

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
Meeting of Faculty  
Tuesday, 15 November, 2016  
Leacock Council Room - L232**

Before the start of the meeting, **Prof. Simon Caron-Huot** from the Department of Physics, **Prof. Stephanie C. Weber** from the Department of Biology and **Prof. Anthony Ross Otto** from the Department of Psychology each gave a short research presentation.

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

**DOCUMENTS:** S-16-13, S-16-14

Dean Lennox called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., and welcomed both members and the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic) Christopher Manfredi to the meeting.

**1) PROVOST AND VICE-PRINCIPAL (Academic) CHRISTOPHER MANFREDI**

Dean Lennox welcomed Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic) Christopher Manfredi to the Faculty of Science meeting. Provost/V.-P. Manfredi said that he appreciated the opportunity to speak to the Faculty Council and also to hear what Faculty members have to say. He further said his dual title represented his dual role in McGill's budget/allocation of resources and McGill's academic mission and explained that he would give brief remarks on each.

Regarding the budget, Provost/V.-P. Manfredi said that McGill was in good shape and that he was generally optimistic. He said McGill is entering a period of stability and major reinvestment. He explained that, because Quebec is on track to a general surplus, no major cuts from the provincial government are expected. To the contrary, reinvestment in education generally is anticipated though it is not clear where specifically such reinvestments would be made. Another reason Provost/V.-P. Manfredi cited for optimism is that recent events suggest that Canada could become the destination of choice for international students and Faculty.

Provost/V.-P. Manfredi went on to say that there remain important challenges such as a number of deferred maintenance projects. He said McGill is still waiting on an announcement from the Quebec government regarding project funding. Finally, Provost/V.-P. Manfredi said that the five-year budget projects small deficits followed by small surpluses that will help McGill pay down our \$90 million debt.

Concerning academic priorities, Provost/V.-P. Manfredi explained that rather than undertake major strategic planning, his aim is to develop a plan within the Provost's mandate around the Principal's core priorities. These priorities include the RVH site, comprehensive fundraising and the Provost Task Force on Indigenous Studies and Aboriginal Education. Provost/V.-P. Manfredi cited three main objectives for McGill – these are that we be global leaders, setting the example for a 21<sup>st</sup> century university, that we pursue openness with regards to diversity and innovation and that we be connected across disciplines and sectors as well as with the broader community.

Provost/V.-P. Manfredi then took questions from members.

Regarding austerity, Provost/V.-P. Manfredi said it is important to be precise in what we mean by austerity. He explained that he considered austerity to be not spending money that one has and that, by that measure, we have not been in an era of austerity but of constrained revenue due to cuts in provincial funding.

Provost/V.-P. Manfredi then said that he sees this era ending as Quebec is making reinvestments in education, which will give McGill the room it needs to implement actions that match our aspirations.

Regarding retention, Provost/V.-P. Manfredi said that McGill's retention rate of faculty member is 90% but that we cannot become complacent and must continue to recruit. He said that McGill has always had funding envelopes which allow us to respond to retention issues and that, while these can be challenging, we generally succeed in retaining people. He urged departmental chairs to act preemptively whenever they sense a retention risk in order to deal with potential problems before they arise.

Regarding pay equity for Research Associates and Research Assistants, Provost/V.-P. Manfredi said that the university has taken on the costs of retroactive payments. He further said that the university is currently at the bargaining table and that it is important to let the negotiation process play itself out.

Dean Lennox thanked Provost/V.-P. Manfredi for his clear outlining of important issues at McGill.

## 2) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

**The motion carried.**

## 3) MINUTES OF 20 OCTOBER, 2015

**S-16-13**

Prof. Damha **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gyakum, that the Minutes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

## 4) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Dean Lennox said that Professor Donald M. Taylor, an award-winning teacher from the Department of Psychology and 2016 recipient of the McGill University Medal for Exceptional Academic Achievement, had been chosen to sit on the Leo Yaffe & Principal's Prizes Committee.

Prof. Damha **moved**, seconded by Prof. Mucci, that Prof. Taylor's appointment to the committee be approved.

**The motion carried.**

## 5) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- Academic Committee

**S-16-14**

**The Academic Committee approved the following on Tuesday, 25 October 2016:**

### SECTION A: COURSE REVISIONS

#### (1) COMPUTER SCIENCE

COMP 251	Algorithms and Data Structures Corequisites & Supplementary Calendar Information 3 credits	<b>AC-16-2</b>
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Associate Dean Western said that a selection of corequisite Mathematics course has been added to ensure that students have sufficient mathematical maturity. She also said that Supplementary Calendar Information had been added to explain that COMP 251 uses mathematical proof techniques that are taught in the corequisite course(s) and that, if possible, students should take the corequisite course prior to COMP 251.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Kemme, that the change be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**(2) McGILL SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT**

ENVR 491	Independent Project in Environment Supplementary Calendar Information 1 credit	<b>AC-16-4</b>
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Associate Dean Western explained that this course is no longer offered as a field course meaning the Supplementary Calendar Information was out of date and no longer relevant.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Fussmann, that the changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**SECTION C: Programs**

**(1) PHYSICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE**

**- Request for Approval of a Joint Honours Ad Hoc Program** **AC-16-6**

Associate Dean Western said this was a request for an ad hoc joint program for a Joint Honours in Physics and Computer Science that came from four students.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Mucci, that the ad hoc Joint Honours in Physics and Computer Science program be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**SECTION D: OTHER (For Information Only)**

**(1) RETIREMENT OF NON-OFFERED GRADUATE PROGRAMS** **AC-16-1**  
**- *Ph.D. in Chemistry – Chemical Biology***  
**- *M.Sc. in Chemistry (Thesis) – Chemical Biology***  
**- *M.A. in Geography (Thesis) – Social Statistics***

Associate Dean Western explained that the Faculty of Science reviewed the above three programs that are currently not being offered and consulted with the relevant departments who agreed that these programs can be retired. She also said that, having reviewed the Faculty's other current offerings, there are no other programs ready to be retired at this point.

Dean Lennox thanked Associate Dean Western for presenting the report of the Academic Committee.

## **6) DEAN'S BUSINESS**

### **a) Announcements**

Dean Lennox said he had two updates on major projects with which the Faculty of Science is involved.

First, he spoke about the Royal Victoria Hospital project. Dean Lennox said the Faculty of Science is very involved in discussions about creating an academic plan for the RVH site. He said two over-arching themes had been chosen by the task force for the development of the RVH: Sustainability Science and Public Policy. Dean Lennox explained that, since making this choice in June 2016, there had been many meetings and discussions with various planners and consultants (both external to McGill and from the Facilities team) and members from the Faculties of Science, Arts and Engineering as well as others regarding how to create an environment that provides new ways of doing research and teaching.

Dean Lennox said that this academic plan has been well-received by the Principal, the Provost and other members of the decision-making community and would be submitted to Quebec City on December 15<sup>th</sup> after which there would begin a year-long planning process with the architects who will engage the general community regarding the physical design plans. Dean Lennox said that, as such, this project is now at the writing stage and no longer a matter of academic purview. Finally Dean Lennox said that the project is on target despite being somewhat behind schedule and said the next year, in which the actual physical plans will be created, will be crucial.

Dean Lennox's second announcement was in regards to the \$2-Billion Strategic Infrastructure Fund. He said that the Faculty is proceeding with the plans that the provincial government has in principal approved given the 18-months-from-April deadline. He said the Faculty of Science is particularly affected with the redevelopment of the Stewart Biology building. He said that phase 1 of this project involves Stewart Biology West and that, as such, the Departments of Biology & Psychology are very engaged in this process and have reached an incredible level of cooperation. Finally, Dean Lennox acknowledged the uncertainty created by renovations and the need for relocations to quality spaces.

Dean Lennox said that he would likely have more information regarding both of these projects in the December and January meetings of the Faculty Council but that he wanted to update the Council nevertheless.

In response to a question, Dean Lennox said the Department of Psychology is being relocated to Place Mercantile (2001 McGill College) given the floor-to-ceiling renovations happening at Stewart Biology. He said that, because the Stewart-North renovation timeline is still undetermined, it is not possible to predict when the Department of Psychology will be able to return to the Stewart Biology building. As such, he said, the Faculty of Science has insisted that any relocation be of the quality of a permanent move so as to minimize inconvenience long-term.

## **7) REPORTS OF ASSOCIATE DEANS**

### **a) Associate Dean (Research) Doina Precup**

Associate Dean Precup said that now that the RTI and Discovery Grants season had ended, she wished to remind members about NSERC Strategic Grants which would be due in April. She said that these grants are for collaborations with industry or NGOs and environmental organizations. She said they do not technically require matching funds although they do require involvement from these partners.

Associate Dean Precup noted a pilot project underway in which the university has waived indirect costs on these Strategic Grants as well as NSERC Collaborative Research & Development (CRD) Grants for up to

2 years in an effort to encourage researchers to go after these grants. She said the CRD grants do not have a deadline though they do require funding from research-partners. Associate Dean Precup said there are resources available within OSR and within the Faculty to assist members in putting together these grants and encouraged all Faculty members to contact her with any questions or requests.

Associate Dean Precup updated the Faculty Council on the Canada Excellence Research Chair funding program in which the federal government awards \$10 million grants which require matching funds from the university and the provincial government. She said the Faculty of Science has one of these grants through Prof. Robin Rogers who is the Canada Excellence Research Chair in Green Chemistry and Green Chemicals. She said McGill is allowed in this cycle to put forward three proposals and that she has already been in contact with a number of departments who have put forward ideas for this program. She said the Associate Deans (Research) will meet on November 29, 2016 to discuss these ideas and to make sure that there is discussion across McGill faculties regarding these pitches. She said at this stage the pitch is for funding that will strengthen an already-strong research area within McGill.

Finally, Associate Dean Precup encouraged members to attend the upcoming McGill Sustainability Sciences and Technologies Initiative Lightning Talk sessions on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of November. She said the sessions have each been recorded and would be made available on the website at <http://www.mcgill.ca/ssti/lightning-talks>.

## **8) REPORTS ON ACTIONS OF SENATE**

### **Senate Meeting of 19 October 2016 - Senator Nigel Roulet**

Senate began, as it always does, by receiving the report of Senate Steering Committee, adopting the minutes of the previous meeting (September 21, 2016) and approving the agenda.

The open session began with Dean Eidelman's tribute to Professor Emeritus Michael Whitehead followed by general remarks from the Principal. These included her meeting with other heads of Quebec universities and officials of the Quebec government, including the Minister and Deputy Minister of Education. The funding formula for Quebec universities is under review. She pointed out the federal government is conducting reviews of funding and innovation and concluded on the future visit of Mayor Coderre where the RVH project and the preservation of McGill's heritage buildings would be discussed. There were a few questions on her comments.

Questions from Senators were answered in writing and are available on the Senate website though it became clear the Senators Hébert and Quitoriano question was not clearly articulated. Hébert said he would ask the question in a future meeting of Senate.

Senate then heard the reports of various committees beginning with the 475th report of the Academic Policy Committee. There were questions raised on the consultation related to the creation of a School of Population & Global Health – the question suggested it was not simply the Faculty of Medicine was relevant here. This was followed by the report of the Senate Nominating Committee. AP Campbell presented some proposed revisions to the Regulations Relating to the Employment of Tenure Track and Tenured Academic Staff and similar revisions to the Regulations Relating to the Employment of Librarian Staff. These were mainly housekeeping except for an exceptional provision to allow McGill to make appointments with tenure without going to the University Tenure Committee for Recruitment (UTCR). The motivation was the loss of exceptional candidates though there is no evidence this is the case except anecdotal. The proposed revisions were adopted.

Provost Manfredi and AP Campbell then presented for discussion documents related to the Draft Policy Against Sexual Violence that was circulated for comment on September 12, 2016. The Provost stated that McGill will seek Senate's approval for this policy by the end of this academic year. There were questions on implementation, and whether other university's policies had been consulted. The answers were "the Provost" and "yes". There was a question on what the term "sexual violence" meant and AP Campbell said it meant a range of things but the policy was not about investigating and adjudication of cases but to make sure that complainants get the support through social and health services they need. AP Campbell then presented the Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Systemic Discrimination and said more mentoring was needed.

Senate then received the annual reports on advancement, physical development, and the most recent meeting of the Board.

### **Joint Senate-Board Meeting of November 10, 2016 - Senator Alfonso Mucci**

It started with a one-hour presentation, from 3 to 4PM of posters on Sustainability Initiatives at McGill.

The formal meeting started at 4PM with Mr. Stuart (Kip) Cobbett, Chair of the Board of Governors, welcoming the participants to the meeting and inviting Professor Suzanne Fortier, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, to introduce the topic of discussion for the meeting: McGill's Sustainability Plans and Initiatives. She noted how last year's topic of discussion "Designing a smart campus for the 21st century" linked well with this year's topic and reminded the attendees of McGill's Sustainability policy that was adopted in 2010 "McGill University aspires to achieve the highest possible standards of sustainability on its campuses and in its day-to-day activities through its academic practices, in its facilities and operations, and by its outreach to the broader community" as well as the University's Vision 2020 Sustainability Strategy approved in 2014. "The Sustainability Strategy presents one enduring vision for sustainability at McGill, 23 long-term goals, and 14 priority actions for the period 2014-2016. The goals and actions are presented across five categories: Research, Education, Connectivity, Operations, and Governance & Administration." [www.mcgill.ca/sustainability/files/sustainability/v2020\\_ss\\_eng.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/sustainability/files/sustainability/v2020_ss_eng.pdf)

Professor R. Bruce Lennox, Dean of Science, then introduced three speakers who participated to the World Economic Forum and the Ideas Lab workshop in Tianjin, China in June 2016 and who have been invited to the next Forum in Davos in January 2017. The speakers were:

- **Professor Graham MacDonald**, an Assistant Professor of Sustainability Science in the Department of Geography, who made a 5-minute presentation on agricultural trade and globalization.
- **Professor Andrew Gonzalez**, an Associate Professor in Biology, a Canada Research Chair in Biodiversity Science, and Director of the Quebec Centre for Biodiversity Science, who presented his work on urban sustainability, ecosystem services and ecological connectivity.
- **Professor Elena Bennett**, an Associate Professor in Natural Resource Sciences and Steacie Fellow, presented her work on links between economics, human behavior and critical ecological boundaries as well as the initiative called Seeds to a Good Anthropocene.

The presentations were followed by a period of questions moderated by Professor Lennox, Dean of Science.

The participants were then invited to engage in roundtable discussions on a question that was introduced by Mr. Cobbett, the Chair of the Board of Governors.

The question was: **What do you consider to be the top opportunities that can advance McGill in its sustainability objectives in teaching, research and operations?**

Each table was assigned a discussion leader and a student rapporteur and proceeded to put together a list of three ideas in response to the question within assigned timeframes: **immediate, medium-term, or long-term**. After 55 minutes, the rapporteurs presented, to the general group, the three major ideas/recommendations raised at their respective tables.

Among the ideas/recommendations that emerged:

For immediate implementation:

- Food for thoughts lunches
- Searchable website with an inventory of sustainability-related courses and research projects
- Inventory of re-usable laboratory equipment
- Banning bottled water on campus, but install filtered-water dispensers

For mid-term implementation:

- Interfaculty studies in sustainability, create elective but obligatory courses in sustainability
- Sustainable design of the RVH
- Engage our students, alumni and local communities to provide sustainable solutions to McGill problems
- Communicate McGill's great initiatives on both campuses

For long-term implementation:

- Investments in older buildings
- Focus on rural vs urban dynamics in contrast to the Panama/Barbados/Africa programs.
- Better communication between laboratories and departmental offices
- McGill operations becoming carbon-neutral
- Creation of an interdisciplinary research center on sustainability
- Increasing McGill's presence internationally

At 6:20PM, Professor Fortier and Mr. Cobbett had closing remarks before informal discussions proceeded with a cocktail reception.

## 9) **MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no members' questions.

## 10) **OTHER BUSINESS**

Prof. Mucci updated the Faculty Council on the state of negotiations with the Association of McGill University Research Employees (AMURE). He said the implementation of the thirty-percent salary increase to research assistant may happen before the new collective agreement is signed. He said progress is being made but has been slowed by the AMUSE strike because the chief negotiator for AMURE is often called away to other meetings.

Dean Lennox said the AMUSE dispute puts the McGill community in a difficult position because these are, in many cases, not only our colleagues but also our students. He said it is necessary that we all be alert to changes as they arise and must be more agile than usual until this matter is finally settled.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.