

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Tuesday, 18 April, 2016
Leacock Council Room - L232**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book

DOCUMENTS: S-16-29, S-16-30

Before the main Agenda items, Prof. Vincent van Hinsberg, Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences, and Prof. Thomas Brunner, Department of Physics, each gave a short presentation on their area of research. Dean Lennox said Prof. van Hinsberg and Prof. Brunner had already given their presentation to students at Soup & Science. After the presentations, Dean Lennox thanked Prof. van Hinsberg and Prof. Brunner for their impressive talks.

Dean Lennox said that for the upcoming Faculty meetings, he would like to invite all faculty to give short research presentations.

Dean Lennox called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Prof. Damha **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gyakum, that the Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

2) MINUTES OF 14 MARCH, 2017

S-16-29

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

The motion carried.

3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

4) REPORT OF COMMITTEE

- Academic Committee

S-16-30

The Academic Committee approved the following on Tuesday, 21 March, 2017:

I. New Course

Psychology

PSYC 513

Human Decision-Making
3 credits

AC-16-64

804.1

Director Allard introduced the new course, PSYC 513. She said the course will be of interest to students in the following programs: (i) Psychology; (ii) Neuroscience, (iii) Cognitive Science, and (iv) Management. She pointed out that PSYC 513 will be added to the following B.A., B.A. & Sc., and B.Sc. degree programs.

(1) PSYC 513 will be added to List A:

B.A. & Sc. Programs:

- Major Concentration Psychology (36 credits)

B.Sc. Programs:

- Liberal Program - Core Science Component Psychology (45 credits)
- Major Psychology (54 credits)
- Honours Psychology (60 credits)

B.A. Programs:

- Major Concentration Psychology (36 credits)
- Honours Psychology (60 credits)
- Minor Concentration Behavioural Science

(2) PSYC 513 will be added to the List of Complementary Courses, under Psychology:

B.A. & Sc. Programs:

- Interfaculty Program Cognitive Science (54 credits)
- Honours Cognitive Science (60 credits)

Director Allard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Lydon, that the new course be adopted and added to the above degree programs.

The motion carried.

II. Course Revisions

Psychology

Course Consolidation: PSYC 337 and PSYC 338

Course to be retained: **PSYC 337**

Intro Abnormal Psychology 1 **AC-16-61**
3 credits
Changes: schedule type, title, description, restriction

Course to be retired: **PSYC 338**

Intro Abnormal Psychology 2 **AC-16-61**
3 credits

804.2

Director Allard explained that PSYC 337 and PSYC 338 (Intro Abnormal Psychology 1 and 2), were being consolidated into a single three-credit course. PSYC 337 will be retained, and PSYC 338 will be retired. The new title, Intro to Psychopathology, and the revised course description better reflect the content of the course.

Director Allard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Lydon, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

PSYC 483 Sem. in Exp. Psychopathology **AC-16-62**
Change in prerequisite
3 credits

PSYC 491D1/D2 Adv Study: Behaviour. Disorders **AC-16-63**
Change in prerequisite
3 credits

804.3

Director Allard said that due to the retirement of PSYC 338 (above), a prerequisite course for PSYC 483 and PSYC 491D1/D2, was being removed.

Director Allard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Fussmann, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

III. Program Revisions:

Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences/Physics

- Joint Major in Atmospheric Science & Physics

AC-16-65

804.4 Director Allard said that in order to provide students with more flexibility in the above Joint program, some Required courses were moved to the list of Complementary courses. The Complementary courses will offer a wider selection of courses, including a research course and a new double-prefix course. In addition, a hidden prerequisite course was being explicitly included in the list of Required courses. The total number of program credits has increased from 67 credits to 69.

Director Allard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gyakum, that the program changes be approved.

The motion carried.

IV. Other (For Approval)

1) Courses on Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List (DMURL) **AC-16-60**

804.5 Director Allard said on a yearly basis, Mr. Victor Chisholm, Undergraduate Research Officer in the Faculty of Science, revised courses on the DMURL (AC-16-60). She said five courses were added on the DMURL:

- ATOC 473 – Arctic Field Research (6cr)
- EPSC 473 – Arctic Field Research (6cr)
- GEOG 473 – Arctic Field Research (6cr)
- COMP 402 D1/D2 – Honours Project in Computer Science and Biology (6cr)
- ESYS 500 – Earth System Applications (3cr)

Director Allard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Kemme, that the inclusion of the above courses on the DMURL (AC-16-60) be approved.

The motion carried.

The Following Item was Postponed to a Future Faculty Meeting.

2) Faculty of Science Proposed Shared Course Evaluation Questions

AC-16-57 (Rev)

804.6 Director Allard introduced the above item, on behalf of Associate Dean (Academic) Tamara Western. She said that a Sub-committee on Course Evaluation Questions recommended a set of standardized questions to be used by units in the Faculty of Science in order to simplify questions for students and for comparison of faculty for tenure, promotions and teaching awards. The proposed questions would be in addition to the four University-mandated core questions. Units would be able to include additional questions, and, instructors are allowed to add three course-specific questions. For each question, there will be a comment section.

804.7 Following some discussion concerning the term “laboratory” in Question #8, Document AC-16-57(Rev), in that students could interpret the term “laboratory” as project courses, and that “tutorials” should be added to Question #8, it was agreed that this item be postponed to a future Faculty meeting. Dean Lennox asked members to submit their recommendations to Director Allard within one week of the current Faculty meeting.

5) DEAN'S BUSINESS

a) Budget

805.1 Dean Lennox thanked the Director of Administration, Maria Babiak, the Faculty Budget Office, Julie Theriault and Mavis Smith, for their diligent work in preparing and submitting the Faculty budget to the University. He said that he will be meeting with the units in the Faculty in the next several weeks.

b) Announcements

805.2 In preparation for McGill's 200th anniversary, Dean Lennox said he had been invited to speak on sustainability with the McGill UK/Europe Advisory Group and the CEO of the Lloyds of London Foundation, England. The talk will be held on 25 April, 2017, and Mr. Marc Weinstein, Vice-Principal of University Advancement, will also be present.

805.3 Dean Lennox said that funding (\$50,000 to \$70,000; Tomlinson Awards) opportunities are available enabling Science researchers to develop new research ideas.

805.4 Dean Lennox announced that the William Dawson Scholars and the recently promoted Full Professors will be officially announced at the Faculty of Science meeting on 23 May, 2017.

6) REPORTS OF ASSOCIATE DEANS

a) Director (Advising Services) Nicole Allard

806.1 Director Allard reminded members that professors should be available to answer questions from students during the final examination period, 13 April to 28, 2017. Also, some students may be simultaneously writing exams with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD).

806.2 The graduation exercise would soon be underway in preparation for the upcoming spring convocation on 5 June 2017.

b) Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson

806.3 In the absence of Associate Dean Laura Nilson, Dean Lennox reminded members that the deadline is 15 May, 2017 for departments to submit their top Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship applicant's Letter of Intent. The Letter of Intent should be sent to gradstudies.science@mcgill.ca.

c) Associate Dean (Research) Doina Precup

806.4 In the absence of Associate Dean Precup, Dean Lennox announced this year's NSERC competitions, and said the Faculty of Science was very successful.

- 52 of 57 NSERC Discovery grant applications were awarded
- 10 Discovery Accelerator Supplements were awarded
- 8 of 15 RTI grants were awarded (McGill got 15 out of 43)
- For the Strategic Grants, 8 of 13 Letter of Intent in Science were invited to submit full proposals.

- 806.5 Dean Lennox said that the Faculty was very much involved in McGill's Sustainability Sciences and Technologies Initiative (SSTI). The next workshop will take place in May 2017, with funding starting in June 2017 and then October 2017.

7) REPORTS ON ACTIONS OF SENATE

- Senate Meeting of 15 February, 2017 – Senator Peter Grütter:

The meeting began with Principal Fortier welcoming to Senate V.-P. Administration and Finance Yves Beauchamp and V.P. Communications and External Relations Louis Arseneault.

Provost Manfredi then presented a memorial tribute for Professor Emerita Blema Steinberg.

Question period:

Senator Robaire asked a question regarding when the Administration learned that the **tax status** of post-doctoral fellows had changed and when the Administration communicated this information to investigators whose grants would be affected. Dean Nalbantoglu responded that postdoctoral fellows were recognized as employees in 2015, and that it was this recognition which changed their taxation status.

Senator Robaire asked why investigators were not told of this change in a more timely fashion. Provost Manfredi responded that taxation status and **benefits costs are two separate issues**, and that the benefits issue is the subject of ongoing negotiations.

Senate next conducted an Open Discussion on the draft McGill University Strategic Academic Plan 2017-2022. The Provost indicated that the document is intentionally short (currently 4 pages), that it aims to be focused and concise, and that it emphasizes elements which fall under the responsibility of the Office of the Provost and which are achievable within a time frame of five years. It does not replace the University's various other strategic planning documents, of which there are several, but instead helps to connect these other documents. The Provost added that he intends to present on an annual basis a review of what has been accomplished over the past year in relation to the Strategic Academic Plan, as well as an implementation plan for the coming year.

During the course of the discussion, Senator Hastings noted the importance of reducing the administrative burden carried by academic staff, given that it is difficult to be innovative when one is bogged down by these tasks.

The covering memo's reference to a "transition from a risk averse culture to a culture of calculated risk-taking at McGill" also led to some discussions, as the reference to a risk-averse culture is confusing. It is not clear to what things currently being done at McGill this phrase refers to, and that the reference to a culture of calculated risk-taking is open to interpretation.

The final version of the document will be presented to Senate at a later meeting, in the meantime additional feedback by interested individuals on the current draft can be sent to the Provost's Office.

Provost Manfredi and V.-P. Beauchamp presented the McGill University staffing report for 2015-2016. Most notable was a 9% increase in management staff.

- Senate Meeting of 22 March, 2017 – Senator David Stephens:

Prior to the main Agenda items, Senator Geitmann presented a memorial tribute for Professor Paula Ribeiro.

Chair's Remarks: Principal Fortier reported on government relations and gave details of federal (70.1m) and provincial (5.1m) funding received for infrastructure projects. In community relations, she reported on participation in the Alternative Spring Break

activities of Equity and Diversity, and noted that McGill24 had raised 1.39m, up from 0.793m last year.

The Chair then made some comments on academic freedom and responsibility. From the official minutes:

The Chair then took this opportunity to note that while the accomplishments of McGill students, employees and alumni, have a positive impact on the McGill community and the University, unfortunate actions or words may carry a negative impact. She stressed that academic freedom is one of the foundational principles at McGill and it must be defended with vigor. She noted that responsibility is also an important principle and members of the McGill community, especially those with roles in governance and administration within the University, must remind themselves of their responsibility and the impact of their actions and words on the McGill community.

In her Kudos, the Chair congratulated, among others, Professor Aashish Clerk (Physics) on being awarded a Simons Fellowship, and Professor Maksym Radziwill (Mathematics and Statistics) on being awarded a Sloan Fellowship.

Questions: A question on the sale of lecture materials (procedures, proceeds, restrictions, copyright) etc. The response from Provost and VP Research discussed IP issues, but acknowledged shortcomings in the current procedures. A follow-up question on tutoring service Prep 101, and whether it was welcome on campus, was discussed.

Reports: The following Reports/Annual Reports were tabled

- Scholarship and Student Aid: \$110m last year in aid, a 3.1% increase.
- Enrolment and Strategic Enrolment Management: 1.3% increase in Fall 2016 over 2015. Strategic goals include increasing enrolment from CEGEPs, and maintaining international student enrolment at 25-30%. Yield rates are declining. Graduation rate is 84%. A question on the relationship between enrolment and capacity was left unanswered.
- The Provost, Senator Manfredi, presented the second Budget Report for 2017-2018. The predicted deficit (from 2016, 2.7m) has not materialized. Otherwise, some small amendments to earlier reported budget plans/forecasts were presented.
- Academic Committee: The Quantitative Life Sciences (QLS) PhD program was approved.
- Nominating Committee
- Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee (ie McGill Medal Terms of Reference)
- Proposed Revisions to the IP Policy: some discussion ensued, with handling of different types of IP discussed. This still seems to be a work in progress.

At this point the Chair had to leave, and Senator Lennox took over as Chair.

The next report was the annual report from GPS covering 2015-2016, presented by Senator Nalbantoglu. McGill has the highest percentage (11%) of PhD students in the U15 group. There have been increases in enrolments for International PhD and a decline in QC/ Canadian students. There was discussion of funding and support of international students, the treatment of postdoctoral fellows. Stipends at McGill are lower than at other Universities, although tuition is lower.

Finally the report from the Board of Governors was presented.

The meeting then went into closed session to discuss the Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocation Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 5.20 p.m.

8) **MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD**

- 808.1 Prof. Grütter informed members that the McGill Policy on Intellectual Property would be on the Agenda for the coming Senate meeting scheduled for 20 April, 2017.
- 808.2 In reply to Prof. Fussmann, Dean Lennox said that he had no further information on the Faculty NSERC Maintenance and Operations funding.
- 808.3 In response to Prof. Grütter concerning the average salary for graduate students in the Faculty of Science, Dean Lennox said that Associate Dean Laura Nilson had indeed gathered data from departments. He emphasized that it was important that GPDs work together in providing detailed and accurate information.

9) **OTHER BUSINESS**

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

The motion carried.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 23 May, 2017