

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE**  
**Meeting of Faculty**  
**Tuesday, 12 September, 2017**  
**Leacock Council Room - L232**

**ATTENDANCE:** As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book

**DOCUMENTS:** S-16-41, S-16-42 S-17-1, S-17-2

Dean Lennox called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., and welcomed members to the first Faculty of Science meeting of the year.

Dean Lennox introduced and welcomed Interim Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer who will be replacing Associate Dean Tamara Western while on leave. Associate Dean Hundemer is a member of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, as well as Senior Advisor. Among other committees, Axel has been serving on the Academic Committee for a number of years. Moreover, he is an excellent teacher.

Dean Lennox welcomed and congratulated new Assistant Professors, recently tenured Professors, new Full Professors, and new Professors Emeriti, and read out their names.

<b>New Professors</b>		
<b>Department</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Rank</b>
<b>Atmospheric &amp; Oceanic Sciences</b>	Carolina Dufour	Assistant
<b>Chemistry</b>	Matthew Harrington	Assistant
<b>Geography and Institute for the Study of International Development (ISID)</b>	Yann le Polain de Waroux	Assistant
<b>Mathematics &amp; Statistics</b>	Jean-Philippe Lessard	Associate
<b>Mathematics &amp; Statistics</b>	Jessica Lin	Assistant
<b>Mathematics &amp; Statistics &amp; Physics</b>	Sarah Harrison	Assistant
<b>Psychology</b>	Sarah Racine	Assistant
<b>Psychology</b>	Carl Falk	Assistant
<b>Tenured Professors</b>		
<b>Department</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Rank</b>
<b>Atmospheric &amp; Oceanic Sciences</b>	Yi Huang	Associate
<b>Biology</b>	Alanna Watt	Associate
<b>Chemistry</b>	Jean-Philip Lumb	Associate
<b>Earth and Planetary Sciences</b>	Yajing Liu	Associate
<b>Earth and Planetary Sciences</b>	Christie Rowe	Associate
<b>Physics</b>	David Cooke	Associate
<b>Physics</b>	Sabrina Leslie	Associate

Physics	Tami Pereg-Barnea	Associate
<b>Full Professors</b>		
<b>Department</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Rank</b>
Biology	Laura Nilson	Professor
Chemistry	Ashok Kakkar	Professor
Computer Science	Xue Liu	Professor
Computer Science	Martin Robillard	Professor
Mathematics & Statistics	Adam Oberman	Professor
Psychology	Heungsun Hwang	Professor
Redpath Museum/MSE	Anthony Ricciardi	Professor
<b>Emeritus Professors</b>		
<b>Department</b>	<b>Name</b>	
Biology	Martin Lechowicz	
Chemistry	Eric Salin	
Mathematics & Statistics	Jian-Jun (JJ) Xu	
Psychology	Donald Taylor	
Psychology	Robert Pihl	
Psychology	Daniel Levitin	
		September/12/2017

1) **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**The motion carried.**

2) **SEATING OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

**S-17-1**

Dean Lennox read the list of student members, and welcomed them to the Faculty of Science. He said that since many students had course conflicts with Faculty of Science meetings, a meeting would be set up with the SUS Executives and the Dean, Director of Advising and the Interim Associate Dean (Academic) in order to discuss issues of concern to SUS students.

3) **MINUTES OF 23 MAY, 2017**

**S-16-41**

Interim Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Prof. Roulet, 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) **Nominating Committee**

**S-17-2**

**1. Science Nominating Committee (for information):**

The Nominating Committee consists of the Science Senate Representatives, and almost all are Chairs of the Faculty of Science; the Convenor is Prof. John Gyakum. The Committee approves and recommends memberships of the Faculty of Science committees.

**2. Science Chairs' Council (for information):**

The Science Chairs' Council serves as an advisory committee to the Dean, and consists of the Dean, the Associate Dean (Academic), the Associate Dean (Research), Associate Dean (Graduate Education), the Director of Advising Services, and the heads of all units in the Faculty of Science, including the MSE and the Redpath Museum.

**3. Tenure Committee (for information):**

The Tenure Committee consists of Faculty of Science representatives, and Senate representatives from various faculties.

**4. Committee on Student Standing (for approval):**

The Committee on Student Standing (CSS) reviews student appeals of decisions made by the Director of Advising Services. Seeing as the membership of CSS is incomplete, the membership will be considered at the next meeting.

**5. Academic Committee (for approval):**

The Academic Committee reviews and approves all academic content taught in the Faculty of Science. A representative from the Department of Biochemistry will be announced at the next Faculty meeting.

**6. Scholarships Committee (for approval):**

The Associate Dean of Graduate Education serves as the Chair of the Scholarships Committee. The Committee is also made up of department representatives.

**7. Leo Yaffe & Principal's Prizes Committee (for approval):**

The Leo Yaffe and Principal's Prizes Committee recommends candidates for these awards for excellence in teaching.

**8. Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (for approval):**

Representatives of all faculties sit on the Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

**9. B.A. & Sc. Program Administration Committee (for approval):**

The B.A. & Sc. PAC reviews changes to, and coordinates the administration of the B.A. & Sc. degree programs. Only the Science membership is for approval by the Faculty of Science. Since the PAC membership is not finalized, the membership will be brought to the next Faculty meeting for approval.

Dean Lennox said the first Academic Committee meeting will take place prior to the next Faculty meeting, therefore, the membership of the Committee will be voted on at the current meeting.

Prof. Damha **moved**, seconded by Prof. Lydon, that the membership of the above Committees **#5, #6, #7, #8** be approved.

**The motion carried.**

Dean Lennox asked that the SUS finalize the student membership of the Committee on Student Standing and the Leo Yaffe Award and Principal's Prizes Committee for consideration at the next Faculty meeting.

**(a) Scholarships Committee**

**S-16-42**

On behalf of Associate Dean Nilson, Associate Dean Precup said that the Scholarships Committee Report lists awards given to in-course students based on their grades for the 2016-2017 academic year. The SGPA cut-off for receiving a monetary award was 3.97, and for the Dean's Honour List (top 10%), 3.95.

Dean Lennox said that the high admissions cut-offs reflect the quality of students in the Faculty. He said that scholarships and fellowships are the Faculty's priorities for fundraising. Dean Lennox added that it was very important to recognize excellent students and reward them.

**6) DEAN'S BUSINESS**

**- Announcements**

- (i)** Congratulations to **Professor Caroline Palmer** (Psychology), who was recently elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, one of the top honours bestowed upon researchers in Canada, in recognition of her contributions to the Cognitive Neuroscience of Performance. Prof. Palmer joins an elite group of 27 members of the Royal Society in the Faculty of Science, and 12 members of the new category of the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists. The new Fellows will be formally inducted at the RSC's Annual Meeting on 24 November, 2017, in Winnipeg.
- (ii)** Congratulations to **Professor John Gyakum (Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences)** and colleagues for their success in the CFI 9 competition with the project "Adaptable Earth-Observation System (EOS)," which was awarded \$17.4M.
- (iii)** Congratulations to **Professor Subhasis Ghoshal** (Civil Engineering), **Professor Dima Perepichka** (Chemistry), and **Professor Nikolas Provatas** (Physics) for their success in with the SNAP-Sustainable Nanomaterials Accelerator Project, which received a total of \$11.3M, for the Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Science.
- (iv)** Congratulations to **Professor Matt Dobbs, Professor Victoria Kaspi** (Physics) and colleagues at McGill, UBC and UT, for their successful completion of the CFI 7 project, Canadian Hydrogen Intensity Mapping Experiment (CHIME), a new \$16M facility located at the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory near Penticton, B.C. Among other things, it is uniquely equipped to detect fast radio bursts in the radio spectrum that spans 400 to 800 MHz, or just below the bandwidth used by cell phones.
- (v) The Royal Victoria Hospital:** Throughout the semester, the Faculty will be involved with planners and architects to transform the Academic Program into a building complex. The design will be presented to the Québec government. The core themes will be Sustainability Systems and Public Policy, in addition to Innovation and Engagement.
- (vi) Physical Infrastructure Changes:**
  - **Stewart Biology Building:** The first phase of the Stewart Building redevelopment project is underway. Demolition of the Stewart's West Wing was scheduled to start on 15 September, 2017. For the next two and half years, the Psychology Department will be relocated to 2001 McGill College. Dean Lennox thanked Chairs, building directors, staff, and Ms. Carol Smith for their hard work and leadership. He said that it was important to recognize their efforts, especially when faced with a challenging situation.

- **Burnside Hall Building & Rutherford Physics Building:** Extensive renovations are underway in these two buildings.
- **Pulp and Paper Building for Green Chemistry:** The renovations have been completed. Dean Lennox thanked **Mr. Jean-Marc Gauthier** (Chemistry) and **Professor Masad Damha** (Chair of the Department of Chemistry) for their diligent work and leadership. The cost of the building renovation was \$17M.

**(vii) Faculty Appointments:**

- **Professor Virginie Millien (Biology/Redpath Museum)** will be the new Director of the Gault Nature Reserve. Prof. Millien succeeds Professor Gregor Fussmann (current Chair, Department of Biology), who was the Director for the last several years.
  - **Professor Jon Unruh** (Geography) will take over as Director of the Africa Field Studies Program, succeeding Professor Tim Johns (Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences), who served as Director for the last three years. Dean Lennox thanked Prof. Fussmann and Prof. Johns for their excellent leadership over the years.
- Promotion & New Staff in the Dean of Science's Office, Dawson Hall:**
- **Ms. Tina Kafantaris** has been promoted to the position of Senior HR Advisor for the Faculty of Science. Also, **Ms. Rachel Schafts**, is a new HR Advisor, in the Faculty of Science. Rachel has worked in the private sector and worked as a HR Advisor in the Faculty of Medicine.
  - **Ms. Marilena Cafaro** has been appointed as the new Associate Director, Infrastructure in the Faculty of Science. Ms. Cafaro will be overseeing the activities, infrastructure projects, renovations and new construction of the 14 Science buildings. Ms. Cafaro has worked in the Faculty of Medicine as the Project Manager and Building Director.

Dean Lennox said that he would be bringing to the next Faculty meeting, scheduled for 24 October, 2017, planning proposals involving teaching and research initiatives.

## 7) REPORTS OF ASSOCIATE DEANS

### a) Director (Advising Services) Nicole Allard

(i) Director Allard reminded faculty members and students that there may be new or returning students affected by the recent hurricanes. During this difficult period, students should be referred to their advisor or to the Dean of Students Office.

(ii) Director Allard announced two new staff appointments in the SOUSA:

- **Mr. Curtis Sharman**, Academic Advisor (filling a position that has been vacant for the last two years), who previously worked at McGill's Enrolment Services.
- **Ms. Tania Raggio**, will be the new Student Advisor for students in the B.A. & Sc. degree. Ms. Raggio comes from the Undergraduate Recruitment and Communications Office, Enrolment Services at McGill.

### b) Interim Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer

Associate Dean Hundemer gave a preliminary report on enrolment statistics (as of 10 September, 2017). He said that after the Add/Drop period, he would present the final numbers at the October Faculty of Science meeting scheduled for 24 October, 2017. There has been an increase in total enrolment (4,436 students compared to 4,312 last year at this time) for the Faculty of Science, and he noted that this is also the case with some other faculties, such as Arts and Engineering. However, there has been a significant decrease in enrolment in the B.A. & Sc. degree, and this would be looked into.

Dean Lennox said that the final enrolment figures will be presented at the next Faculty of Science meeting, when more details will be made available. In the meantime, the numbers for both the B.Sc. and B.A. & Sc. degrees will be closely tracked in the next couple of weeks. Dean Lennox said that, in the interest of monitoring classroom and

laboratory space for first-year students, it was extremely important to keep a close watch on enrolment figures.

Associate Dean Hundemer announced that a new website (<http://www.mcgill.ca/bio-physical-sci>) was recently launched for the creation of the umbrella structure for the Bio-Physical Sciences programs, approved on 10 January, 2017 at the Faculty of Science meeting. The umbrella structure was largely created by Associate Dean (Academic) Tamara Western (currently on leave). There were:

**Five revised programs:**

- Biology – Quantitative Biology (Major & Honours)
- Biology & Mathematics (Major)
- Computer Science & Biology (Major & Honours)
- Physiology & Mathematics (Major)
- Physiology & Physics (Major)

**Two new programs:**

- Chemistry – Biophysical Chemistry (Major & Honours)
- Physics – Biological Physics (Major & Honours)

**Two new courses:**

- BIOL 219 (Physical Biology of the Cell (4 credits)
- PHYS 329 (Statistical Physics with Biophysical Application (3 credits)

Associate Dean Hundemer announced that an information session is scheduled for 18 September, 2017 from 4-6 p.m. in Leacock 232. Advisors of the above programs would be present to answer students' questions. He asked members teaching similar-type courses to advertise the website and the information session event. Following the information session, pizza and soft drinks, will be offered. Dean Lennox said that an information session would be held at the start of the Winter 2018 semester.

c) Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson

On behalf of Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson, Associate Dean Precup said that the Graduate Mobility Awards (GMAs) will be offered again for 2017-2018. The GMAs are funded by an allocation from the University to support graduate student mobility for research-related (i.e., not conference) travel. The budget allocation for the Faculty of Science has increased for the 2017-2018 academic year. All information about application instructions and deadlines has been communicated to the Graduate Program Directors and Graduate Program Coordinators.

d) Associate Dean (Research) Doina Precup

Associate Dean reminded members that the deadline for the Discovery Grants Program is 1 November, 2017. Most members in the Faculty of Science apply for this program. There are some changes to the Research Tools and Instruments Program (RTI). In past years, McGill had a limited number of RTI grants, and this was a contentious issue at NSERC because of the different selection processes in some universities. As of 2017, there will no longer be a university limit on the number of grants submitted. Faculty members can apply as a main applicant or as part of a team for *one grant application only*. There will be no mandatory pre-selection at the Faculty level. However, Associate Dean Precup said she would like departments to contact her to discuss their RTI proposals, in order to avoid duplicate requests. RTI proposals must reach NSERC on 25 October, 2017. OSR's deadlines for RTI Program and the Discovery Grants Program are posted on the website:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/research/researchers/funding/federal/nserc#RTI>

Associate Dean Precup announced a new Québec interdisciplinary program, AUDACE Program of Fonds de recherche du Québec. AUDACE involves two principal investigators from different areas of research. The deadline is 22 November, 2017.

Associate Dean Precup said that last year's funding for the Healthy Brain for Healthy Life Initiative was \$84M from a federal grant. There are several funding components for this program. Funding for graduate fellowships have already been awarded, and funding for research proposals will begin soon. The next call for proposals will be in early October, 2017. She encouraged members to contact her for more information or to check out the website: <http://www.mcgill.ca/hbhl/>.

The McGill Sustainability Systems Initiative (MSSI) is moving along. Dr. Heather McShane has been organizing events. A new website will be launched on 26 September, 2017. For more information please see <http://www.mcgill.ca/mssi/>.

8) **MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no members' questions.

9) **OTHER BUSINESS**

Dean Lennox invited members to the Beginning-of-Term Reception, to meet with their colleagues.

There being no further business, Prof. Lydon **moved**, seconded by Prof. Damha, that the meeting be adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

**The motion carried.**