

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Tuesday, 23 May, 2017
Leacock Council Room - L232**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book

DOCUMENTS: S-16-31 to S-16-40

Dean Lennox called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. He welcomed members to the last Faculty of Science meeting of the year.

1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

The motion carried.

2) FACULTY OF SCIENCE EXCELLENCE AWARD

902.1 Dean Lennox, on behalf of Prof. Jacques Hurtubise, Chair, Faculty of Science Excellence Award Committee, said that the Excellence Award had been set up to acknowledge outstanding performance on the part of the administrative and support staff in the Faculty of Science. The Award rotates among the three categories of Clerical, Technical, and Managerial staff. In the 2016-2017 (C) competition, there were three excellent nominations. They were:

- Ms. Alba Furfaro, Department of Physics
- Ms. Lucianna Scigliano, Department of Biology
- Ms. Angela White, Department of Mathematics & Statistics

902.2 The Science Excellence Award Committee met on Monday, April 27th to select the recipient of the Award. After due deliberation, the Committee selected, with unanimous consent, Ms. Angela White from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics as the recipient of the 2016-2017 Award.

902.3 Dean Lennox read the following citation:
Ms. White, in her ten years in the Department, has become the indispensable figure in the running of its undergraduate programs, gathering in and processing the myriad textbook orders, course outlines, room bookings, registration permits and course overrides, undergraduate course marker contracts, forms for research and reading courses and eventually final exams, collecting these materials from the rather errant herd of cats and other independently minded denizens of the Department of Mathematics & Statistics, checking that all is in order, and ensuring at all times that students are received at the front desk in a friendly manner and guided in the appropriate direction. All this is accomplished with calm, indeed in a calming way, and as if these tasks were not enough, she has cheerfully taken on a few pilot projects to ensure that the department provides better service to its community. All of her letters of support shine with enthusiasm for the work that she has done and continues to do. In the words of one of the writers of her letters of support: "I cannot possibly think of anyone who is more deserving of the 2017 Science Excellence Award. And I cannot think of anyone who would be prouder to wear this badge of honour."

902.4 On behalf of the Faculty, Dean Lennox congratulated Ms. White and presented her with a cheque in the amount of \$2,000, along with a framed certificate commemorating her receipt of the Faculty of Science Excellence Award.

902.5 Ms. White said she appreciated the award very much, and thanked the Dean, the Department of Mathematics & Statistics, and the Faculty of Science Excellence Award Committee.

3) **LEO YAFFE TEACHING AWARD**

903.1 Prof. Edith Zorychta, Chair of the Leo Yaffe Teaching Award & Principal's Prizes Committee, introduced the Leo Yaffe Teaching Award for the Faculty of Science.

903.2 In alphabetical order, the nominees for the 2016-2017 Leo Yaffe Award were:

Prof. Andrew Cumming, Department of Physics
Prof. Melanie Dirks, Department of Psychology
Prof. Andrew Hendry, Department of Biology
Prof. Vojkan Jaksic, Department of Mathematics & Statistics
Prof. Michael Langer, School of Computer Science
Prof. Jean-Philip Lumb, Department of Chemistry

903.3 Prof. Zorychta read the following citation:

The Leo Yaffe Award is given each year to recognize a faculty member for superior teaching at the undergraduate level in the Faculty of Science. The recipient for 2017 is **Professor Andrew Hendry from the Department of Biology**. Andrew is exceptional in his ability to engage students at all levels, captivating their interest with his unique presentations in a large undergraduate class, transforming their laboratory experience by having them do actual research, and guiding them in subsequent courses as they plan their future careers. Student evaluations are filled with glowing testimonials to his enthusiasm for Biology and his riveting classroom performance, and his overall impact evokes many statements like "Hands down favourite prof, extremely engaging with many interesting anecdotes that make you want to drop everything and be a biologist."

Professor Hendry is probably best known for his remarkable skill in teaching a large introductory class in Biology. Students often begin the term with reluctance and are startled to discover that Biology is actually captivating, fascinating, incredibly relevant to everyday life, and learning it is fun. Their professor tells engaging stories, makes videos and beautiful photos to illustrate the material, and brings props to class to help with his demonstrations...a live snake being one of the more memorable teaching aids. Students universally identify with his personal approach and appreciate that he includes parts of his own research—as one explained, " we got to see what our professors do when they aren't lecturing."

Andrew has woven the relevance of research into every lecture, and into the introductory laboratory as well, by introducing small research projects that students carry out in pairs. They must design and conduct experiments to test a specific hypothesis, then deliver a report on the results, and in the process they experience first-hand what science is all about. This introduction to active learning during their first year at McGill has a lasting impact, and for many it is one of the highlights of their undergraduate experience. For some it has changed their entire career.

For advanced students, the experience is more intense. A course on Evolutionary Ecology attracts highly motivated students who must formulate and carry out a research project of sufficient depth to generate a scientific manuscript suitable for publication. In this process Andrew is both a role model of a successful scientist and a mentor who provides friendly guidance in design and analysis of their projects. He creates an ideal learning environment for those considering a career in research.

In summary, Andrew Hendry is a phenomenal teacher. He is passionate about his subject and transmits his knowledge and interest with an approach that is engaging, informative and enjoyable at the same time. Students recognize and appreciate that he goes to great lengths to keep them interested and focused, and they repeatedly state that his enthusiasm for teaching and research is contagious. He is an outstanding educator and it is a pleasure to announce Andrew Hendry as the 2017 recipient of the Leo Yaffe Award.

- 903.4 On behalf of the Faculty of Science, Dean Lennox congratulated Prof. Hendry, who unfortunately could not attend the current meeting. He mentioned that Prof. Hendry was not only a great teacher, but also a fine researcher.
- 903.5 Dean Lennox thanked Prof. Zorychta and the Committee members for their diligent work on the Leo Yaffe Award & Principal's Prizes Committee.

4) **CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES**

- a) Bachelor of Arts and Science **S-16-32**
b) Bachelor of Science **S-16-33**

904.1 On behalf of Director Allard, Associate Dean Nilson said there were 85 graduands for the B.A. & Sc. degree, and 734 for the B.Sc. degree. The corresponding figures for 2016 were 76 and 743.

904.2 Associate Dean Nilson said that the honorifics cut-offs for the B.A. & Sc. and B.Sc. degrees were:

B.A. & Sc.:

- Dean's Honour List (Top 10%) – 3.79 CGPA
- Distinction (Next 15% below Top 10%) – 3.68 CGPA

B.Sc.:

- Dean's Honour List (Top 10%) – 3.93 CGPA
- Distinction (Next 15% below Top 10%) – 3.8 CGPA

Associate Dean Nilson **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, 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-16-34**
d) Diploma in Meteorology **S-16-35**

904.3 Associate Dean Nilson said that there was one candidate for the Diploma in Meteorology, and no candidates for the Diploma in Environment.

Associate Dean Nilson **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, that the candidate for the Diploma in Meteorology be approved.

The motion carried.

Associate Dean Nilson further moved, seconded by Prof. Damha, that the Dean be given discretionary power to make such changes as would be necessary to prevent injustice.

The motion carried.

5) **MINUTES OF 18 APRIL 2017** **S-16-31**

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

The motion carried.

6) **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

7) **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

a) Scholarships Committee **S-16-36**

907.1 Associate Dean Nilson, Chair, Science Scholarships Committee, gave the following report:

907.2 (1) The Scholarships Report, Document S-16-36, included Faculty and departmental awards and medals.

907.3 (2) The Governor General's Silver Medal has been awarded to **Zheng Dai, First Class Honours in Computer Science and Biology**. The Governor General's Silver Medal is awarded to a graduating undergraduate student who obtains the highest academic standing in a bachelor's degree program. There are only two medals given each year for the entire university. The medal will be presented by Principal Fortier at the Science Convocation ceremony on 5 June 2017.

907.4 (3) The Moyse Travelling Scholarship has been awarded to **Emilie Rose Storer, First Class Honours in Mathematics and Physics**. Out of 14 applications received, the selection committee invited five candidates to an interview. After one candidate withdrew his scholarship application, the four remaining candidates were interviewed. Two Moyse Travelling Scholarships are awarded annually (one scholarship awarded by the Faculty of Arts and the other by the Faculty of Science). The Scholarships are tenable for one year of advanced study, preferably abroad (i.e., a British or European university), although North American universities are also considered.

907.5 (4) For the 2016-2017 academic year, the CGPA cutoff for Faculty awards was 3.99. There were a total of 16 graduating students within this category.

b) Academic Committee **S-16-37**

907.6 On behalf of Associate Dean Western, Associate Dean Laura Nilson reported on the Academic Committee's report.

The following proposals were approved at the Academic Committee meeting held on 25 April 2017:

I. NEW COURSE

Computer Science
COMP 204

Comp. Programming for Life Sci
3 credits

AC-16-68

907.7 Associate Dean Nilson introduced a new computer programming course, COMP 204, designed for students in the life sciences programs.

907.8 Dean Lennox said that the creation of COMP 204 was an important initiative by the School of Computer Science.

Associate Dean Nilson **moved**, seconded by Prof. Kemme, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

II. COURSE REVISIONS

1) Anatomy & Cell Biology
ANAT 321

Circuitry of the Human Brain
Change in restrictions
3 credits

AC-16-69

907.9 Associate Dean Nilson said that ANAT 321 is currently restricted to U3 students only. Following a review of ANAT 321, the Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology would like to remove the restriction and open the course to U2 and U3 students, provided that the prerequisites are successfully completed.

Associate Dean Nilson **moved**, seconded by Mr. Ware, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

ANAT 322

Neuroendocrinology
Change in prerequisites
3 credits

AC-16-70

907.10 Associate Dean Nilson said that the change to the prerequisites for ANAT 322 would better prepare students for the course. She pointed out that the new prerequisite, PHGY 210, is a Required course in the Major and Honours programs in Anatomy & Cell Biology. As such, the total credit weight of the programs remains unchanged.

Associate Dean Nilson **moved**, seconded by Prof. Damha, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

2) Psychology

PSYC 433 [from -532]

Cognitive Science
Changes: number change [from -532], schedule type,
description, prerequisites, restrictions

AC-16-72

907.11 Associate Dean Nilson described the above changes, and explained that the changes were due to a new instructor and an increased demand for cognitive science courses in various programs. PSYC 433 will now be taught as a lecture course instead of a seminar course and will serve a wide range of students.

Associate Dean Nilson **moved**, seconded by Prof. Lydon, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

For Information Only: PSYC 433 will replace PSYC 532 in the following programs:
PSYC 433 to replace PSYC 532 in List A in the following programs:

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)
- Honours Linguistics (60 credits)
- Minor Concentration Behavioural Science (18 credits)

PSYC 433 to replace PSYC 532 in the list of Complementary courses, under Psychology

B.A. & Sc. programs:

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

PSYC 433 to replace PSYC 532 in the list of Complementary courses

B.Sc. Programs:

- Major Neuroscience (65 credits)
- Minor Neuroscience (25 credits)

PSYC 433 to replace PSYC 532 in the list of Required courses

B.Sc. Program:

- Minor Cognitive Science (24 credits)

PSYC 507	Emotions, Stress, and Illness Change: prerequisites 3 credits	AC-16-73
PSYC 529	Music Cognition Changes: description 3 credits	AC-16-74

907.12 Associate Dean Nilson said that the proposed changes to the above two courses were basically housekeeping, to fix outdated prerequisite course numbers and to update the course description.

Associate Dean Nilson **moved**, seconded by Prof. Lydon, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

3) Chemistry

CHEM 480/CHEM 480D1/D2

Undergraduate Research Project 2
Changes: title, description, prerequisites
3 credits

AC-16-75

907.13 Associate Dean Nilson said that currently CHEM 480 is restricted to Honours students, only. The Department of Chemistry would like to revise CHEM 480 to enable non-Honours students to take an additional research course, as a follow-up to CHEM 396 (Undergraduate Research Project, 3 credits) or CHEM 470 (Research Project 1, 6 credits).

Associate Dean Nilson **moved**, seconded by Prof. Damha, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

c) Committee on Student Standing (CSS)

S-16-38

907.14 Associate Dean Nilson, on behalf of Director Allard, briefly described the role of the CSS. She said that the CSS considers appeals by students regarding decisions made by the Director of Advising Services. One request to e-flag a course (course is excluded from the GPA and credit count) was not approved.

907.15 Dean Lennox added that it was very important that there be avenues that allow students to make appeals.

8) DEAN'S BUSINESS

a) Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List (DMURL)

S-16-39

908.1 Associate Dean Nilson, on behalf of 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 there were 68 B.Sc. students and seven B.A. & Sc. students listed in Document #S-16-39 who would be graduating with this honour. February and June graduates were also included in this document.

b) B.Sc. Global Designation

S-16-40

908.2 On behalf of Director Allard, Associate Dean Nilson said that the B.Sc. Global is a designation being given at graduation. Students must have at least three credits from a second-language course, at least three credits from an independent research project course, plus a third component, chosen from various preselected options. She said there were nine candidates who would graduate with the B.Sc. Global designation in Document S-16-40.

908.3 Dean Lennox said that the B.Sc. Global Designation has attracted a lot of attention within the McGill community. He added that he would like to promote the B.Sc. Global Designation and encourage more science students to apply for it.

c) Announcements

908.4 (i) The Faculty of Science Convocation is scheduled for June 5, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. This year's honorary doctorate recipients are:

a) Nobel Prize Winner Sir Paul Nurse, Director & Chief Executive of the Francis Crick Institute in London and former President of the Royal Society of London.

b) Nobel Prize Winner Professor Arthur B. McDonald, Queen's University, Director of the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory Institute.

Dean Lennox said that each of the honorary doctorate recipients will give a convocation address to the Science Class of 2017.

- 908.5** (ii) Dean Lennox also announced that **Prof. Pamela Matson** from Stanford University will give a talk on sustainability sciences on 1 June 2017, as part of the SST Initiative Invited Speaker Series. Moreover, Prof. Matson will receive an honorary degree from the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences on 2 June 2017.

Dean Lennox said he hoped that members will be able to attend the talks given by three very inspiring and memorable speakers.

- 908.6** (iii) Dean Lennox said that the new financial year began on 1 May, 2017. He said that the Faculty of Science will be advertising the following staff positions.

- A SOUSA advisor for the B.A. & Sc. degree program
 - A Research Officer to assist professors, especially new ones, in the preparation of grant applications
 - A Communication Officer, who will be responsible for reaching out to departments and for coordinating and transmitting information to students, alumni and the public
 - A Faculty Infrastructure Director, who will be overseeing all building renovations involving Science units. The current Science Building Directors will take on a new position title, Associate Building Directors, and they will be reporting directly to the Director.
- Dean Lennox applauded Maria Babiak, Director of Administration, for having done a great job, but it has become clear that there is a need for a full-time Faculty Infrastructure Director for the Faculty of Science.

- 908.7** (iv) Dean Lennox said that he had recently met with alumni in Toronto and London, England. The trip to London involved speaking to possible philanthropy opportunities. There are about 2,000 McGill graduates in the Greater London area, and 5,000 in Southern England and Northern Europe. A number of the graduates hold very senior positions in finance and government, and many graduates were very interested in reconnecting with the Faculty.

- 908.8** While in Toronto with Prof. Joelle Pineau and Associate Dean (Research) Doina Precup, both from the School of Computer Science, Dean Lennox said he had met with alumni. Prof. Pineau and Associate Dean Precup gave a superb presentation on machine learning and artificial intelligence (AI).

- 908.9** In support of AI, funding was provided by different governments (approximately \$160M), an alumnus (approximately \$100,000), and a recent graduate student (\$10,000).

- 908.10** Dean Lennox said it was important that the Faculty get involved because Science alumni are inspired and incredibly generous. Dean Lennox invited members to join him in the future because the experience is very rewarding.

- 908.11** Dean Lennox noted that Associate Dean Precup was recently featured in the Montreal Gazette for her work on AI.

9) DIRECTOR'S & ASSOCIATE DEANS' REPORTS

a) Director (Advising Services)

- 909.1** On behalf of Director Allard, Associate Dean Nilson said that she had no further report beyond the above reports.

b) Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson

- 909.2** Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Nilson briefly summarized the graduate funding allocations for 2017-2018. The total amount allocated was approximately \$3.8M. Of this amount, \$3.4M came from the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS), and approximately \$500,000 was funding from the Faculty of Science. The funds are dedicated exclusively to graduate student support, and complement departmental-held fellowships. The funds are then distributed to each department.
- 909.3** The Graduate Mobility Awards (GMAs) were a new source of funding from GPS, provided by the Government of Quebec. The GMAs were intended to support graduate students' travel abroad to complement or enhance their projects. The GMAs were not intended to fund travel to conferences. Three competitions were held during the 2016-2017 academic year. The Faculty received a total allocation of \$104,000 for 2016-2017. For 2017-2018, the allocation will be \$173,000, a substantial increase. Associate Dean Nilson encouraged members to take advantage of this important opportunity for graduate students.
- 909.4** Another new source of funding from GPS was the Graduate Student Recruitment Funding for Ph.D. students. The goal was to increase the yield of acceptance for Canadian Ph.D. students. The Faculty received \$50,000 and the amount spent was \$21,000. The money was not evenly spent across departments. One reason given was that applicants must have been accepted for admission into a department's Ph.D. program, and in some departments this contradicted their department's policies. Associate Dean Nilson said she has informed the GPS of this issue. There will be more recruitment funding opportunities for 2017-2018.
- 909.5** Dean Lennox said that a significant amount of graduate student funding was distributed directly to departments so that the funds can be strategically spent to support graduate students, top-ups, etc. He said it represents only a small fraction of the funds the university receives for graduate students; however, ongoing discussions are taking place between Provost Manfredi and the Faculty. Dean Lennox added that it was a win-win situation because having more graduate students brings in more research, and more research brings in more funding opportunities.

c) Associate Dean (Research) Doina Precup

- 909.6** On behalf of Associate Dean Precup, Dean Lennox said that both the federal and provincial governments have given an impressive amount of money in support of AI. He emphasized that the amount was unprecedented. Dean Lennox said that along with other players, Associate Dean Precup is organizing a funding program, and the School of Computer Science is also playing a major role in this initiative.
- 909.7** The deadline was 17 May 2017, for a third round of the Canada Excellence Research Chair, which awards 11 Chairs across Canada. A proposal was submitted entitled "Sustainable Ecosystems". The funding will consist of \$10M from the federal government and matching funds from the provincial government. Across Canada, there were 115 submissions. In prior competitions, two applications from the Faculty of Science were successful.
- 909.8** Related to the McGill Sustainability Sciences and Technologies Initiative (MSSTI), two important workshops were held during the previous week. The workshops were extremely well organized by Dr. Heather McShane. Approximately 60 professors attended. With the aid of a facilitator, three themes were selected for the first round of funding. The process should be finalized by the end of summer 2017, with funding thereafter.

10) REPORTS ON ACTIONS OF SENATE

- Senate Meeting of 20 April, 2017: Senator Gregor Fussmann

The meeting began with Dean Eidelman presenting a memorial tribute for Professor Mark Wainberg, who tragically drowned on April 11 while on vacation in Florida. With Professor Wainberg, McGill, the Jewish General Hospital and the global AIDS community lost one of their leading advocates and researchers. His research and collaborations on AIDS and HIV, including the initial identification of the 3TC antiretroviral drug, have saved millions of lives around the world. In his tribute, Senator Eidelman called Professor Wainberg “a true medical giant” and portrayed him as someone who “served as the voice for the voiceless, pushing hard for equitable treatment of all regardless of social status, sexual orientation or ethnic origin.”

Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting, the report of the Steering Committee and the agenda. As a matter arising from the March minutes, Deputy-Provost Dyens provided a verbal further response to the question regarding the sale of lecture materials by students and companies.

In her remarks from the Chair, Principal Fortier noted that the final report of the Advisory Panel on Federal Support for Fundamental Science (also known as the Naylor report) was released on April 10, and that it recommends reinvestments in this area. The federal and Quebec governments released their budgets in March; the Quebec budget features investments in the higher education sector over the next six years. Principal Fortier commented on the Quebec budget as “good news”, although “details are not known yet”; the federal budget was characterized as “little reinvestment”, and rather as “prudent reallocation.”

Members of the Faculty of Science featured prominently in the Principal’s Kudos: Professor Ehab Abouheif, who was awarded a 2017 Guggenheim fellowship; Professor Vicki Kaspi, who was awarded FRQNT’s 2017 Prix d’excellence; and Prof. Daniel Leviton, who was shortlisted for the Donner prize.

Under the agenda point Questions and Motions by Members, Senators Gore and Hébert posed a question regarding academic freedom and Senators Hastings, Saroyan, and Galaty posed a question regarding academic freedom of academic administrators. Both questions were motivated by the events surrounding the reaction to Professor Andrew Potter’s article in Maclean’s and his subsequent resignation as Director of the Institute for the Study of Canada. Of particular concern were an article in the Globe and Mail, in which the Principal defended the necessity of such a resignation, and the tweet from McGill’s official Twitter account, which read: “The views expressed by @JAndrewPotter in the @MacleansMag article do not represent those of #McGill”. In her written response to both questions and in the lively discussion that ensued in Senate, Principal Fortier reiterated that members of the academic staff enjoy full protection of academic freedom. She explained that the complexity arises when it is unclear whether a scholar is speaking as a faculty member or as the head of an administrative unit. When asked by Senator Bernard directly if the outcome would have been different if the editors of the magazine had only identified Dr. Potter as a professor, the Principal responded in the affirmative, noting that if there were no indication of his administrative leadership position, there would have been no reaction from the University.

As the next item, Provost Manfredi provided, for information, a preview of the proposed budget, which will soon be submitted to the Board of Governors. He reported that the year is likely to end with a deficit of \$2 million rather than the budgeted \$2.7 million. He mentioned that significant reinvestments in higher education were announced in the 2018 Quebec Economic Plan, noting that McGill should receive an additional \$4.3 million in FY18. He noted that deferred maintenance remains a priority for the University. The

Provost also shared that the provincial budget and surplus accumulated in 2016 will allow the University to invest in institutional and academic priorities, including \$4 million in permanent new funding for faculties. In terms of questions concerning the Faculty of Science, Senator Gehr asked if the budget includes provisions for the Bellairs Research Institute, noting that the wastewater continues to be discharged directly in the ground. Senator Manfredi agreed that this matter needs to be addressed but was unsure if provisions were made in the budget.

Subsequently, Senate adopted the 480th report of the Academic Policy Committee, approved the report of the Senate Nominating Committee, and endorsed the McGill University Strategic Academic Plan 2017-2022, which was presented by Provost Manfredi with no significant changes since the February Open Discussion.

The remaining items on the agenda were presented for information:

Associate Provost Campbell presented a set of proposed revisions to the Policy on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law. One of the key revisions pertains to the formal establishment of the Senior Equity and Inclusion Officer position.

Provost Manfredi presented an update on the implementation of the Policy against Sexual Violence.

The Provost also presented, with V.-P. Beauchamp, an update on the Academic Vision and Development Plan for the Royal Victoria Hospital site.

Deputy-Provost Dyens presented the annual report on Student Life and Learning, which adopted a new format as an interactive website.

Principal Fortier presented the report of the joint meeting of the Senate Steering and Board Executive Committees. The 2017-2018 Joint Board-Senate meeting will be held on November 15, 2017; the topic will be "Building stronger communities and citizenship through mentorship."

At 12:48PM Senate moved into confidential session to review the Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee and adjourned at 1:05PM.

- Senate Meeting of 15 May, 2017: Senator Masad Damha

1) In her remarks from the Chair, Principal Fortier described two recent funding announcements by the Quebec government: one pertaining to investment in an artificial intelligence supercluster, an initiative in which McGill is a partner. McGill will have two members of a Steering Committee guiding the development of this supercluster, i.e., Dr. Martha Crago who will be joining this July as Vice Principal of Research and Innovations, and Prof. Doina Precup from Computer Sciences. The other investment announcement came from the Stratégie québécoise de la recherche et de l'innovation, close to \$600M over five years, with most of the funding slated for the period after the next election. Also, \$100M to boost to mobility researchers and students.

The Principal reported on the recent meetings of the U15, of the Association of American Universities and of Universities Canada, all of which she attended, some in the presence of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and Minister of Science Kirsty Duncan and other Senior Deputy ministers. One of the main topics discussed at the U15 meeting was the implementation of the report of the Advisory Panel on Federal Support for Fundamental Science released (also known as the Naylor report). The report recommends that the government makes a long-term improvements in Canada's research capacity. The panel's recommendations, to be phased in over four years, would raise annual spending across the four major federal agencies and other key entities from approximately \$3.5 billion (today) to \$4.8 billion (year 2022). The full report is posted on www.sciencereview.ca.

MAUT has invited its members to a Forum on June 20th on implementing the recommendations of the Naylor Report. There will be a panel discussion broadly centered on three aims: How do researchers engage federal politicians and ministries to see this report implemented? How do we better engage the public to see the value of basic research? What skillsets are needed for us to see these two aims accomplished?

Principal Fortier also highlighted the donation by one of our alumnus, Aldo Bensadoun (BCom'64, LLD'12) of \$25M to pave the way for a new school of retail management at McGill.

Principal Fortier also thanked everyone who had contributed to the success of the 85th ACFAS conference, held at McGill May 8-12. This is the largest scientific event in the French-speaking academic world, and this year drew some 6,000 attendees from 40 countries and included 3,400 scientific papers, and more than 200 seminars in 30 research areas. As well, the 11 public events under the "Science moi!" banner attracted more than 1,000 people. The Principal added that the ACFAS congress was a great way to kick off the summer celebrations of Montreal's 375th and Canada's 150th anniversaries.

Principal Fortier reminded Senators that convocation was around the corner, May 30 to June 7, highlighting some of the honorary degrees that will be granted (e.g., Arthur McDonald – 2015 Nobel Prize in Physics). <http://www.mcgill.ca/newsroom/spring-2017-hondoc-bios>

Among her Kudos remarks, our Principal highlighted Vice Principal Mark Weinstein who under his leadership, gifts and pledges to McGill reached \$170.4M, way over the \$100M target and the largest amount raised in the history of McGill. She pointed out that "McGill would not be McGill if we did not count on the loyalty and generosity of our alumni".

2) V.-P. Beauchamp gave an update on construction projects at the downtown campus (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/4_chairs_remarks_-_construction_update.pdf). Among the many listed, are the renovations of west wing of the Steward Biology Bldg, including the complete demolition/reconstruction of interior and building envelope repairs. Start date is May 2017, with completion estimated for Dec 2019. An interactive map of ongoing construction projects is available at our website (www.mcgill.ca/construction). Construction expenses for the constructions/renovation projects over the next 5 years are estimated to be ca. 0.5M\$.

3) Senate approved the 481st report of the Academic Policy Committee (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/6_d16-61_481st_apc_report.pdf) and the report Senate Nominating Committee (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/7_d16-62_nominating_report.pdf). The latter item included the appointment of Ms. Svetlana Kochkina to the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee and of Ms. Tatiana Bedjanian to the Advisory Council on the Charter of Students' Rights.

4) Associate Provost Campbell presented a set of proposed revisions to the Policy on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/8_d16-63_proposed_revisions_to_the_harassment_policy.pdf), which Senate approved.

These policies remind us that each Member of the University Community shares responsibility for giving fair treatment to all members of the University community. Moreover, each person is responsible for promoting and maintaining an equitable environment free from Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law, as defined by the policy, available on our website. An excerpt from the policy:

“Particular onus is placed on those in positions of academic and administrative authority: to be aware of what constitutes Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law and what procedures are in place to provide information and to address complaints; and to implement and use appropriate and active management practices consistent with the achievement of the goals of this Policy. Acts of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law are University offences subject to disciplinary measures.”

Senate also approved the appointment of additional Assessors under this Policy. (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/9_d16-64_apointment_of_harassment_assessors.pdf). It is anticipated that three more Assessors will be appointed in the Fall to eventually bring the total number of assessors from 7 to 12.

5) Senate approved the Calendar of Academic Dates for 2020-21 and for 2021-22 (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/10_d16-65_calendar_of_academic_dates_2020-21_and_2021-22.pdf), which University Registrar Massey presented. Of note, recommendations include starting classes before Labour Day (as those years they fall well into September) so as to maximize the number of contact hours. An 11-day exam period (rather than 10 days) has been included, to extend the official exam period by one day to allow for fewer conflicts and better schedules for students.

6) Senate received for information the biennial report on Employment Equity (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/11_d16-66_report_on_employment_equity.pdf), which was presented by Associate Provost Campbell. The report was prepared not only to provide data, recent initiatives and ensure adherence to our policy, but also to invite Senators to engage on a broader reflection on equity and inclusiveness at McGill. Senator Campbell added that “a discussion on employment equity should be considered as part of an ongoing conversation taking place across our campus and indeed across all North American campuses about the importance of paying attention to the issues of fairness and inclusion and how these may be marked by systemic or unconscious bias. At McGill equity efforts are animated by our vision of our campus that is accessible, welcoming, and representative of wider communities and of the social make up of our city, province, and our country”.

The data show a steady growth of women in the workforce in most categories, with some reductions in areas where women have been over represented, which is encouraging. Increase in women representation is seen specifically in tenure-track faculty and senior academic representation. For example, the % of female full professors has increased from 17% in 2008 to 22% in 2017. The number of female Associate and Assistant professors have also increased by 5-7% over the past 6 years (37% of our female faculty are Assoc. Professors, and 43% are Assistant Professors; year 2016-17).

The data on respondents that self identified as members of equity designated groups is less encouraging. The number of employees designated as aboriginal, visible and ethnic minority has remained constant over the past 6 years (0.5%, 15% and 24%, respectively), so we have work to do here.

On recruitment statistic for tenure track positions, last year women made only 30% of applicants for tenure track posts. The question is whether we can do better to diversify our pool. We did well with indigenous recruitment; last year there were 25 applicants and 4 offers. We are doing less well with our disable candidates, with no offers made to candidates self-identified as having a disability in the recruitment pool (of which there were 80 candidates in 2016-17).

On CRC/Awards designated by gender, there is a steady growth in women representation surpassing targets in some areas notably our CRCs. Finally Senator Campbell noted that all Us in Canada are being mandated to boost equity diversity and inclusion initiatives. Also, the tri-agencies are taking concerted swift action to support universities to make progress towards addressing the under representation of the four federally designated groups, i.e., indigenous persons, persons with disability, women, and visible minority persons.

7) Dean Buddle presented the report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Charter of Students' Rights (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/12_d16-67_report_of_the_ad_hoc_committee_to_review_the_charter_of_students_rights.pdf). It is expected that a final version of the revised Charter to Senate will be brought to Senate for approval during the Fall 2017 academic term.

8) Ms. Martine Gauthier, Senior Director, Student Services, gave a progress report on McGill's Health and Wellness Strategy (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/13_d16-68_progress_report_on_wellness_strategy.pdf). Referring to the strategy's holistic approach to health and wellness, which aims to move beyond student mental health to a broader concept of campus health and wellness, Senator Richard noted that McGill Student Services are already operating at capacity and therefore could not take on the responsibility for health and wellness at McGill as a whole. He asked whether the contemplated campus health and wellness model would be implemented either by the creation of a new unit or by the establishment of a consortial arrangement involving existing units. Ms. Gauthier responded that these types of ideas are being contemplated.

9) Secretary-General Rogowska presented the annual report on the Policy on Safe Disclosure ("Whistle Blowing") (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/14_d16-69_annual_report_policy_on_safe_disclosure.pdf). As the name indicates, this policy "provides for an impartial channel for good faith reporting of Improper Activities and protection from reprisal for those who make such reports." Senator Saroyan asked whether the low number of complaints -- just one last year -- suggests that McGill's other policies are working well. Secretary-General Rogowska noted that the Policy is in fact meant to be used as a last resort for situations which have not been resolved through other policies.

10) As the last two information items on the agenda, Senate received the latest report from the Board of Governors to Senate, (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/15_d16-70_board_report_to_senate.pdf), which was presented by Mr. Ram Panda, and the Senate calendar of dates for 2017-18 (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/16_d16-71_fall-winter_2017-2018_meeting_dates.pdf), which was presented by Secretary-General Rogowska.

As the final agenda item, Senate moved into confidential session to discuss the report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee.

The next Senate meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 19, 2017.

Sources for preparation of this summary:

[MAUTFORUM] Senate Meeting Report, 2017-05-15.

Senate meeting documents (2016-17 academic year).

Public Policy Forum, News on Naylor Report, April 10, 2017; <http://www.ppforum.ca/>

Dean Lennox thanked Senators Fussmann and Damha for their detailed reports, as these are very important academic issues.

11) **MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no members' questions.

12) **OTHER BUSINESS**

912.1 Dean Lennox wished everyone a great summer. He encouraged members to sign up for the upcoming Science Convocation to be held on 5 June 2017. The Science Convocation ceremony is always a very memorable one, highly appreciated by students.

There being no other business, Prof. Damha **moved**, seconded by Associate Dean Nilson, that the meeting be adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

The motion carried.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 12 September 2017