

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
Meeting of Faculty  
14 January 2020  
Leacock Building, Room L232**

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

**DOCUMENTS:** **S-19-15**

Dean Lennox called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. and welcomed members to the fifth Faculty of Science meeting of the 2019-2020 academic year.

**Professor Laura Pollock** from the Department of Biology and **Professor Brent Pym** from the Department of Mathematics & Statistics each gave a presentation on their research.

Dean Lennox thanked Prof. Pollock and Prof. Pym for their informative presentations on their areas of research. In future meetings, there will be several talks by new professors about their research areas, as well as by professors who have given talks at a Soup and Science event.

**1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**The motion carried.**

**2) MINUTES OF 3 DECEMBER 2019**

**S-19-15**

Prof. McKenzie **moved**, seconded by Prof. Roulet, that the Minutes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

**4) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

There were no reports of committees.

**5) DEAN'S BUSINESS**

a) Announcements

**I. New Staff Member**

Dean Lennox welcomed a new member of the Faculty, **Preeti Purba-Singh, Grants and Award Administrator**. Preeti will be responsible for all aspects of grant administration. She will be working with the Faculty's research team, Associate Dean (Research) John Stix and Eduardo Ganem Cuenca, Research and Grants Facilitator. Preeti brings a wealth of experience, having worked with the MS Society of Canada as a Research Operations Coordinator, the Hospital for Sick Children as a Grants Officer, and recently with the Ontario Workplace Safety and Insurance Board as a Grants Associate.

**II. Kudos**

**Professor Xue Liu** from the School of Computer Science became an IEEE Fellow for “contributions to power and performance management of data centres and networked servers.” The IEEE Fellow is one of the highest honours of the IEEE, and is bestowed upon a very small number of Senior Members who have contributed importantly to the advancement or application of engineering, science and technology, bringing significant value to our society.

**Professor Victoria Kaspi** from the Department of Physics was named among Nature's Ten “people who mattered” in science in 2019 for her leading role in developing the CHIME (Canadian Hydrogen Intensity Mapping Experiment) radio telescope's Fast Radio Burst or FRB detection capabilities.

**Professor Wayne Pollard** from the Department of Geography was awarded the Weston Family Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Northern Research. The prize recognizes his nearly four decades of research in Canada's North and, in particular, his investigations into the permafrost that underpins the landscape in this remote region.

### **III. Appointment of Associate Provost (Teaching and Academic Programs)**

With regard to Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic) Christopher Manfredi's mention of the appointment of Associate Provost (Teaching and Academic Programs) Christopher Buddle at the Faculty meeting of 3 December 2019, Dean Lennox said that Associate Provost Buddle will be a very valuable partner for the Faculty and departments, and that he will be invited to the Faculty meeting on 14 April 2020. Working in partnership with Associate Provost Buddle are Vice-Dean David Stephens, Associate Dean (Education) Laura Nilson, and Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer.

### **IV. Made by McGill**

Made by McGill – the Campaign for our Third Century, the Faculty's Case for Support and the Faculty's Strategic Planning involving five research institutes, as well as teaching and learning laboratories – was presented for the first time to alumni. Dean Lennox said that alumni are very interested in these initiatives. Prof. John Gyakum from the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences will be meeting with alumni and Dean Lennox said that other Faculty members will be asked to join him in the future.

### **V. Bellairs Research Institute**

At the yearly Board meeting held at the Bellairs Research Institute, Dean Lennox said he was pleased to report that recommendations made by the Faculty's Cyclical Review team to make significant changes to Bellairs are being implemented. The Report, written by Prof. Virginie Millien, Chair of the Faculty's Cyclical Review, is now effective. The Institute will be a great research facility and will be offering two field-study semesters.

## **6) SCIENCE EQUITY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE (SECC)**

Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson reported that one of the activities of this Committee has been to launch a “Pre-Tenure Faculty Forum (PTFF),” a series of information sessions designed to support pre-tenure faculty members by providing them with both useful information and a platform for networking and peer-to-peer mentoring.

The next PTFF will be held on January 29, 2020, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Thomson House ballroom. The speaker will be Associate Provost (Equity and Academic Policies) Angela Campbell, and the title of her talk will be “Demystifying Tenure at McGill: 5 Things all Junior Colleagues Need to Know and Remember.”

In response to a member who asked whether the Chairs and Directors have received the email invitations, Associate Dean Nilson replied in the negative, but that it was a great idea to include the Chairs and Directors in future PTFF invitations.

Dean Lennox emphasized the importance of this initiative because of the Faculty's commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion. He added that climate and wellness deserve a lot of attention.

7) **THE NEW VIC PROJECT UPDATE**

For the current meeting, there was no update on the New Vic Project.

8) **SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE SOCIETY (SUS) REPORT**

A report from the SUS will be included in the Minutes.

9) **REPORTS OF DIRECTOR AND ASSOCIATE DEANS**

- a) Director (Advising Services) Nicole Allard
- b) Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer

There were no reports from Director Allard and Associate Dean Hundemer.

- c) Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson

**I. Reminder - Sources of Graduate Student Funding**

**- Initiatives from the Faculty of Science**

A reminder about the suite of new pilot funding initiatives announced by the Faculty of Science in Fall 2019, with the goal of enhancing the training and experience of graduate students in our Faculty.

Science Graduate Student Travel Awards - \$850/Student

This initiative provides \$850/eligible thesis student (MSc 1-2, PhD 1-6) for travel to a conference, workshop, course, etc. The goal is to benefit students in their current research and also provide opportunities for networking and professional development.

Departmental Seminar Series Support- \$5,000/unit

The departmental seminar series plays an important role in the scholarly life of a department. This funding is intended to enhance collegiality by providing funding for two invited/hosted graduate student speakers, as well as funding for refreshments.

Science Graduate Student Activity Fund - \$2,500/unit

The goal of this funding is to benefit graduate students by providing support for a wide range of student-organized initiatives. Students with project ideas shall apply to the Associate Dean (Education) and Faye Hughes to access the funding.

**II. Reminder - Graduate Mobility Awards**

For the last few years, GPS has been providing faculties with funding for "Graduate Mobility Awards," which are intended to fund non-conference, longer-duration research-related travel outside of Quebec. Graduate students are encouraged to apply.

In reply to a member, Dean Lennox said that the funds for these projects are temporary funds for 2019-2020, and that these initiatives will be reviewed in the future.

Responding to a member, Associate Dean Nilson said that the transfer of funds for the above projects will be communicated directly to departments by Julie Thériault, Senior Financial Officer, Faculty of Science.

- d) Associate Dean (Research) John Stix  
There was no report.

10) **REPORT ON ACTIONS OF SENATE**

Please note that the entire Minutes of Senate are available on the web at:  
<https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/senate-2019-2020/senate-meeting-documents-2019-2020>

**Senate Meeting of 4 December 2019 – Senator Jeffrey McKenzie**

- (1) Memorial tributes were presented for Professors Wissam Musallam of Engineering and Prem Ponka of Physiology.
- (2) Principal Fortier gave remarks, including:
  - a. The new Federal Cabinet has many McGill Alumni.
  - b. The Quebec Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs wants to increase international outreach, including more international student recruitment.
  - c. The Board of Governors was going to release a Report from the Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility (CAMSR) on divestment the following day. The report recommended that the University decrease the overall carbon-intensity of the University's investment portfolio. It is weak, but better than nothing. The science is clear, now just action is needed.
- (3) Questions were presented regarding the recruitment of out-of-province students, responded to by Provost Manfredi. Of note, each Quebec university must ensure that Quebec students represent at least 50% of the undergraduate and non-thesis master's students, and this proportion is to increase to 55% by 2026.
- (4) Senate approved revisions to the Policy Related to the Naming of University Assets.
- (5) The annual report on the financial state of the University for 2018-2019 was presented by V.-P. Beauchamp. Overall, the story was very positive. Endowment is currently at \$1.66 billion, generating \$67 million for students and research and \$33 million recapitalized. Further, accumulated deficit is decreasing (faster than expected).
- (6) Provost Manfredi presented the year's first report to Senate on budget planning for 2020-2021, which focused primarily on the budget planning process.
- (7) Deputy Provost Labeau presented the annual report from the Senate Committee on Libraries for 2018-2019. The discussions primarily focused on the timeline for renovations. The timeline for completion of the Schulich Library is 2.5 to 3.0 years – which has a significant impact for our Faculty of Science undergraduate students.
- (8) Senate adjourned at 4:12pm

A member voiced her concerns about McGill's Board of Governors' response regarding fossil fuel divestment and decarbonization.

11) **MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no members' questions.

12) **OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no further business, Prof. McKenzie **moved**, seconded by Prof. Sieber, that the meeting be adjourned at 4 p.m.

**The motion carried.**