

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of
Faculty
26 April 2022**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book

Dean Lennox called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m., and welcomed members to the eighth Faculty of Science meeting of the 2021-2022 academic year.

1) **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Moved, seconded by Prof. Martin, that the agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

2) **MINUTES OF 22 MARCH 2022**

S-21-24

Prof. Perepichka **moved**, seconded by Prof. Harpp, 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. Earth & Planetary Science
EPS 321 Environmental Geochemistry
3 credits

AC-21-98

Associate Dean Hundemer introduced a new course, EPS 321, in the Department of Earth & Planetary Science. EPS 321 is designed for students from the Department of Chemistry, Earth System Science, Geology, Geography, Planetary Sciences and School of Environment. The purpose of this course is to teach students about the interactions between water and minerals in a quantitative method

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

The motion carried.

2. Computer Science
COMP 604 Graduate School Fundamentals
3 credits

AC-21-83

Associate Dean Hundemer described a new course (COMP 604) a collection of tools for graduate students such as what research in Computer Science is, how to work effectively

in a research group, work/life integration, effective communication of research work, and ethical considerations and academic integrity standards. Associate Dean Hundemer noted that this course should not meant to be a replacement for professional development courses but rather to compliment them.

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

The motion carried.

3. Mathematics and Statistics
MATH 518 Introduction to Algebra Geometry **AC-21-87**
3 credits

Associate Dean Hundemer described MATH 518 as one of the core branches of modern mathematics. The topic is covered within other courses and this course will now specialize in algebraic geometry.

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

The motion carried.

Section II. Course Revisions

1. Computer Science
COMP 551 Applied Machine Learning **AC-21-84**
4 credits

The proposed changes to COMP 551 is the indication that students having taken Engineering course (ECSE 551) can no longer take COMP 551 as they contain similar course content.

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

The motion carried.

Changes in prerequisites, corequisite

Section III. Program Revisions

1. Probability and Statistics
- Honors Program **AC-21-85**

Associate Dean Hundemer said to accommodate students in the completion of this challenging program, new complimentary courses are added that students can choose from.

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

The motion carried.

2. Physics
- B.Sc. Major in Physics **AC-21-92**

Associate Dean Hundemer said the change was to allow for students to take a year long research course taught by one professor as opposed to two separate 3-credit research

courses taught by two different professors.

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

The motion carried.

- Bachelor of Arts and Science

AC-21-93

Associate Dean Hundemer described the program as a joint enterprise between the faculties of Science and Arts and that it was designed to accommodate students' interest in the Multi track system of acquiring a degree in both disciplines.

Associate Dean Hundemer noted that a cornerstone course in the degree has been added called Basket Tool One. The course that was once required by all students in this degree, is now only required for students who do the Multi Track.

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

The motion carried.

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

5) NEW MODELS OF ACADEMIC PROGRAM DELIVERY (NewMAD)

Professor Western described NewMAD as a new model of teaching and learning as the university moves forward into new modes of delivery. Professor Western described the program being the consultation process and is in the process of compiling ideas and feedback from all faculty members to be included in the recommendation to be presented to the provost in the fall.

Professor Western said that she will be reaching out to the departments to solicit feedback on the topic.

A general discussion took place where members of the council expressed the importance of taking the opportunity to build the emerging changes and lessons learned in terms of the way people work as well as making the best out of the student experience at McGill.

Dean Lennox thanked Professor Western as well as Linan Chen, and Dr. Laura Pavelka.

6) DEAN'S BUSINESS

a) Announcements – Nothing to report

Dean Lennox reminded everyone to register for convocation on May 27, 2022 as well as for the postponed convocation ceremony on June 13, 2022. The dean's office will circulate the registration information to the chairs.

7) SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE SOCIETY (SUS) REPORT

Miss Joy Zhang, Incoming SUS President, gave the following SUS report.

As the semester continues to wind down, there were a couple of events in the past month to report on.

SUS hosted SUSANs, an annual awards night held on 5 April 2022 with a dinner/awards show.

The SUS hosted the Grad Ball held on 7 April 2022 as well as the SUS Spring Gala held on 2 April 2022.

Miss Zhang presented herself as the incoming SUS President and noted that the new executive team was finalized. Miss Zhang will be appointing the new executive administrator by the end of the week.

Dean Lennox thanked Joy and the SUS team.

8) **SCIENCE EQUITY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE**

Associate Dean Nilson reported on the terms of reference drafted by the Science Equity and Climate committee. The committee was launched in December of 2018 up to the committee having worked under a general statement of its mission and mandates. The terms of reference have been presented to the departmental chairs at the last Chairs monthly meeting on 4 May 2022. The terms of reference will be presented at the next Faculty Council meeting on 24 May 2022 for approval.

The document describes the committee's commitment to support excellence with the Faculty of Science by developing programs and policies that strive to foster climate for working and learning in which all students, faculty, and academic and administrative staff feel included and capable of success. It includes both direct measures that support equity, diversity, and inclusion but also complimentary approaches that are aimed at improving the working and learning climate for the entire community.

Communication being an important part of the process, the document outlines strategies for information transfer contribution, collating and disseminating data and literature.

Associate Dean Nilson reported on the departmental EDI committees that have been formed across the faculty. The formation of the committees must work in alignment with the overall working and learning climate in the faculty as well as compliment but not contradict other initiatives and policies set forth by the University. Committees should report to the department once per semester and submit annual report to Chair or Director.

Dean Lennox thanked Associate Dean Nilson.

9) **THE NEW VIC PROJECT UPDATE**

Dean Lennox reported on the current status and stages of the New Vic Project noting that at the last Board of Governor's meeting it was approved for submission naming it the last internal hurdle.

The project is now estimated at 870 million dollars with a total funding from the beginning of the project to the end of 620 million dollars from the government of Quebec. The project is now proceeding with the submission and should anticipate the announcement of the acceptance of it by 15 June 2022.

Buildings are currently being dismantled with the consideration of Quebec law on 70% of all materials requiring to be of recoverable recycled materials.

On the 18th of May the team will be presenting the project to members of the federal cabinet and members of parliament. Mark Miller, (member of cabinet) has agreed to champion for the New Vic project in the federal government.

Dean Lennox said that he will present the images of the project to faculty council at the

next meeting on the 24 May 2022.

10) **REPORTS OF ASSOCIATE DEANS**

- a) Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer

There was no report for the current meeting.

- b) Associate Dean (Student Affairs) Anthony Mittermaier

Submission of deferred exam for instructors with in-person exams

Associate Dean Mittermaier reminded members that the deadline to submit deferral exams to the exam's office for courses with in-person exams is **29 April 2022**. He mentions that the reason for this is that graduating students could defer if they wish.

Final date to submit final grades and winter 2022 courses

Associate Dean Mittermaier reminded members that the deadline to submit final grades and winter 2022 courses was **9 May 2022**.

A member of the council raised the concern that in some cases course coordinators or instructors are aware of everyone who is graduating have written the exam but have not submitted the grades. The member follows up by asking if there is a way to communicate this to Associate Dean Mittermaier to which he responds with stating that deferred exams are not being written as long as graduating students have all written the exam.

Dean Lennox adds that there was an inquiry through the provost regarding use of the postponed convocation for graduate students in cases where there were delays however, it is confirmed that this would not be possible.

- c) Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson

There was no report for the current meeting.

- d) Associate Dean (Research) John Stix

Associate Dean Stix said that the CFI proposals for the June 2022 submission deadline are on track. He praised Eduardo Ganem Cuenca and Preeti Purba-Singh for their thorough work in preparing the proposals.

Preparation for CFR 12 is in progress and everyone is encouraged to reach out to Associate Dean Stix and the team.

11) **REPORTS ON ACTIONS OF SENATE**

Senator Martin Robillard: Senate Meeting, 23 March 2022

The meeting opened with the Chair highlighting that congress convocation will be in-person. The Chair continued by updating the Senators about the 2022-2023 budget. Direct funding to universities will increase by 5.2% reaching 3.7 billion for 2023 and for McGill in particular, the government is allocating an additional 520.4 million for the New Vic Project. Senate approved revisions to the guidelines for service portfolios and policy for the ethical conduct of research involving human participants.

Senate approved the graduate certificate in biomedical science translational research

and graduate certificate in foundations in health sciences, education and approved the creation of a new lifetime achievement award for excellence in academic leadership. Senate approved 10 appointments to committees, none of which involved members of the Faculty of Science.

The Provost provided an update on the McGill budget planning and confirmed McGill's scenario for the indexation of the Quebec based tuition rates. Rates will be indexed at the lowest indexation seen in the past 5 years (2.7%). The report of the adhoc committee on colleague covert academic planning and policies consisted of a summary on NewMAD.

Lastly, the annual report from GPS highlighted that McGill has the highest proportion of PhD students in the EU 15 (11.7%).

Senator Brigitte Vachon: Senate Meeting, 19 April 2022

The principal presented the memorial tributes for faculty members of Desautels, Faculty of Management, Faculty of Arts, and Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. Principal Fortier also commented on the convocation ceremonies approaching and the celebrations to be had following these. The budget was once again presented and it was noted that a project prevention budget table will be ready in March, highlighting the importance of allocation of conventional money and support for the New Vic Project. Lastly, the principal remarked on the new Quebec proposed bill 96, regarding academic freedom for which universities will make their cases known to the government.

A report of the Academic Public Policy Committee (APC) was presented. The following senate approvals were made:

- New Faculty Program in Population and Global Health
- New certificate in Stem Foundations in the School of Continuing Studies, Faculty of Arts
- Creation of the McGill Institute of General Genomic Medicine, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
- Creation of the Center for Business Ethics, Desautels, Faculty of Management
- Senate approval of a shortlist of nominations put forth by the Senate nominating committee

Provost Manfredi presented highlights from the McGill University Budget 2022-2023. Presenting three scenarios of assumptions for the revenue sources and expenses being developed including a 20 million dollar contingency for the fiscal year 2023 budget within an anticipated unrestricted funding deficit of 9.4 million dollars was presented to the Board of Governors for approval on the 21 April 2022. In the new budget effective Fall 2022, McGill will adopt a tuition guarantee model for deregulated bachelor degree students. This means that students will pay the same tuition rate for the duration of their degree.

The provost presented the annual McGill University staffing report with information retrieved from Workday.

- Number of tenure stream professors has increased by 2% since 2018 and women now represent approximately 47% of assistant professors and 27% of full professors
- Within the report is the inclusion of institutional turnover data specific to administrative and support staff. The data shows the university to be aligned with the broader labour market in this regard

Deputy Provost Lebeau provided an update of the revisions to the policy on the assessment of student learning. The goal is to gain approval by the end of the academic year with full implementation at the start of Fall 2024 academic term. This is to ensure adequate time for awareness and also education about the new policy. The draft of the

revised policy will be put forth for senate approval.

VP Research and Innovation Martha Crago presented the annual report on research and innovation for 2020. Overall, McGill compares favorably to comparable universities noting McGill's share of NSERC funding relative to all universities is relatively small than expected. This is proportional to the share of its faculty count indicating that McGill was perhaps not using all available funding programs as well as it could. McGill recently signed the Declaration on Research Assessment and as a result, new types of metrics will be looked at as of next year.

Principal Fortier referred to the Fall 2022 joint board senate meeting noting that the focus of this joint meeting was to be on the learning experience and opportunities at the local, national, and international levels.

12) **MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no members' questions submitted to Demi Mintzas (secdean.science@mcgill.ca) for the current meeting.

13) **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business to report.

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

The motion carried.