Course Changes:

MIMM 314	Intermediate Immunology Changes in title, description, prerequisites 3 credits	AC-11-16
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605.10 Associate Dean Hendren explained that MIMM 314 had been the first dedicated immunology course, and as a result of the proposed MIMM 214, which would be a prerequisite course for MIMM 314, MIMM 314 will now become an intermediate course in immunology.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Dr. Besso, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

MIMM 211	Introductory Microbiology Change in description 3 credits	AC-11-17
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605.11 Associate Dean Hendren said that with the introduction of MIMM 214 (above), MIMM 211 will now focus solely on microbiology.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Dudek, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

(4) Arctic Field Courses (Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences, Earth & Planetary Sciences, Geography)

ATOC 373	Arctic Climate & Climate Chge 3 credits	AC-11-28
EPSC 373	Arctic Geology 3 credits	AC-11-29
GEOG 373	Arctic Geomorphology 3 credits	AC-11-30

605.12 Associate Dean Hendren introduced the above three Arctic field courses and said that each course would run for two weeks, for a total duration of six weeks. The three courses would be a gateway towards the creation of an Arctic Field Study Semester in the future. ATOC 373, EPSC 373, and GEOG 373 will introduce students to the principles of Arctic climate and climate change, geology, and periglacial and permafrost science, respectively. Associate Dean Hendren said that the experience would be an intensive one.

605.13 On behalf of the Faculty, Dean Grant thanked Prof. Wayne Pollard (Geography), Prof. Hans Larsson (Earth & Planetary Sciences, and Redpath Museum), Prof. Bruno Tremblay (Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences), Ms. Martine Dolmière (Faculty of Science Internship & Field Studies Officer), and Prof. Nicholas de Takacsy (Interim Director, T-Pulse [Tomlinson Project in University-Level Science Education]) for their leadership in taking this initiative.

605.17 Associate Dean Hendren said that CHEM 532 had been renumbered [from CHEM 352] to accommodate both undergraduates and graduates. In consultation with the Department of Biochemistry, CHEM 532 will remain in the list of courses for the Major and Honours Programs in Biochemistry, as well as the Core Science Component in Biochemistry.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Dr. Besso, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

SECTION D: MINOR PROGRAM CHANGES

- (1) Microbiology & Immunology**
- Major in Microbiology & Immunology **AC-11-18**
 - Honours in Microbiology & Immunology **AC-11-19**
 - Core Science Component in Microbiology & Immunology **AC-11-20**

605.18 Associate Dean Hendren explained that the new course, MIMM 214 (above), was being added to the list of U1 Required Courses, and CHEM 203/204 was being moved to the list of Complementary Courses. Hence, the total number of credits will not change.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Dudek, that the above changes be approved.

The motion carried.

- (2) Biochemistry/Microbiology & Immunology/Physiology**
- Honours Immunology (Interdepartmental) **AC-11-21**

605.19 Associate Dean Hendren said that the program changes were a result of the new course, MIMM 214,

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Ms. Chau, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

- (3) Computer Science**
- B.A. & Sc.: Major Concentration in Software Engineering **AC-11-25**

605.20 Associate Dean Hendren said that the change to the B.A. & Sc. Major Concentration in Software Engineering was due to a course retirement.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Dudek, that the change be approved.

The motion carried.

- (4) Biology**
- Joint Major in Biology and Mathematics **AC-11-40**

605.21 Associate Dean Hendren said that the enrolment in the Joint Major Program in Biology and Mathematics was healthy, and that the changes proposed were editorial in nature, to help make the program easier to read and understand. Additionally, relevant courses were being added to give students more choices.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hurtubise, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

- (5) ***For Information Only:***
(i) Computer Science - B.A. Program
- Major Concentration in Software Engineering
- (ii) McGill School of Environment - B.A. Programs**
- Ecological Determinants of Health in Society
- Economics and the Earth's Environment
- Environment and Development

SECTION E: MINOR COURSE CHANGES (For Information Only)

- Minor Course Change Report

AC-11-35

Associate Dean Hendren briefly described the changes to the Minor Course Change Report.

SECTION F: OTHER

- Interdisciplinary Programs

AC-11-33 (Draft #2)

605.22 Associate Dean Hendren said that as a member of APC, she had received a Report on Interdisciplinary Programs, which had been prepared by a sub-committee of APC. To provide the Faculty of Science's viewpoint on interdisciplinary programs, the topic was then brought to a Chairs' meeting and to two Academic Committee meetings, and after discussions and feedback, she had put together Document AC-11-33, which describes different types of interdisciplinary programs in the Faculty. The last page of the document lists enrolment in these programs.

605.23 Associate Dean Hendren said that the enrolment in B.Sc./B.A. & Sc. interdisciplinary programs has more than doubled in the last five years. In designing interdisciplinary programs it must be ensured that they have sufficient breadth and depth. One issue is how to review all interdisciplinary programs, given the new unit-based cyclical reviews. Most programs will be reviewed when the administering units do their cyclical review. For Neuroscience and Cognitive Science, other mechanisms will be put in place. Associate Dean Hendren asked for any comments with regard to Document AC-11-33 (Draft #2).

605.24 Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Zuroff, that Document AC-11-33 (Draft #2) be adopted as representing the Faculty of Science's approach to interdisciplinary programs.

The motion was adopted unanimously.

605.25 Dean Grant said that the Faculty was fortunate that Associate Dean Hendren had been proactive in putting together the document.

(6) **DEAN'S BUSINESS**

- Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List (DMURL)

S-11-21

606.1

Director (Advising Services) Allard said that the DMURL recognizes students who have participated in substantial and broad undergraduate research. She read out the names of the four students who have completed the requirements for the DMURL, and said that this will be recorded on the students' transcripts at graduation.

(7) **REPORT ON ACTIONS OF SENATE**

Please note that the entire Minutes of Senate are available on the Web at <http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/senate2011-2012>.

Senate Meeting of September 22, 2011 - Prof. Charles Gale

- Resolution on the death of Professor Charles Tanner, Paul-André Crépeau, and Ivan A. Vlasic
- Adoption of
 - Report of the Senate Steering Committee
 - Minutes of Senate's previous meeting
 - Meeting's agenda
- Chair's remarks
 - McGill's 190th Anniversary celebrations – 18 months
 - MUNACA strike – services had been reduced. Thanks to everyone for their hard work to maintain operations
 - Update on the self-funded MBA program: Now recognized by MELS, provides a valuable international experience
 - Comments on the fact that McGill appeared well in 3 major University rankings, worldwide
- Questions about the Chair's remarks
 - A senator expressed great concerns about the strike and its effects
 - Following a recent memo from the Provost's office, a senator asked about the possibility to teach classes off-campus
 - 2 senators welcomed remarks by the Chair acknowledging the effect of the strike on the community
- Formal question period
 - A senator asked a question regarding the impact on students of reduced access to services such as libraries and labs. Deputy Provost Mendelson assured the senator that consequences to the student community had been carefully considered, and that students were the top priority in all contingency plans. He also added – in response to another senator's question – that there were no provisions for cases where a student refused to cross a picket line and did not hand in work.
 - A senator expressed concern over what he saw as a reduction of the budget allocated to TA support. Provost Masi replied that teaching support was a line item in Faculty budgets and those decisions to cut or not were made locally.
- Annual Report on Research Performance, Partnership and Innovation (VP Goldstein)
 - More Banting Fellowships than anywhere else in the country
 - Indicators: Tri-Council funding. A rather sobering picture: McGill lagging behind comparable institutions (UofT and UBC).
 - McGill not doing as well as it should in Quebec programs.
- Update on the ASAP (Strategic plan) (Provost Masi): broad consultation and working groups
- Annual Report of the Policy on Harassment, Sexual Harassment, and Discrimination (Associate Provost White)

- A senator suggested that a specific office be created: White responded that the policy will be revised next year and that this suggestion would be considered then.
- Approval of the Report of the Academic Policy Committee (430th)
- Annual Report on Research Misconducts
- 2 motions to amend various documents on regulations and procedures:
 - Director of Libraries → Director or Deans of Libraries
 - Annual tenure info meeting “At the beginning of each calendar year → During the Fall term of each calendar year”.

Senate Meeting of December 7, 2011 - Prof. Jacques Hurtubise

The meeting opened with an obituary of Ms Katherine Kollar, who worked as a librarian at McGill from 1966 to 2002 in the government document section.

It then went on to the Principal’s remarks:

The Principal reported her delight at settling on a five-year contract with MUNACA, and encouraged input on the question of reintegration. She also reported on her consultation process on the events of the fall. There followed some remarks on the AUCC statement on academic freedom developed over the past year and approved by the AUCC at its last meeting; to some extent she distanced herself from the report, or at least stated that the AUCC does not decide for McGill. She also gave an update on the McGill Academic Health Network (MAHN), a consortium of McGill and its teaching hospitals; an effort to get our collective medical act together. Her customary list of kudos gave a lot of prominence to Mr. Lorne Trottier’s recent gift to the Faculty.

There followed the usual question period. The first question was about expanding the accessibility of the meetings of senate, indeed broadcasting them, raising the spectre of starting a Senate channel on cable. Certain delights are perhaps best reserved for the cognoscenti. The question was referred to a committee of the whole at the end of the meeting. A second question was raised as to the possibility of renaming James Square in memory of the events of November 10th. The Secretary General responded that this square was intended to be named in honour of the University’s Visitor, the Governor-General, as the Visitor’s Garden. A third question was rather vast, asking how the university currently engages staff and students in processes of governance and decision-making (Senate, committees) and what opportunities they saw for improving them. The Deputy Provost replied at length.

The Annual Report on the Financial State of the University, for the year ending April 30th 2011 was presented by VP. Michael Di Grappa. The figures highlighted included total assets of 3.3 B\$, of which endowment is about 950M\$; total annual revenue of 1.07B\$, of which operating is 630M\$. Deferred maintenance is 835M\$. The operating income per FTE is of the order of 18,000, lower than any of the sample universities from other provinces, except for Manitoba. The transition to GAAP accounting principles means that the University’s accumulated deficit passes from 95M\$ to about 265M\$. This includes about 160M\$ in pension and post-retirement liabilities.

The Provost presented his first report on the Budget. It covered some general principles governing the construction of the budget for the university, then discussed a few of the characteristic features of McGill. The University is moving slowly towards a balanced budget. The increases in tuition will help to some degree, but not as much as one would think.

The Provost commented on the annual report of the Academic Policy Committee, in particular, their review and approval of the new procedures for examining a thesis. There was some discussion on this point.

The VP-RIR gave a preliminary presentation of work on the strategic research plan, with an outline of the process of consultation. Professor White closed with the Annual Report of the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity.

As promised, Senate moved into a committee of the whole, to discuss whether its deliberations should be broadcast to the world on a regular basis. The result was to decide to give it further thought.

Senate Meeting of January 18, 2012 - Prof. Andrew Hynes

The meeting began with remarks from the Principal, welcoming two new Senators, followed by resolutions on the deaths of Professors Hamoui and Redwood. It then moved directly into a meeting of the Committee of the Whole to discuss the Report on Investigation into Events of November 10th, presented to the Principal by Dean Jutras on December 15th, 2011.

The deliberations, chaired by Dean Ellen Aitken and live-streamed, began with a statement from the Principal, who thanked Dean Jutras for the report, announced that the Administration accepts all 6 of its recommendations, and has asked Dean Manfredi to develop a process for the implementation of the first recommendation, which is to establish an open forum to discuss the meaning and scope of the rights of free expression and peaceful assembly on campus. There followed a brief summary by Dean Jutras of the processes whereby the facts of November 10th had been established and of the proposals emanating from the investigation. He emphasized that the Report should be considered a beginning, rather than an end, of the consideration of the November 10th events.

There was a spirited discussion of the Report and the events that occasioned it. Several Senators expressed concerns that the Report, while acknowledging that a factor contributing to the events of November 10th might have been the deteriorating relationships between the Administration and the student body, did not include any recommendations to address this. Much of the discussion concentrated on these deteriorating relationships rather than the report itself, with comments vigorously applauded from the gallery, despite admonitions from the Chair. Other Senators asked whether the University had any intention of formally condemning the actions by the police. The Report itself was generally well received. It was clear from the discussion, however, that there remain some members of Senate for whom the scope of the Report was insufficiently broad.

Senate deliberations then continued, with no further live streaming, and heard from Professor Boudreau, who presented the 24th Annual Report of the Office of the Ombudsperson for Students. This Report was noteworthy for the disproportionate number of graduate-student cases handled by the Office. The Report recommends closer monitoring of graduate-supervision procedures within academic units, as well as supervision workshops for new faculty members. In recognition of the increasing incidence of mental-health issues within the student body, the Report also recommends the introduction of an annual Mental Health Awareness Week. The Report was very well received by the Senate. Professor Boudreau was asked whether he thought the office of Ombudsperson should be a full-time position. He replied that he thought his role was manageable, and that it was better that the person in his role keep a foot in academe. Provost Masi drew Senate's attention to the 434th Report of the Academic Policy Committee to Senate, which had been deposited with Senate in the preceding week, but did not discuss it. He then requested, and received, approval of two nominees to committees on behalf of the Senate Nominating Committee.

Vice-Principal Goldstein and Professor Barker reported to Senate on progress with plans for the development of a Quartier de l'Innovation in Montreal. The plan, which is being developed in conjunction with the École de technologie supérieure (ÉTS) and with the support of three levels of government, is to guide development of the former industrial heartland of Montreal between the Lachine Canal and the present downtown district in such a way that it becomes a centre for innovation while at the same time being a model of urban renewal. The plan is at present only in its early stages, but the intention is that the development will attract companies into the district and that synergies will result, at least in part, in the establishment of apprenticeships and internships for students from McGill and the ÉTS. Although the report was presented to Senate only for information, it attracted a number of comments from senators, expressing concerns that the proposal might encourage the treatment of students as commodities in the hands of large corporations, and that the development might disadvantage lower-income inhabitants of the district. Senate was assured that these concerns would be addressed in future planning of the development.

A proposal to amend the Constitution of the Faculty of Education was presented for approval by Senate. In essence, this amendment is designed to replace the Council of the Faculty, which presently consists of all members of the professoriate, with a smaller subset elected from among them. Questions were raised concerning a proposed significant reduction in student representation on the Council, but Senate was informed that this reduction is commensurate with the reduction in faculty representation. The amendment was passed by Senate.

Senate then moved into closed session to discuss candidates proposed for Honorary Degrees. The meeting ended at 5:15.

- 607.1** Dean Grant mentioned that work on the budget was still ongoing. The budget cuts will most likely be smaller than the previous year, certainly no more than half of what they were the previous year. It seemed that the Faculty would not be given formal budget cuts, but would be told that it could not do particular things. He said that he would make sure that the Faculty had the flexibility to do whatever it had to do. The University was currently running a deficit, and something obviously had to be done about that. This would clearly involve budget reductions in an appropriate manner.

(7) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD

There were no members' questions.

(8) OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.