FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Tuesday, 19 February, 2019
Leacock Council Room - L232

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book

DOCUMENTS: S-18-20 to S-18-27

Dean Lennox called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., and welcomed members to the sixth Faculty of Science meeting of the 2018-2019 academic year.

(1) **Adoption of Agenda**

Prof. Harpp moved, seconded by Prof. Gyakum, that the Agenda be approved.

The motion carried.

(2) **Minutes of 15 January, 2019**

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

The motion carried.

(3) **Business Arising from the Minutes**

Question on Page 2, Item 6(e) Report of Associate Dean (Research) John Stix, at the Faculty meeting on 15 January 2019.

With regard to Prof. Fussmann’s question as to whether the comments submitted by the Chairs/Directors on the McGill SRP were screened before being forwarded to the University, Dean Lennox said that all comments were submitted to the University, with some minor grammar editing. Most of the comments were incorporated into the final version of the SRP.

(4) **Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic) Christopher Manfredi**

Dean Lennox introduced Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic) Christopher Manfredi, who will give an overview about the budget process at McGill.

Provost Manfredi said he would speak about this year’s budget process and how matters stand in terms of the projections for fiscal year 2019. Moreover, he would like members’ feedback and will answer questions about goings-on at McGill.

Provost Manfredi said that currently the University is in the process of forecasting the budget for the 2019 fiscal year end. Last year the Board of Governors approved a budget deficit of $15.4M in order to run the academic programs. McGill is operating under a Quebec “plan de redressement,” which means that McGill had to present a plan to get back to a balanced budget within five years, and the progress towards that plan determines whether McGill receives the conditional grant each year from the government – about $30M. McGill received the conditional $30M grant last year, and McGill met the goals of the “plan de redressement.” The forecast for the 2019 fiscal year end is a deficit of approximately $7.5M, and that is largely due to higher than expected revenues, which is very good news for McGill.
Provost Manfredi said that the change to the funding formula that was put in place in Spring 2018 was advantageous for McGill in terms of the reclassification and re-weighting of disciplines because McGill is a very PhD-heavy university compared to other Quebec universities. The application to the new student-based funding formula generated more money from the government than had been budgeted for the 2019 fiscal year. Also, the enrollment targets were slightly exceeded, particularly in the deregulated programs; i.e., Engineering, Management, and Science. The combination of the application of the new funding formula and slightly higher enrollments, particularly in the deregulated programs, has led to higher than expected revenues. This will mean that McGill will meet the “plan de redressement” goals sooner than expected for fiscal 2019.

Provost Manfredi said that McGill is in the process of planning the budget for fiscal year 2020. The forecasted budget deficit is expected to be lower than in fiscal year 2019. The second part of the policy change is the full deregulation of undergraduate international students, including some international students at the Masters level. This will not affect the Faculty of Science because tuition fees for international undergraduate students have been deregulated for some time. Going forward, tuition fees for foreign students in the Faculty of Arts will be deregulated for the first time, and the increase will be implemented in stages. This will mean that the tuition fees will go directly to McGill, instead of the government, but the Faculty will be giving up government grants. In the Strategic Academic Plan, McGill's objective is to maintain the ratio of international undergraduate students at 30%, and increase the number of students from CEGEPs, particularly from French language CEGEPs.

Despite the “plan de redressement,” McGill will be continuing to make strategic investments, about $11M, in a number of different areas such as:
- salary increases in employee associations
- resolving structural deficits
- artificial intelligence
- Indigenous education programs
- The Rossy Family Foundation, etc.

In response to a member who expressed concern that increased enrollment of undergraduate Science students creates difficulties for both students and professors, and that coordinating evening exams has become unmanageable for very large classes, Provost Manfredi said that, because McGill has been exceeding its enrollment targets, the new enrollment targets have been set lower for next year in order to recalibrate.

In reply to a member who explained that one of the consequences for exams is that in most McGill courses there is only one midterm exam, as opposed to at least two in other parts of North America, and that more classrooms are needed because students would appreciate more testing, Dean Lennox suggested that perhaps holding midterm exams on Friday evenings should be an option, provided that athletics and religious accommodations would be made for some students who would be unable to take an exam on Friday evenings.

Following a question from a member, Provost Manfredi said that the goal of the Strategic Academic Plan is for there to be financial support from all sources equivalent to 30% of McGill’s tuition revenues, so that McGill will not become financially out-of-reach for the majority of students. In terms of the operating budget, McGill ranks first in Canada for the percentage of operating budget that goes towards student support.

Responding to a question from a member, Provost Manfredi replied that there have been two strategic hiring initiatives, one in AI and the other in Indigenous education programs. These are provostial licences that are awarded to faculties, in addition to the regular
faculty hiring licences. In terms of total growth of tenured and tenure-track professors, McGill is not aiming to grow by huge leaps. McGill is continuing to hire tenure-track professors, and is not reducing the numbers.

Three areas of concern expressed by some members of the Faculty for Provost Manfredi:

(1) classroom sizes
(2) Stewart Biology Building – construction should be completed as quickly as possible
(3) academic merit exercise

Dean Lennox thanked Provost Manfredi for his informative overview of the budget process at McGill.

(5) Candidates for Degrees

Director (Advising Services) Nicole Allard

a) Bachelor of Arts and Science S-18-21
b) Bachelor of Science S-18-22

director Allard said that there were 21 candidates for the B.A. & Sc. degree, which was similar to last year's number. For the B.Sc. degree, there were 149 candidates versus 183 in February 2018. Director Allard explained that the high number of graduates last year was very unusual.

Director Allard said that the honorific cut-offs (Dean's Honour List [Top 10%]) and Distinction (Next 15% below the Top 10%) for the B.A. & Sc. and B.Sc. degrees would be determined at the May 2019 graduation.

Director Allard moved, seconded by Prof. Gyakum, that the candidates for the B.A. & Sc. and the B.Sc. be approved for their respective degrees.

The motion carried.

c) Diploma in Environment S-18-23
d) Diploma in Meteorology S-18-24

Director Allard said there were no students graduating with the Diplomas in Environment and Meteorology.

Director Allard thanked departmental and Faculty advisors for their hard work in putting together the degree lists.

Director Allard further moved, seconded by Mr. Barry, that the Dean be given discretionary power to make such changes as would be necessary to prevent injustice.

The motion carried.

(6) Reports of Committees

a) Academic Committee S-18-25

The following proposals were approved at the Academic Committee meeting held on 22 January 2019:
I. NEW COURSES

1. Physics
   PHYS 512  Comp. Phys. with Applications  AC-18-59
   3 credits

   Associate Dean Hundemer introduced a new course, PHYS 512. The course is intended for students who have substantial knowledge in Physics. The aim of PHYS 512 is to use mathematical and computational methods to solve real Physics problems.

   Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Prof. Gyakum, that the course be adopted.

   The motion carried.

2. Biology
   BIOL 219 Double-Prefixed with New Course BIEN 219
   BIOL 219  Intro Phys Mol and Cell Biol  AC-18-60
   Changes: title, description, prerequisites, corequisites, restrictions, supplementary information

   Associate Dean Hundemer explained that BIOL 219 is actually an existing course that will be double-prefixed with a new course, BIEN 219, which will be offered by the Faculty of Engineering. The course content of double-prefix courses must be identical, and in view of this, the above modifications to BIOL 219 were necessary. The courses will be taught by both the Faculties of Engineering and of Science.

   Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Prof. Fussmann, that the changes to BIOL 219 be approved.

   The motion carried.

3. Mathematics & Statistics
   MATH 208  Intro to Statistical Computing  AC-18-63
   3 credits

   Associate Dean Hundemer said that there is currently no introductory statistical computing course. This course will introduce students to some basic tools of data science and statistical programming with R, and will fill a gap in the course offerings in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

   Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Prof. Stephens, that the course be adopted.

   The motion carried.

   MATH 358  Honours Advanced Calculus  AC-18-64
   3 credits

   Associated Course & Programs:
   MATH 248  Honours Vector Calculus  AC-18-65
   Changes: title; description; restrictions
   3 credits
Associate Dean Hundemer explained that there is currently an existing course, MATH 248, which is offered in a number of Honours programs in Mathematics & Statistics, and in joint programs. In recent years, MATH 248 has been taught at a rigorous level which was suitable for Honours in Mathematics or Honours in Applied Mathematics, but not so in the Joint Honours in Mathematics and Physics, given that MATH 248 is required to be taken in the U1 Fall semester. Consequently, this course is being split into two courses: MATH 358 will be the more advanced course and MATH 248 has been revised accordingly, and will be taught as a proper 200-level course.

Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Prof. Stephens, that MATH 358 be adopted, and that the revisions to MATH 248 be approved. The motion carried.

The motion carried.

B.A. & Sc. Program:
- Joint Honours Component in Mathematics

B.Sc. Program:
- Honours in Mathematics
- Honours in Applied Mathematics

On account of the above-mentioned new course, MATH 358, and the proposed revisions to MATH 248, the three above-mentioned programs have been modified. Specifically, MATH 248 or MATH 358 could be taken as a Complementary course in the B.A. & Sc. Joint Honours Component in Mathematics; MATH 358 is required in the B.Sc. Honours Program in Mathematics and the Honours Program in Applied Mathematics; and additionally, COMP 208 and COMP 204 were included in the programming background note. Further program changes will be presented (for information) below, as a result of MATH 358 and MATH 248.

Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Prof. Stephens, that the above program changes be approved. The motion carried.

II. COURSE REVISIONS:

1. **Computer Science**
   - **COMP 558** Fund. of Computer Vision
   - Changes: credit weight, description, prerequisites, restrictions
   - 4 credits

   The increase in credit weight from 3 credits to 4 was necessitated due to the heavy workload in COMP 558. In light of this, the description and prerequisites were updated to reflect the current course content and necessary requirements, as well as the removal of the restrictions since they are no longer deemed necessary.

   Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Prof. Langer, that the changes be approved. The motion carried.

   **COMP 599** Topics in Computer Science 2
   - Change in credit weight

   AC-18-71
4 credits

Associate Dean Hundemer explained that some topics courses in Computer Science are more rigorous than others. For example, COMP 598 is three credits, and, increasing the credit weight of COMP 599 to 4 credits (from 3), the instructor would choose the appropriate workload for the student.

Following a comment from a member that students are allowed to register for the same course number twice in one semester, Associate Dean Hundemer said that the issue would be clarified after the current meeting.

Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Prof. Langer, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

2. **Chemistry**  
   **CHEM 701**  
   Comprehensive Examination  
   Change in title  
   0 Credits  

   CHEM 701 is currently titled Comprehensive Examination 1, and since there is no longer a course with the title “Comprehensive Examination 2”, the number “1” in the title for CHEM 701 is being removed.

   Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Prof. Gyakum, that the change be approved.

   The motion carried.

3. **Psychology**  
   **PSYC 315**  
   Computational Psychology  
   Change in prerequisites  
   3 credits  

   The proposed change in prerequisites for PSYC 315 will now require students to have completed a certain number of credits from various backgrounds; permission of instructor will no longer be needed.

   Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Ms. Verzani, that the changes be approved.

   The motion carried.

   **PSYC 483**  
   Sem. in Exp. Psychopathology  
   Change in prerequisites  
   3 credits  

   Associate Dean Hundemer explained that, with the addition of “permission of instructor” to the prerequisites, students will no longer be required to submit a written application to register for PSYC 483.

   Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Prof. Baldwin, that the changes be approved.

   The motion carried.
III. FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- Mathematics & Statistics
  - Course Retirement for Engineering Students
    MATH 363 Discrete Mathematics
    3 credits

MATH 363, a course in two Engineering programs, is being retired because it has not been offered for many years.

B.A. Program Changes
- Honours in Mathematics
- Honours in Applied Mathematics
- Honours in Mathematics and Computer Science
- Joint Honours Component in Mathematics

The above list of B.A. program changes were necessitated by the introduction of the new MATH 358 course and the revisions to MATH 248, both of which were approved earlier in the current meeting.

New B.A. Programs
- Major Concentration in Statistics
- Supplementary Minor Concentration in Statistics

In the previous year, the Department of Mathematics & Statistics proposed a new B.Sc. Major Program in Statistics (54 or 57 credits). The Department would also like to offer a B.A. Major Concentration in Statistics (36 credits) and a Supplementary Minor Concentration in Statistics (18 credits). Taken together, these programs constitute a program very close to the Major in Statistics in the Faculty of Science.

(7) Dean’s Business

a) Dean’s Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List (DMURL)  S-18-26

Director Allard said that the DMURL provides recognition for students who have completed at least 9 credits of graded research-based courses in at least two different units, and who have a minimum GPA of 3.00 in these courses. She said that eight B.Sc. students and one B.A. & Sc. student would be graduating with this honour.

b) B.Sc. Global Designation  S-18-27

Director Allard said that the B.Sc. Global was a designation being given at graduation. Students must have at least three credits of a second language course, at least three credits of an independent research project course, plus a third component, chosen from various preselected options. For the February 2019 graduation, there is one candidate who would graduate with the B.Sc. Global designation.

c) Announcements

(i) McGill24
As announced to the McGill community, the McGill24 event is an annual one-day global fundraising event taking place on 13 March 2019. At the previous Chairs’ meeting, the Faculty of Science Advancement Office gave a presentation on the McGill24 event. This is a very important event for students, professors, staff and the Faculty. The Science
students have defined specific initiatives which their contribution will be going to. In 2017-2018, McGill raised in excess of $1M in a 24-hour period. Dean Lennox encouraged colleagues to support the Faculty of Science during the McGill24 event. Some alumni donors have pledged $125,000 if the Faculty matches a total number of pledges.

(ii) McCall MacBain Foundation
The McCall MacBain Foundation donated $200M to McGill, the single-largest gift to a Canadian university. The gift is targeted to a graduate scholarship program at McGill, and will be bringing in about 75 new students in specific Masters programs. This is very important for the Faculty of Science because one of the degrees selected will be a new Master of Arts and Science. The Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Science will jointly create a new one-year M.A.Sc. degree. The Foundation will be providing a tremendous amount of support to students, and this is very much in the spirit of the Rhodes program. Mr. MacBain was a Rhodes Scholar and much of the structure around the McCall MacBain Scholarships is Rhodes-like.

(iii) Preliminary Faculty Budget Agreement
13 different budget items were approved. Some examples of the requests were:
(a) an undergraduate course coordinator for a particular department;
(b) permanent funding for the current immigration advisor;
(c) three permanent-based faculty lecturers, plus a pledge for an additional six faculty lecturers in the following two years. This is extremely important because faculty lecturers provide incredible value to the Faculty's programs and students.
(d) the Faculty, along with the Faculties of Dentistry, Engineering, and Medicine, received a base-budget pledge towards the Electron Microscopy Centre.

(iv) Update: Royal Victoria Project
As announced several weeks ago, Mr. Paul Landry will be the Executive Director of the Royal Victoria Project. He comes to McGill with exceptional experience and talents. Previously, Mr. Landry had been the Executive Director of the CHUM. Recently, Mr. Landry completed the design phase for St-Paul's Hospital in Vancouver, BC. McGill is very fortunate to have Mr. Landry join the RVC project, which will most probably be a seven-year project. The Dean of Science will serve as the academic lead and as the liaison between the academic programming and the physical space. The Faculty of Science is the major occupant in terms of the research and teaching mission.

(8) Reports of Director & Associate Deans

a) Director (Advising Services) Nicole Allard
b) Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer
c) Associate Dean (Education) Tamara Western
d) Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson

There were no reports from the above-mentioned Associate Deans for the current meeting.

e) Associate Dean (Research) John Stix

The Tri-council has a new program which involves all three funding councils. A call for proposals for the Transformative projects will be announced soon. These projects are expected to be funded up to a maximum of $24M per project over six years or $4M per year, for a total of approximately 7 to 8 funded projects throughout Canada. These projects are transformative, high-risk, high-reward, interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, outside-the-box types of projects. The program is very exciting even though the chances are small. The Chairs and Directors have the relevant information, and if members are
interested, they are encouraged to submit a proposal (i.e., concept notes) to Associate Dean Stix. Moreover, the International projects Call for Proposals is expected to be launched, possibly in Summer 2019. This latter program involves international projects, which must be high-risk and high-reward.

(9) **Report on Actions of Senate**

- **Senate Meeting of 5 December 2018: Senator David Harpp**
  The Principal debriefed Senate on the Open Discussion of the November meeting. It was noted that the November 2018 discussion on the recommendations of the Principal’s Task Force on Respect and Inclusion in Campus Life was well structured and the conversation was enriching. The Steering Committee agreed that a second open discussion on this topic was not necessary.

  The Principal delivered a number of kudos including her interaction with the Education Minister which was well-received with the likelihood of more funding.

  Senator Beauchamp presented the Annual Report on the Financial State of the University. Combined sources of funding were $1.32 billion (half from Federal + Provincial) and the total combined expenditures was $1.35 billion (mostly for salaries). He also indicated that of the January 2016 bond of $160 million, for deferred maintenance and IT needs, $110 has been spent.

  The Provost delivered the first of three presentations about the next budget with two more to come in the next months. In response to a question about increasing enrolments, he said that enrolment yields were hard to predict. There was a sense in Senate that the undergraduate population has steadily increased with crowding being a major issue every year.

  A number of standard reports were made but the most time was spend on the Ad Hoc Senate Committee on Teaching Staff-Student Intimate Relationships. This group today is directed to this complicated and intricate discussion in the full Senate minutes. Suffice to say that the effect of a complete ban on such relationships is unknown which may be seen as too intrusive in the private lives of individuals. Another draft will be delivered in February for feedback. There was a lengthy and somewhat heated discussion with students lobbying for a full ban.

  The Annual Report of the Committee on Libraries was presented and the highlight was an explanation about the *Fiat Lux* project that will take several years to complete and several million dollars to be spent. The main idea is to convert the existing McLennan Library largely to student space and devise an easy method to retrieve catalogued books to be brought from the Mac Campus daily when requested. Senate was concluded a few minutes before 5PM.

- **Senate Meeting of 16 January 2019: Senator John Gyakum**

  **Section I**
  1. **Welcoming Remarks**
     Principal and Vice-Chancellor Fortier welcomed all to the first Senate meeting of calendar year 2019.

  2. **Memorial tributes**
     A memorial tribute for Professor Emeritus Harry Rosen was read by Senator Elham Emami, Dean of the Dentistry Faculty, which was approved unanimously.

  3. **Report of the Steering Committee** [Consent item]
     This report includes the minutes of the December 5, 2018 meeting, speaking rights to Professor Pascal Brissette (item 1 of section II, Part B) on 489th Report of the Academic Policy Committee, and Professors Shaheen Shariff and Lucyna Lach (item 5 of section II, Part B) on the Report on the Implementation of the Policy against Sexual Violence, the approval of the
current meeting’s agenda, and a deferral of the February 2019 Open Discussion until a later date.
The motion to approve this report was approved.

4. Business arising from the December 5, 2018 meeting
There was none.

5. Chair’s Remarks

Government Relations: Chair Fortier indicated that Prime Minister Trudeau has named David Lametti Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada. Lametti is a McGill alumnus, faculty member and former McGill Senator (2012-2015). The Chair, on behalf of the McGill community, congratulated him on this appointment.

Community relations: The Chair announced that the Working Group on Principles of Commemoration and Renaming, submitted its final report in December 2018.

The Chair announced that the Institute of Islamic Studies is launching a new Arabic Summer Program, the only Arabic immersion program held in a large cosmopolitan city, and unique to eastern North America.

The Chair indicated that the Centraide goal of raising $500K fell a bit short this year, at $402K, subsequently verified to be a slightly more optimistic value of $432K, though McGill continues to be among the leading supporters of Montreal’s Centraide campaign.

Kudos:
- Four of the top 10 scientific discoveries listed by Québec Science magazine in their annual list, were led by McGill scientists, notably: for the makeup of Earth’s ancient biosphere (Peter Crockford and Galen Halverson, Earth and Planetary Sciences)
- For the aftermath of a cosmic smash-up that shook the universe (Daryl Haggard, John Ruan, and Melania Nynka, McGill Space Institute)

The Chair congratulated Professor Tomislav Friščić as the recipient of the prestigious Steacie Prize for Natural Sciences for his exceptional contributions to Green Chemistry research in Canada. He is the third McGill professor to win the Steacie Prize, and the first ever McGill professor to win it for chemistry. The two previous winners from McGill are Vicky Kaspi, Physics and Astronomy (2006) and Phil Gold, Medicine (1973).

The Chair also disclosed the discovery of a second repeating fast radio burst by a team led by Physics professors Tendular and Kaspi, which has received extensive media attention globally. This represents a significant result from CHIME (Canadian Hydrogen Intensity Mapping Experiment).

Section II
Part “A” – Questions and Motions by Members
None.

Part “B” – Motions and Reports from organs of University Government
Open session

1. 489th Report of the Academic Policy Committee (approval)
Six new teaching programs recommended by the Academic Policy Committee were approved.
Additionally, minor revisions were made to the Regulation on the Conduct of Research, primarily with updates to terminology and definitions. The proposal to recommend these revisions to the Board of Governors was approved.

Senator Manfredi presented a proposal for the creation of the Institute of Health Sciences Education. Discussion on funding (initially a reallocation within the Faculty of Medicine) and number of appointments (Professor Harpp’s question) as initially two, with the potential for three later, ensued. Senator Eidelman indicated that this Institute would be primarily convening individuals who hold appointments in other departments. The motion to recommend the establishment of this Institute to the Board of Governors was approved.

Senator Manfredi presented a proposal to rename the Département de langues et littératures françaises to the Département des littératures de langue française, de traduction et de création. The departmental Chair, Professor Pascal Brissette, granted speaking rights, explained the nuances of the proposed name change.

The motion to recommend this departmental name change to the Board of Governors was approved.

2. Proposed Revisions to the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (Approval)

Senator Buddle presented these proposed revisions, pointing to the more significant items, such as updates to the appeals process, and the addition, as an academic offence, of unauthorized sharing or the distribution of copyrighted materials. There is a new provision that students may be collectively or individually disciplined, as a result of offences in group work, according to the circumstances.

The motion to approve the proposed revisions to the Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures was approved.

3. Strategic Research Plan 2019 (Endorsement)

Senator Crago presented this SRP for endorsement, after minor revisions were made since the presentation at the November 2018 Senate meeting.

Seven Research Excellence Themes are identified:

- Develop knowledge of the foundations, applications, and impacts of technology in the Digital Age
- Understand the potential of the human brain and nervous system
- Design and create sustainable materials, technologies, landscapes, and communities
- Advance biomedical and health sciences for healthy populations
- Strengthen public policy and organizations, and create a deeper understanding of society and social transformation
- Explore Earth’s biological and physical systems and the universe
- Examine fundamental questions about humanity, identity, and expression

Senator Crago noted that sustainability is inherent in all seven of these themes, and is explicitly represented in Theme 3.

The motion to endorse the VP-RI’s SRP (2019-2024) was approved.

4. Appointment of Assessor under the Policy on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law (Approval)
Senator Campbell presented the item for approval, based upon the need for a balance among the number of academic staff, and administrative support assessors.

The motion to approve the appointment of Myriam Larose, an immigration advisor to the Faculties of Science and Arts, as an Assessor for a three-year term from February 1, 2019 until January 31, 2022, was approved.


5.1 Report of the Ad Hoc Panel to Conduct a Campus Study of Sexual Violence (Information)

Professor Shariff presented this report by pointing to three key areas of concern:
   a. Clarify policies, procedures, and services
   b. Rebuild trust in the system to resolve claims; need to protect survivors
   c. Reduce the "rape culture" through sustainable training and education

Professor Shariff presented three over-arching recommendations:
   a. Establishment of a Standing Implementation Committee
   b. Centralization of sexual violence complaints
   c. Development of mandatory sustainable educational and communications initiatives

5.2 Report of the Committee for the Implementation of the Policy against Sexual Violence (Information)

Professor Lach presented this report by highlighting the primary recommendations:
   a. Transforming the Implementation Committee into a Standing Committee
   b. Integrating mandatory training on sexual violence for faculty and students

Responding to a question concerning the availability of the survey questionnaire and the Ad Hoc Committee’s focus group protocol, Professor Shariff indicated that this information will be made available. Discussion ensued as to the validity of the survey, considering the low response rate. The points were made that a low response rate is to be expected given the fear that individuals may have to come forward, even anonymously, given the sensitive nature of the issue. Furthermore, the point was made that having a low response rate is not a reason, or excuse, not to take action.

The question arose as to why there are two committees. Professor Lach indicated that the Ad Hoc Panel was mandated in collaboration with the IMPACTS project funded by SSHRC, and Senator Campbell pointed out that the Implementation Committee was established to meet the objectives of the Policy against Sexual Violence. Professor Lach indicated that the two committees have been working in parallel to meet imposed deadlines.


Senator Manfredi presented this report, in accord with the Policy against Sexual Violence, covering the period from December 2016 through November 2018. This policy was adapted prior to Bill 151, and is not entirely in compliance, considering that it was not possible to anticipate all of the mandates contained in this bill. It is expected that an updated Policy will be presented for information (not yet approval) at the February 2019 Senate meeting.

The Report also included information on complaints involving teaching staff-student relations, in accordance with the 2018 Guidelines on Intimate Relationships between Teaching Staff and Students. Senator Manfredi highlighted that 11 complaints have been
investigated since July 2015, five of which were initiated by the student in the relationship. He reported that misconduct was found in six cases, resulting in disciplinary measures, and mentioned that administrative measures were imposed in eight cases.

Senator Wilson questioned why only 10 of 74 disclosures made to the Office for Sexual Violence Response, Support and Education in 2018 resulted in formal complaints. Senator Buddle responded that reasons for this small number could not be shared though more data will be shared in the future considering that sexual violence is now explicitly an offence under the revised Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

7. Annual Report on Student Life and Learning (Information)

Senator Labeau presented this report, highlighting the activities of the six units: 1) Enrolment Services; 2) Student Services; 3) Student Housing and Hospitality Services; 4) Teaching and Learning Services; 5) Office of the Dean of Students; 6) Athletics and Recreation. A portion of the international portfolio has been transferred to the Office of the Associate Provost (International). Senator LaBeau is currently the Interim Deputy Provost, with an ongoing search for a Deputy Provost. Senator Manfredi indicated that this search includes a message issued to the McGill community inviting participation in the consultations process.

Senator Shapiro asked whether Student Life and Learning has a process established to ensure that students are consulted. Senator LaBeau indicated that students are consulted directly by sub-units. Nevertheless, Senator LaBeau indicated that he is frequently in direct contact with students and student organizations.

8. McGill University Library Update (Information):

Senator Cook presented this report in the form of a powerpoint presentation. This report provides an overview of major library projects. The primary item of interest to the Faculty is the renovation and two-year (May 2019 through June 2021) closure of the Schulich Library of Physical Sciences. There will be a relocation of staff and collections to the McClellan Library during this period.


Senator Sladek presented this report, in accordance with the Charter of Students’ Rights. The Advisory Council received a request for a review of the current application of McGill’s “Policy Concerning the Rights of Students with Disabilities” and the interpretation of students’ rights with respect to assessment and academic accommodation. Though all faculties at McGill have a centralized system to request deferral of final examinations, the process to request accommodations for in-course tests and other assessments in these programs is not centralized. The consequence of this lack of centralization may lead to individual instructors having sole discretionary authority in this process. The Complainant suggested that the varying approaches of individual instructors could lead to unequal treatment of students who seek academic accommodation for illness or disability, the situation being especially acute with students who request accommodation with mental illness as grounds for the request. The University has weighed in on the issue by indicating that the issue of centralizing academic accommodations is being addressed by the Enrolment and Student Affairs Advisory Committee. Senator Wilson commented that, though she is serving on this committee, she is unaware of this issue being addressed. Senator Labeau suggested that the committee is having ongoing discussions with Faculties on policy implementation.
Senator Shapiro inquired whether the submitted complaint could be made public. Senator Sladek indicated that this may be possible if the information would not reveal the identification of the individuals involved.

10. **Report from the Board of Governors to Senate (Information)**
Senator Hobday presented this report. The report included items considered at its December 13, 2018 meeting, and its Executive Committee on October 29 and December 18, 2018. Of interest to the Faculty is the Board’s receipt of updates on the Royal Victoria Hospital Redevelopment Project and the activities of the CAMSR (Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility). CAMSR is expected to submit its report to the Board by December 2019 on the Senate’s motion (approved in September 2018) on divestment.

11. **Other business**
There was no other business. The meeting adjourned at 4:40 PM

(10) **Members’ Question Period**

In reply to Prof. Fussmann, who asked about the McGill24 presentation that was given at the Chairs’ meeting in February 2019, Dean Lennox said that the goal was to encourage faculty and staff to participate in McGill24. If departments wished to use the contribution for specific academic or departmental initiatives, it is possible within the McGill24 campaign.

(11) **Other Business**

There being no other business, Prof. Gyakum moved, seconded by Prof. Fussmann, that the meeting be adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

The motion carried.