

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
22 March 2022
Leacock Council Room - L232**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book

DOCUMENTS: S-21-24, S-21-25

Dean Lennox called the meeting to order at 3 p.m., and welcomed members to the seventh Faculty of Science meeting of the 2021-2022 academic year.

1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Prof. Perepichka **moved**, seconded by Prof. Turner, that the Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

2) MINUTES OF 22 FEBRUARY 2022 S-21-24

Prof. Turner **moved**, seconded by Prof. Perepichka, 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

a) Academic Committee S-21-25

Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer described the following proposals approved at the Academic Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 15 March 2022.

Section I. New Courses

1.	Physiology PHGY 525	Cortical Plasticity 3 credits	<u>AC-21-98</u>
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Associate Dean Hundemer introduced a new course, PHGY 525, in the Department of Physiology, increasing course offerings in neuroscience. PHGY 525 will cover an in-depth examination of cortical plasticity, or the ability of the brain to rearrange itself from a systems, cognitive neuroscience perspective.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Mr. Bhutkar, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

2.	Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences ATOC 517	Boundary Layer Meteorology 3 credits	<u>AC-21-83</u>
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Associate Dean Hundemer described a new course (ATOC 517) concerning the atmospheric boundary, the layer between the free atmosphere and Earth's surface. The course will also illustrate their applications to urban environments, weather and climate forecasting, wind energy, and wind engineering sectors.

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

The motion carried.

3. Computer Science
COMP 370 Introduction to Data Science [AC-21-87](#)
3 credits

Associate Dean Hundemer said that given how vital data science has become in recent years, the School of Computer Science proposed a new introduction to data science techniques course, COMP 370. A similar course was previously offered as a topics course multiple times, and it was well-received. COMP 370 is mainly about data science ideas, avoiding bias, scraping data, managing the data, and visualizing it.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Dr. Dechief, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

4. Pathology
PATH 396 Undergraduate Research Project in Pathology [AC-21-94](#)
3 credits

Associate Dean Hundemer introduced a new undergraduate research project course, PATH 396, proposed by the Department of Pathology for the first time.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Dr. Dechief, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

Section II. Course Revisions

1. Biology
BIOL 331 Ecology/Behaviour Field Course [AC-21-84](#)
Changes: prerequisites, additional fee charges,
Supplementary Calendar information
3 credits

The proposed changes to BIOL 331 were to accurately reflect the course fees in the eCalendar and remove an error in one of the prerequisite courses.

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

The motion carried.

2. Computer Science
COMP 251 Algorithms and Data Structures [AC-21-86](#)
Changes in prerequisites, corequisites

3 credits

Associate Dean Hundemer explained that the existing corequisites for COMP 251 had been changed to prerequisites to gain the required background knowledge to succeed in COMP 251.

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

The motion carried.

3. Mathematics & Statistics
MATH 338 History and Philosophy of Mathematics [AC-21-88](#)
Changes in description, prerequisites
3 credits

Associate Dean Hundemer said that the proposed changes were due to a new instructor teaching the course, and many students did not have the necessary background for MATH 338. Thus, the course description has been updated to specify the course's content clearly, and prerequisites have been introduced.

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

The motion carried.

- MATH 580 Advanced Partial Differential Equations 1 [AC-21-89](#)
Change in title
4 credits
- MATH 581 Advanced Partial Differential Equations 2 [AC-21-90](#)
Change in title
4 credits

Associate Dean Hundemer explained that the course title changes were necessary to clarify the sequence of differential equations courses.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Dr. Dechief, that the above changes be approved.

The motion carried.

- MATH 638 Partial Differential Equations 4 [AC-21-91](#)
Course retirement
4 credits

The above course was being retired because it has not been taught for ten years, and the Department has no plans in offering the course soon.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hurtubise, that the retirement be approved.

The motion carried.

4. Psychology
PSYC 317 Genes and Behaviour [AC-21-99](#)

	Changes in prerequisites, Supplemental Calendar Information 3 credits	
PSYC 318	Behavioural Neuroscience 2 Changes in prerequisites 3 credits	<u>AC-21-100</u>
PSYC 351	Research Methods in Social Psychology Changes in title, prerequisites, restrictions 3 credits	<u>AC-21-101</u>
PSYC 352	Research Methods in Cognitive Science Changes: title, prerequisites, corequisites, restrictions 3 credits	<u>AC-21-102</u>
PSYC 353	Research Methods in Perception Changes in title, prerequisites, restrictions 3 credits	<u>AC-21-103</u>
PSYC 410	Special Topics in Neuropsychology Changes in prerequisites 3 credits	<u>AC-21-104</u>
PSYC 412	Child Development: Psychopathology Change in title 3 credits	<u>AC-21-105</u>
PSYC 470	Memory and Brain Changes in prerequisites 3 credits	<u>AC-21-106</u>
PSYC 491D1/D2	Advanced Study: Behavioural Disorders Changes in prerequisites 6 credits	<u>AC-21-107</u>

Associate Dean Hundemer said the above changes were much the same. A prerequisite course has been replaced with another course because the existing prerequisite was no longer offered. In addition, many course titles have been updated to satisfy the Ordre des psychologues du Québec requirements.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Dr. Dechief, that the above changes be approved.

The motion carried.

Section III. Program Revisions

1. Cognitive Science
- B.Sc. Minor in Cognitive Science [AC-21-85](#)

Associate Dean Hundemer said that to eliminate a hidden prerequisite for COMP 251, MATH 240 was included in the Minor.

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

The motion carried.

2. Mathematics & Statistics
- B.Sc. Honours in Probability and Statistics

[AC-21-92](#)

Associate Dean Hundemer said the change was to remove an incorrect reference to MATH 203 as a Freshman Science course mentioned in the program.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Associate Dean Mittermaier, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

- B.Sc. Minor in Statistics

[AC-21-93](#)

Associate Dean Hundemer explained that the list of Complementary courses has been expanded to include newly created courses, and the program requirements were updated in line with other programs.

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

The motion carried.

(For Information): B.A. Honours in Probability and Statistics

3. Pharmacology & Therapeutics
- Honours in Pharmacology
- Major in Pharmacology
- Minor in Pharmacology

[AC-21-95](#)

[AC-21-96](#)

[AC-21-97](#)

Associate Dean Hundemer said the proposed program revisions included a previously approved course (PHAR 510) to the list of Complementary courses and the requirement of a statistics course. In addition, an increased number of 500-level Complementary courses have been added for greater flexibility.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Dr. Dechief, that the above program changes be approved.

The motion carried.

Dean Lennox thanked Associate Dean Hundemer and the Academic Committee for the excellent report.

5) **DEAN'S BUSINESS**

a) Announcements

- Kudos

American Astronomical Society's Annie Jump Cannon Award

Professor Eve Lee (Department of Physics) was awarded the American Astronomical Society's Annie Jump Cannon Award for her illuminating work on the formation of stars, debris disks, and planets. The Annie Jump Cannon Award recognizes outstanding

research and promise for future research by a female researcher within five years after earning her Ph.D.

Dean Lennox congratulated Prof. Lee for the Cannon Award on behalf of the Faculty of Science.

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

Mr. Rohan Bhutkar, SUS President, gave the following SUS report.

As the semester begins to wind down, so does the work of the Science Undergraduate Society. There are a couple of updates since the last Faculty of Science meeting held on 22 February 2022.

Namely, there are quite a few events upcoming both at the departmental and Faculty wide level. Many departments are hosting Galas and Formals over the next few weeks. The next event is the MIMM Gala scheduled on Thursday, 24 March 2022. The SUS is also hosting similar events to celebrate both the graduating students - with Grad Ball scheduled for 7 April - and the larger Science community - with SUS Spring Gala planned for 2 April 2022. The SUS has also hosted the elections over the last month, with elections starting today, 22 March 2022.

Another event the SUS is hosting in the coming weeks is SUSANs, the annual awards night. The event will be a celebration of many accomplishments of the departments and committees of the SUS on 5 April 2022 with a dinner/awards show.

The various SUS committees have been wrapping up and completing some of their final events/initiatives for the 2021-2022 academic year. These include the SUS charity week with various sales, including plant sales, and the Science Internal Committee, who planned the St Patrick's day apartment crawl a few weeks ago.

I also want to highlight the SUS Mental Health Committee, which finished putting together the video that was discussed earlier this semester. Thank you to all of you for taking part and being open to discussing these complex issues. Please visit this link to watch the video:

https://www.instagram.com/tv/CbVK5wyvBbi/?utm_source=ig_web_button_share_sheet

7) **SCIENCE EQUITY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE**

Associate Dean Nilson reported that at the February meeting, the SECC hosted a presentation from Camille Georges, McGill's Black Community Outreach Associate, a position established as part of McGill's Anti-Black Racism Action Plan. Camille is based in McGill's Branches Office, which is McGill's Community Outreach Program at Enrolment Services. The overall goal of Branches is to work with school boards, educators, families, and members of the McGill community to create programming and help students from elementary school to CEGEP chart their pathways toward post-secondary education.

Camille's role focuses on facilitating access to higher education for Black youth, working with McGill and Montreal Black communities to co-develop mentoring programs that address the systemic challenges Black communities face in accessing University. She brings her experience to this role in leading and co-creating programs related to the social inclusion of racialized youth with non-profit organizations in Montreal.

Also at the SECC meeting was Eddy Taguedong, an Anatomy and Cell Biology Honours student involved with the programming. Camille and Eddy talked about the barriers faced

by Black students: how their teachers perceived them, how they are not necessarily expected to undertake higher education, the lack of role models at different levels, the financial barriers, and being the first generation in the case of immigrants. In addition, the different outreach programs available, each with a slightly different focus and target audience.

- **Pick your Path** – for students and their parents, where they already have an interest in university.
- **McGill Monday** – for students who are not necessarily thinking of themselves as going to university.
- **Get University Ready!** – targeted to Black CEGEP students.

8) **PROVOST'S ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS ANTI-BLACK RACISM**

(1) Provostial Hiring Licenses

Associate Dean Nilson provided an update on the provostial hiring licenses the Faculty was awarded under the Provost's Action Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism. The hirings in the Departments of Psychology and Geography, and a joint appointment in the Departments of Earth and Planetary Sciences and Geography have been successful. In addition, the School of Computer Science has identified a great candidate, and the offer is pending.

(2) Recruitment Awards

Associate Dean Nilson informed members that GPS had established some recruitment awards in support of McGill's Action Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism* and are provided by the nomination of the prospective student's department, based on self-identification during the admissions process.

The amounts of the awards are \$10K for Ph.D. students, \$5K for Master's (Thesis) students, and \$2.5K for Master's (Non-Thesis) students, and must be provided in addition to, rather than replacing, core funding offered by the department, supervisor, or Faculty.

[*Anti-Black Racism Initiative Recruitment Awards | Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies - McGill University](#)

(3) Progress Report: First Year of the AP-ABR – McGill Reporter

Associate Dean Nilson drew members' attention to the January 27, 2022 issue of the McGill Reporter, which features an interview with Angela Campbell, Associate Provost (Equity and Academic Policies), and Terri Givens, Professor of Political Science and the Provost's Academic Lead and Advisor on the AP-ABR. The article provided an excellent summary of the progress that has been made in the first year and what to anticipate going forward.

[Progress report: McGill's Action Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism - McGill Reporter](#)

On behalf of the Faculty, Dean Lennox thanked Associate Dean Nilson for the informative and important reports.

9) **THE NEW VIC PROJECT UPDATE**

Dean Lennox said that the Project Team has been developing the final design of the New Vic Project. Due to cost pressures during Summer 2021, the revisions are significant in terms of the net area, but the academic plan remains intact, as previously reported. There will be 765 lecture room seats rather than 1065 seats. The number of professors in the Faculties of Arts, Engineering, and Science will be 131 compared to the May 2021 estimate of 150. The Dossier d'affaires (DA) will be submitted in April 2022 to the

Québec government for review and final approval. Dean Lennox said that the Québec budget would be presented by the Minister of Finance, Eric Girard, on 22 March 2022. A much more complete report on the funding should be available by the next Faculty meeting.

10) **REPORTS OF ASSOCIATE DEANS**

a) Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer

There was no report for the current meeting.

b) Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson

International Graduate Students

Associate Dean Nilson reminded members that there may be delays in study permit processing. Graduate students should apply as soon as their offer letter is available in uApply.

Graduate Student Recruitment Funds Available from GPS

Associate Dean Nilson informed members that funds are available for domestic Ph.D. applicants who have already been accepted.

Thesis Writing Support, Via Graphos

Associate Dean Nilson advised members that thesis writing support is available, starting in May 2022 for graduate students.

[Thesis Writing Groups: Three Months to Advance Your Thesis | Graphos - McGill University](#)

c) Associate Dean (Research) John Stix

Associate Dean Stix said that the CFI proposals for the June 2022 submission deadline are on track. There are some great proposals from the Faculty, given the incredible talent. The results of the 2 Canada Research Chairs (CRC), James McGill Professors (JMP), and William Dawson Scholars (WDS) competition are not yet available to the public. However, in the past, the Faculty has done incredibly well. The Canada Excellence Research Chairs (CERC) will start soon, and everyone is working hard to ensure maximum success. Associate Dean Stix thanked Eduardo Ganem Cuenca and Preeti Purba-Singh for the fantastic work on putting together professional and polished proposals. Dean Lennox echoed Associate Dean Stix's comments.

d) Associate Dean (Student Affairs) Anthony Mittermaier

Submitting Grades for Graduating Students

Associate Dean Mittermaier reminded members that the deadline to submit grades for graduating students is **9 May 2022**. He emphasized the importance of submitting the grades on time for many reasons. There is a short window to approve graduation records. If a grade is missing, it could delay the student's graduation by a semester, which could impact a student's start of graduate school, new job, or immigration. In addition, it would not be possible to determine the cut-offs for selecting awards and honorific recipients, which would impact the cohort.

New Staff in Science Office for Undergraduate Student Advising (SOUSA)

Associate Dean Mittermaier announced that Marina Saunders had joined the SOUSA as the Student Advising Administrator. Marina has been working in SOUSA on a contractual basis, replacing a staff member on leave. She has made some impressive contributions

to SOUSA by implementing an advising online appointment booking system which was a huge help during the pandemic. Since then, she has been modernizing and automating some of the more cumbersome administrative tasks in SOUSA for positive change in SOUSA. Marina will be providing administrative support in her new position, mainly focusing on undergraduate students in the B.Sc. and B.A. & Sc. degrees, including students in the Neuroscience and Cognitive Science programs. In addition, she will be providing support with the exchange program and readmission and transfer students. Associate Dean Mittermaier welcomed Marina to this new position. He also thanked Lindsay Wilmot (Manager, SOUSA), Dean Lennox, Maria Babiak (Director, Administration), and Tina Kafantaris (Senior, HR).

11) **REPORTS ON ACTIONS OF SENATE**

Senator Laura Nilson: Senate Meeting, 19 January 2022

The meeting opened with the Chair's introductory remarks, including a campus update, government relations, external relations, community relations, and selected kudos, followed by a memorial tribute.

As you will recall, the Winter 2022 semester launched remotely, as mandated by the provincial government in response to the arrival of the Omicron wave and the extraordinarily high number of COVID-19 cases. An important focus of these remarks was the resumption of in-person teaching activities scheduled for the following week (on 24 January 2022). The Chair reminded Senators of various supports available during this time, including the ability of instructors to choose to deliver up to 20% of their course remotely and flexible pedagogical accommodations available to students. The Chair then turned to Senator Lebeau for an update on campus preparation for the return of in-person activities.

Senator Lebeau provided a review of the government directives and comprehensive details of McGill's plan to manage the resumption of in-person teaching for the semester. He reiterated that our top priorities are the health and safety of our community and the quality of our education. He reviewed the plan for course delivery in Winter 2022, including the flexibility built into the plan, discussed the safety measures that would remain in place, and reviewed the revisions to the case management protocols for reporting and contact tracing.

The Chair then concluded her remarks. Some highlights were federal government plans to create 1000 new Canada Research Chairs, a \$5M gift to establish a Centre for Business Ethics in the Desautels Faculty of Management, and the great news that the 2021 Centraide campaign raised \$436,000, which exceeded its goal of \$425K goal.

The Chair's remarks were followed by an extensive commentary from Senators on the return to in-person teaching, ranging from concerns about resuming too soon without enough advance notice or sufficient regard for safety, to questions about accommodations and support for remote delivery, lecture recordings etc., to commentary about the risks of covid transmission in our campus environment and its impact on student health as well as the issue of considering transmission risks on campus relative to risks encountered off-campus and to the potential negative impact of the online environment on mental health and social development.

The meeting then continued with the regular order of business.

1. The Provost presented the Report of 509th Report of the Academic Policy Committee (D21-28)

2. The Provost then presented Report I on Budget Planning 2022-2023: Report I (D21-29)

First of three budget reports: this one is how the university is doing on the current FY budget and also how the university is progressing in planning the FY23 budget.

The report noted that their analysis, as of Oct 31, 2021, suggests that the University should expect lower expenses and revenues than initially predicted and will have a lower deficit and contingency than originally forecast.

Plan for FY23: to present a balanced budget, assuming continued support from Québec and less covid uncertainty.

Priorities mentioned for the FY2023 budget include maintaining a safe environment for students, faculty, and staff, as well as continued support of research, teaching and critical operations. The introduction of a Graduate Enrolment Driven Incentive that will increase funding for Graduate Excellence Fellowships and other budget allocations to Faculties were also highlighted.

3. Senator Campbell and Prof Buddle then presented a Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on COVID Academic Planning and Policies (D21-30)

The report mentioned that the Committee is halfway through its mandate, and provided an overview of the committee's activities so far. Highlights included developing and proposing (to Senate and the Provost, respectively) parameters for teaching in Winter 2022, an accommodation protocol for instructors living with people who maybe be particularly vulnerable to covid, and other accommodations and supports for students and instructors.

4. A series of annual reports, all for Senate's information.
 - a. Senator Labeau presented the Annual Report on Student Life and Learning.
 - b. Senator Campbell presented the Annual Report on the Policy on Harassment and Discrimination.

This was the first report after a major review and revision of the policy, which included establishing The Office for Mediation and Reporting (OMR).

- c. Senator Campbell presented the Annual Report on the Policy against Sexual Violence
- d. Senator Levy presented the Annual Report on the Advisory Council on the Charter of Students' Rights, which was brief as the Council did not convene during the 2020-2021 governance year, as no requests for investigations were received.
- e. Prof. Petra Rohrbach, Representative of Senate on the Board of Governors, then presented the Report from the Board of Governors to Senate.

12) **MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no members' questions submitted to Josie D'Amico (josie.damico@mcgill.ca) for the current meeting.

13) **OTHER BUSINESS**

Spring 2022 Convocation

Dean Lennox announced that the Science Convocation Ceremony would be held **in person** on 27 May 2022 on the Downtown campus (Convocation tent). The postponed in-person celebrations are expected to take place starting on Monday, 6 June 2022, and ending on Tuesday, 13 June 2022. The Science Celebration (Classes of 2020 and 2021) event will be in 2 sittings on 13 June 2022. The Honorary Doctorate recipients (27 May 2022 only) will be announced at a later date.

There being no further business, Prof. Hurtubise **moved**, seconded by Prof. Blanchette, that the meeting be adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

The motion carried.