

FACULTY OF SCIENCE**Meeting of Faculty****11 October 2022****ZOOM****ATTENDANCE:** As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book**DOCUMENTS:** **S-22-6, S-22-7**

Dean Lennox called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. and explained the reason why the meeting has changed to ZOOM with a short notice, firstly the microphone system in room 232 was not working, and secondly, there were a lot of COVID absenteeism.

1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Prof. Roulet **moved**, seconded by Dr. Watt, voted by the participants unanimously, that the Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

2) Candidates for Degrees

a) Bachelor of Arts and Science

S-22-6 To be Reported

b) Bachelor of Science

S-22-7 To be Reported

Associate Dean Mittermaier said there were 15 students graduating with the B.A. & Sc. degree, compare to 10 students last year, and 7 students the year before, this is the highest number of graduating since 2018. The highest was 18 students graduating in 2016. There are 78 students graduating with the B.Sc. degree. Compared to fifty-eight last year, and seventy-five the year before that in the October. It is also the highest number since 2018. The honorifics cut-offs (below) were the same as the ones that were announced in May 2022, CGP cut off is 3.95 and above.

Dean's Honours list for Ba. and Sc. is 3.95; Distinction is 3.90

Dean's Honours list for BSc. Is 3.96; Distinction is 3.91.

Associate Dean Mittermaier Moves to submit BA. And Sc. And BSc. Degree lists be recommended to the Senate Steering Committee for their respective degrees, voted by the participants, motion passes unanimously,

The Motion carried.

Associate Dean Mittermaier Moves the Dean be given discretionary power to make such changes as would be necessary to prevent injustice. Seconded by Prof. Roulet, voted by the participants. Motion passes.

The motion carried

c) Diploma in Environment

S-22-8 To be Reported

d) Diploma in Meteorology

S-22-9 To be Reported

There are no candidates for the diploma in meteorology or diploma in environment.

3) MINUTES OF 24 May 2022

S-21-26 To be Distributed

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

The motion carried.

4) MINUTES of 6 September 2022

S-22-1 To be Distributed

Prof. Blanchette **moved**, seconded by Prof. Watt, that the Minutes be approved. Voted by all participants.

The motion carried.

5) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

6) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

a) Academic Committee

S-22-3 To be Reported

Vice Dean Stephens described the following proposals approved at the Academic Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 20 September 2022.

Section I. New Courses

1. Psychology
PSYC 306 Research Methods in Psychology **AC-22-110**
3 credits

This is a course to prepare students in the programs in psychology for research, it's a basically a research methods course, one of several that run in the faculty.

Vice Dean Stephens **moved**, seconded by Mr. Bhutkar, that the course be adopted. Voted by the participants.

The motion carried.

2. PSYC 560 Machine Learning Tools in Psychology **AC-22-111**
3 credits

This is a course on machine learning or statistical learning methods, consultation reports were obtained from other related departments. Such as school of computer science, mathematics and statistics. There are restrictions in the proposal to prevent students taking this course, and also another similar course in the faculty. So there that the usual kind of cross-listing restrictions that we have in place for such courses. So it's a tailored course for psychology.

Vice Dean Stephens **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ditto, that the course be adopted. Voted by the participants.

The motion carried.

3. PSYC 541 Multilevel Modelling **AC-22-112**

Changes: Prerequisite required.
Prerequisites: PSYC 305 and (PSYC 439 or PSYC 536)
3 credits

There is a change in the ecalendar description, removing the permission of instructor. This course has prerequisites, and the students taking the course should take the prerequisite.

Vice Dean Stephens **moved**, seconded by Prof. Watt, that the course be adopted. Voted by the participants.

The motion carried.

4. Honours in Physics and Chemistry (Program Revision)
Honours in Physics and Computer Science (Program Revision)

Vice Dean Stephens moves these two program revisions simultaneously because they are essentially the same change.

The current requirements for staying in the joint honours program are too stringent. The change is to allow students to improve their grades and stay in the program rather than quit it. Moreover, transferring to the Major's program which has different requirements may be difficult at a later stage.

Vice Dean Stephens **moved**, seconded by Prof. Jeon, that the two program revisions be adopted. Voted by the participants.

The motion carried.

b) Scholarship Committee

Vice Dean Stephens presented on behalf of Axel, some of them are

- In course awards for BSc and BA.Sc:

Named awards: 118 recipients, some nominated by our departments, some by the faculty

Faculty of Science scholarships: 92 (SGPA cut-off: 3.98)

- In-Course Dean's Honour list: Students who are in the top 10% of the program by GPA.

BSc: 359 students, SGPA cut-off: 3.97

BA.Sc: 50 students, SGPA cut-off: 3.91

Vice Dean Stephens congratulations to all winning students!

7) DEAN'S BUSINESS

a) Announcements

Dean Lennox mentioned these very large-scale programs and proposals that being prepared, in partnership with other faculty, or entirely by the Faculty. Dean Lennox acknowledged two groups that have been working very, very hard and very fast in the last three or four weeks, one in the p\Physics department and one in c\Chemistry. They've each been preparing these \$8M - Canada Excellence Research Chair applications.

- Kudos

There was no coming information, will be presented on the next meeting

b) Associate Dean (Student Affairs) Anthony Mittermaier

i. Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List (DMURL)

S-22-4 To be Reported

Associate Dean Mittermaier presented that the Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List recognizes students who have completed at least nine credits of graded research, based courses and at least two different units, and have a minimum GPA of three on these courses.

There is one BSc. Student whose name is Angela Zhao, and no BA. and Sc. Students graduating with this honor in the October cohort.

ii. B.Sc. Global Designation

S-22-5 To be Reported

Associate Dean Mittermaier introduced that the B.Sc. Global designation recognizes students who've earned at least three credits of the second language course, at least three credits of an independent research project course and a third component. It's chosen from sort of a list of different options.

There is one candidate, Erin Parsons, who will graduate with the B.Sc. Global designation in this fall graduation period.

8) SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE SOCIETY (SUS) REPORT

The following report was prepared and presented by Ms, Joy Zhang, President of SUS.

1. The schoolyear is going well with the Science Undergraduate Society so far. We have had two General Council meetings and have had discussions about expanding and unifying us Note-Taking Club (NTCs) with the Student Accessibility and Achievement (SAA) in order to

make class notes more accessible to students with disabilities. NTCs are sets of class notes taken by students taking the class and sold to students in said classes for an affordable price. It is an important source of income for a number of our departmental councils. Further, the SUS Equity Commissioners are going to be hosting equity training for departmental executives later this month.

Our Vice-President Academic is currently working on planning Graduate and Professional Schools Fair alongside AUS and will be offered both in-person and virtually. We will host representatives from a number of graduate programs from around the world in November 17-18. The committees in the Academic Portfolio such as the Academic Events Committee as well as the Academia Week have started meeting and are in the middle of planning their first events and initiatives.

Our Vice-President External is working to plan our student bar, After Hours, which will again be held at Gerts Bar bi-weekly this year. We are hoping to have more themed events and special science themed drinks as a social outlet for our students.

Our Vice-President Sustainability is working on her personal project, which is an equity-based research grant not focused only on GPA in conjunction with the Faculty of Science Equity Committee. The Sustainability committees are also running smoothly and have already put out a number of wellness and sustainability events.

Our Vice-President Internal portfolio has started up his Science Games and Science Internal Committees and planning for future events is underway. We have been helping our student associations with room bookings for various events and we have lent out our BBQ for a number of outdoor events last month.

2. Ms. Joy Zhang also presented a new project about Science Syllabus Repository, which is to compile all the syllabi that's offered under the faculty of science and put it in the centralized space. it's going to be a really important resource for incoming current students and choosing courses pertinent to their degree or into like they have a minor in science for anything. have a couple already published on the website. Ms. Joy Zhang has contacted the departments and thanked the ones who has already contributed. She also has a couple of screenshots coming up of what it looks like right now, but there are so many more courses offered under the faculty that they have it covered.

Professor Roulet suggested there are all the syllabi published on the department's website. Dean Bruce has granted the access to the students to download and used.

Vice-dean Stephens asked Prof. Roulet if all of them are updated every year, Prof. Roulet said yes.

Ms. Joy Zhang has noticed that some of the syllabi are not all updated, Prof. Roulet said not much have changed.

Dean Bruce said it's a great initiative from the student, which is fundamental to a student deciding what courses they need to take, and it goes way past it.

Prof. Jeon said everyone updates the syllabi on MyCourses, will there be a way to go and check on MyCourses. Dean Bruce will try and help the student for the future on this project.

9) SCIENCE EQUITY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE

Associate Dean Nilson introduced the SECC to the newcomers. The Science, Equity and Climate Committee or the SECC is the basically the faculty of science EDI Committee. EDI meaning Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, which are growing more and more to be recognized in our work. This committee has a broader focus that includes thinking about the overall climate, in which it will be learned within the faculty. SECC has it's first meeting on September 27th. 2022, and it was called a tangible, deliverable that the committee has from the meeting. It is a slide deck that talks about an overview of the committee and some work that they've done. Associate Dean Nilson distributed this to the Science Department chairs, and it'll also be sent to the members of the committee.

Associate Dean Nilson made another announcement, which is the announcement of McGill's first associate provoked Provost for indigenous initiatives. McGill recently appointed Professor Celeste Pedri Spade, as McGill's first Associate Provost for indigenous initiatives, and as an Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology and the faculty of Arts. Professor Celeste Pedri Spade started her position last month on September the first 2022, before that she was at Queen's University, where she was an Associate Professor of Indigenous Studies in the School of Global Development Studies, and held the title of Queen's National Scholar, in addition, in indigenous studies. Before this appointment, she was an Associate Professor at the School of Northern and Community Studies, and the School of Indigenous Relations at Laurentian University. Associate Dean Nilson welcomed Professor Celeste Pedri Spade in her role as Associate Provost, where she will play a critical role in ensuring indigenous students' success, and also in overseeing McGill's implementation of the fifty-two calls to action.

**10) Associate Dean Laura Nilson
Notice of Motion to Amend the Constitution of the Faculty of Science**

Associate Dean Nilson presented a notice of motion in accordance with Article 4.1 of the Faculty of Science Constitution, notice is hereby given that the following motion will be brought to Faculty at its Meeting of 08 November 2022.

The motion proposes to include the Science, Equity and Climate Committee as a standing committee of the Faculty in the Faculty of Science Constitution. The terms of reference of the committee are included

in the notice of motion. And these are the terms that define the composition and the work of the committee.

RATIONALE

McGill's commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion aligns with its institutional commitment to justice and fairness as well as its public responsibility as outlined in federal and provincial government legislation and policy. These principles are embedded in McGill's strategic planning, and achieving the associated objectives requires communication and participation throughout the McGill community. The Science Equity and Climate Committee (SECC) supports this mission by serving as a hub for communication, capacity building, and initiative development. The SECC also provides a platform for fielding and addressing concerns from Science departments and units. Through these functions, the SECC aims to support excellence within the Faculty of Science by developing programs and policies that foster a climate for working and learning in which all our students, faculty and academic and administrative staff feel included and capable of success as full participants in McGill's academic mission.

MOTION

Be it resolved that the Constitution of the Faculty of Science be amended to include the Science Equity and Climate Committee as a standing committee of the Faculty, with Terms of Reference as indicated below.

2.9. Science Equity and Climate Committee

2.9.1. The Faculty of Science Equity and Climate Committee supports excellence within the Faculty of Science by developing programs and policies that strive to foster a climate for working and learning in which all our students, faculty and academic and administrative staff feel included and capable of success as full participants in McGill's academic mission. The Committee also supports the University's commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion by: helping to communicate relevant University policies and initiatives to the units in the Faculty of Science and, where relevant, advising on their implementation at the unit level; receiving information from Science units about their related activities and concerns; building knowledge and capacity through group discussions; providing unit-level equity committees with a standardized Terms of Reference template; and advising unit-level equity committees on alignment of their activities with University policies, priorities, and strategic plans.

2.9.2. An Associate Dean or delegate shall serve on the Committee as Chair. The remaining membership of the Committee shall include: one tenure-track faculty member from each unit in the Faculty of Science, representing a related unit-level committee where applicable, two graduate students, and two undergraduate students. Membership shall also include representatives of the Office of Science Education, the Office of Science Outreach, the Science Office for Undergraduate Student Advising, and occasional ad hoc members as appropriate.

2.9.3. Committee members shall be asked to serve as liaisons with their units/constituents by reporting at least once per semester at a regular department meeting or equivalent.

2.9.4. The Committee shall meet at least three times each semester during the academic year. Decisions shall be made by consensus in most instances or, where deemed appropriate, by majority decision. In either case, care shall be taken to acknowledge and consider minority or dissenting opinions.

Prof Jeon strongly support this initiative, it's a centralized place where people can go to, it's an essential place and parental resources to a pilot program.

Prof. Roulet strongly support this committee, he had two questions: first Is the committee offering Workshops. Prof. Roulet recalled that in the past, there were some very good workshops that were offered at Federal level, by the James Building on unintentional biases, and those various things in hiring. The problem was the session was too big with too many people in the room, and they were cross too many faculties. The second question was the actual mandate of the committee, is there any um provision in it of

how often the committee should mandate and review when things change quickly. Prof. Roulet suggested the committee would be conducting an annual review, at least to make sure it will be mandate in line with the University's progressive changing of the EDI policies.

Associate Dean Nilson appreciate the great suggestion and answered the second question first. She has kept in mind when writing the terms of reference, and tried to use the language that is more long lasting and neutral and tried to avoid the keywords that are used now in the early 2020. The equity has a whole list of the workshops, one is for the faculty staff, one is for the administrative staff.

Prof. Watt who has been on this committee for a long time said it is a great committee with a lot of cross pollination of ideas. And it's already been copied by the other department. She also thinks it's worth sharing as someone who is in it at the departmental level.

Prof. Perepichka likes this addition of the terms of reference. She thinks it's a great improvement comparing to May.

Dean Lennox explained one of the principles of having a committee as being a standing committee is that there's the expectation of there being actually a monthly report or a periodic report to a body like the Faculty Council or to Senate. If it's a standing Committee of Senate, there is expectation of the standing committee, there are monthly reports required. This can be put as a period- function of standing committee, that there will be a report to the Faculty Council.

Associate Dean Nilson appreciated all the great suggestions, and explained that in terms of flexibility, since it is a big group, the representatives from each department and from other units, and not everyone can come every time, so it's flexible about that. In terms of workload, it doesn't change much of the feasibility.

Dean Lennox suggested to bring it to faculty council for approval as Academic Committee, it puts it into the structure of the faculty, and it means it's one of the pillars of the Faculty. A standing committee is defining something as being a pillar of the organization, decisions would still have to have approval from Faculty Council.

Dean Lennox announced that there are no other comments, the feedback is positive. There will be one more hurdle to get it recognized as a standing committee and the Faculty.

11. Provost's Action Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism

– Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson

Associate Dean Nilson introduced the latest activity in support of the provost action plan against anti-black racism, and it's a pilot project that was recently announced, called the Faculty of Science inclusive Teaching Initiative. This is a pilot project put together by the office for Science, Education, the Science Equity and Climate Committee, Teaching and Learning services and the equity team which lives in the Provost office. It's part of the Faculty of Sciences response to both the anti-black racism action plan, and also the strategic McGill's strategic EDI plan. It aligns with both plans in terms of their student experience. Each of those plans has five pillars, one of which is student experience, this is the pillar that best aligns with this initiative. It also aligns with the goal that's specifically articulated in the ABR plan, support the development of inclusive pedagogies and curricular approaches that fostered the learning and development of a diverse community in a sense of belonging for all students, without interfering with the freedom of individual instructors to determine the content of their courses. Faculty of Science teaching initiative will provide support for full time instructors who are interested in thinking about what it means to have an inclusive and an anti-racist classroom, and how they might think about integrating into their course design, and how they teach their course, the ultimate goal is to promoting success for all their students.

This project grew out of observations and conversations with instructors who've been thinking about their classroom climate, and wondering about what changes they would like to make to achieve these goals, but they're not really sure how to get started or how to do this on their own, or how even to address, put their ideas into action, and they would really benefit from support, and maybe having someone to help them formulate their ideas and put them into practice.

This initiative will do this by bringing together five to six full time instructors in the Faculty of Science, who together will each identify and prioritize potential improvements that they'd like to make to their class. And then, as a cohort, this group will work together to discuss ideas, share ideas, share resources, share background reading, and really do this work together, thinking how to improve next semester or next year. The group will meet on a monthly basis through the winter term of 2023, and they'll be supported by a facilitator and a student fellow from the Office of Science Education plus they'll also have support from teaching and learning services, the library and the Equity Team.

<https://www.mcgill.ca/ose/initiatives/teaching>

<https://www.mcgill.ca/equity/initiatives-education/equity-education>

Associate Dean Nilson had completed her report.

Dean Lennox thanked Associated Dean Nilson for all her work on this. Dean Lennox commented that it

remains a very important and incomplete initiative in the university, with great deal of work to do, but it's on the right path. It is something that needs to build into structure, and not just a reaction to individual situations. So, it's important and difficult to do when trying to embed these concepts into courses and things. It's a real challenge.

12) THE NEW VIC PROJECT UPDATE

Dean Lennox gave a PowerPoint presentation about the NEW VIC Project.

Dean Lennox announced that he will be presenting the New Vic project to the departments in Science. He will also be presenting to departments in other Faculty departments as well, including Arts and Engineer.

13) REPORTS OF ASSOCIATE DEANS

a) Vice Dean Stephens on behalf of Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer

There was no report for the current meeting.

b) Associate Dean (Student Affairs) Anthony Mittermaier

Associate Dean Mittermaier shared some statistics on discipline. Over the past two years, Associate Dean Mittermaier had shared the logistical challenge of dealing fairly with all of the allegations that come forward. For the past year since the end of May 2021, The Faculty of Science dealt with 100 cases, in which 745 students were involved. The numbers are large, but it has been happening for a long time, and most of these numbers are not students who are set out to flout the rules, these are students who didn't really know where the line was drawn in term of what's acceptable and what's not, and accidentally stepped over that line. And the discipline process, is a learning experience for those students. Associate Dean Mittermaier thinks for the last year, being able to handle cases involving 745 students is excellent, it means the students were able to get an opportunity for learning something about academic integrity. Of those 745 students, 110 of them went to interview, which shows the effectiveness of the no contest letter Associate Dean Mittermaier has spoken about at the previous meetings, and it is a way for students to avoid discipline process altogether. If the students know their violation of the code is something relatively minor and a first-time offense, they have the option of just going straight to the sort of standard penalty without involving all the discipline machinery. But 110 is not an insignificant number, so Associate Dean Mittermaier also thanked all the administrative support from SUSAs, it's an enormous amount of work dealing with that many

allegations, there was also a team of 10 discipline officers who conducted these interviews, so 110 is a large number, so Associate Dean Mittermaier was grateful to all the disciplinary officers to volunteer their time, and they did an excellent job.

Associate Dean Mittermaier will continue sending out the message, and reminded if any of the instructors that noticed any students are unclear about academic integrity, or perhaps being tempted to cross the line, they can send email to science.discipline@mcgill.ca where they can get the advice on how to proceed, and identify if there was a case or not.

Prof. Jeon had two questions; first question was about accepting stand out disciplinary action. Associate Dean Mittermaier responded that 99% of the cases that they were looking at were either cases of plagiarism or cases of cheating. In case of plagiarism, they have classified those when students are allowed to consult with the particular source in their assessment, where the students basically copied chunks of the allowed source without properly citing their sources. This is typically something can be seen in an essay where students are supposed to read the literature, but they are not supposed to copy the literature. A lot of times, this is just a student maybe haven't realized the degree at which they can be inspired by other people's writing before they must start citing it as a paraphrase. The standard penalty for plagiarism is zero on the plagiarized section. If someone plagiarized 10% of the report or 10% of an exam, they would receive zero on the part that was plagiarized. The other cases are cheating. This is when a student has used a source that is not allowed. There would be a student who smuggles the cheat sheet into an exam with them so clearly, they're not allowed to have that cheat sheet. Other very common examples are exams or online exams where students are not allowed to use the Internet. But they went ahead and use the Internet anyway. And in those cases, the penalty that they would have used for a cheat sheet in the exam for many years the students get zero on the entire assessment. So those are kind of the standard penalties, and those can be modified slightly, depending on the circumstances of the first defense or not, what are the overall implications of the sanction to the students. But those are the standard penalties.

Prof. Jeon asked if those people would get a mark on their academic record. Associate Dean Mittermaier answered that they do keep a record that the students kind of bypassed the process the first time around, but they don't get that opportunity a second time.

c) Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson

Associate Dean Nilson had reported about the admission for Fall 2023 – It seems like the semester had just started, and it's already in the application cycle for next year. The reason for this update is the delays that students have been experiencing in obtaining their immigration documents. So, these delays have increased significantly over the last years, and particularly over the last year, it's gotten a lot worse. The University through GPS is really concerned that international students will have enough

time to apply for their CAQ and their study permit before between the time they get accepted at McGill and the time they start their programs. So, in order to provide this extra time, they've made some adjustments to the application, and recommend recommendation deadlines. So, for the fall 2023 admission cycle, they've shifted the application deadline for international students to January 15th. 2023, The recommendation for a student to be accepted to their program for international students has been shifted forward to March 15th. 2023. All recommendations need to be submitted on the student admission system by this date. In order to allow enough time for students to apply for the immigration documents, these early acceptances have always been a good practice for getting top candidates before they go somewhere else. But here it's really a practical consideration of giving students enough time to get their documents. So, this announcement went out on what's called the Grad Program Mailing list. So that goes to anyone who's in charge of graduate education. And if anyone wants more details, they can talk to the graduate program director or coordinator who would have gotten this email.

d) Associate Dean (Research) John Stix

Dean Lennox explained that Associate Dean Stix was not in the meeting, he was on study field trip.

There is no report at the current meeting.

14) **REPORTS ON ACTIONS OF SENATE**

Associate Dean Mittermaier had reported on the actions of Senate on 21 September 2022 meeting. Detail reports is referred to below document.

https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/final_senate_minutes_september_21_2022.pdf

15) **MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no members' questions submitted to Dean Lennox for the current meeting.

16) **OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no other business, Prof. Perry **moved**, seconded by Joy Zhang, that the meeting be adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

The motion carried.