

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
MEETING OF FACULTY
Thursday, 27 May 2021 at 3:00 p.m.**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book

DOCUMENTS: S-20-26 to S-20-35

Dean Lennox called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., and welcomed members to the last Faculty of Science meeting of the 2020-2021 academic year

1. Adoption of Agenda

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

The motion carried.

2. Resolution on the Death of Professor James M. Fresco from the Department of Chemistry

Professor Dima Perepichka, Chair of the Department of Chemistry, read the following Resolution on the Death of Professor James M. Fresco:

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of Dr. James M. Fresco, a former Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry, McGill University, on Sunday, May 23, 2021, just a few months short of his 95th birthday.

Jim Fresco was born in Yonkers, New York, as the eldest son of John and Lucy Fresco, and the brother of John Fresco. He obtained his B.A. at New York University (1949), his M.Sc. at Brooklyn Polytechnic University (1956) under the supervision of the Nobel Laureate Prof. Rudy Marcus, and his Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry at the University of Arizona (1961). During the World War II, he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1944, serving two years as a Sergeant in France and Austria. One of his tasks, while in the South of France, was to tell the German prisoners of war in a camp there that the war was finally over! From 1949 to 1955, he worked for the US Atomic Energy Commission on the analysis of radioactive materials. Before joining McGill in 1965, he taught Analytical Chemistry at the University of Nevada (1962-64) and Texas Tech University (1964-65). While at McGill, he served as an Associate Chair of the Department from 1984 until his retirement in 1992. He taught a great many undergraduate students in General Chemistry, Analytical Chemistry and Instrumental Analysis as well as graduate students in spectroscopic methods and other topics. Prof. Fresco also was an active researcher in Analytical Chemistry, publishing 40 scientific papers and supervising 8 M.Sc. and Ph.D. theses at McGill in infrared spectroscopy, electroanalytical chemistry, and solution thermodynamics and kinetics.

After his retirement, Jim loved travelling with friends, especially the late Prof. Mario Onyszchuk, and enjoyed many outdoor activities including skiing, hiking, and wind surfing. He was a keen historian and an exceptionally good card player. He was a founding member of the Department of Chemistry Poker Club, which has been gathering regularly in the Faculty Club for over 40 years.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Jim's relatives in the US. He will also be sorely missed by his colleagues at McGill and many scientific friends throughout the world.

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

On behalf of the Faculty of Science, Dean Lennox expressed condolences to the family of Prof. Fresco. He added that Prof. Fresco was the chief advisor for many years and made a huge impact on so many undergraduate students in the Department of Chemistry. He was a gentle man but, at the same time, a determined person, and a great colleague.

3. Leo Yaffe Teaching Award

Dean Lennox introduced Prof. Edith Zorychta, Chair, Leo Yaffe Award/Principal's Prizes Committee.

Prof. Zorychta began by saying that the difficult job of making these kinds of decisions was made by eight faculty members and two student members on the Committee. She thanked Faye Hughes and Josie D'Amico for their diligence in organizing the workings of the Committee.

Prof. Edith Zorychta said that 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. She announced that the winner of the 2021 Leo Yaffe Teaching Award was **Professor Rustum Choksi** in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Rustum teaches challenging courses designed for students in mathematics, engineering or physics, and they consistently rate him as one of McGill's best professors. Students emphasize that he conveys the beauty of mathematics in a way they had never realized before, and how much they have enjoyed and valued this discovery.

Prof. Zorychta read the following citation:

The following collage of comments illustrates in students' own words why Professor Choksi's teaching is so special: "This is the most enlightening course I have taken in my life; he is simply a perfect teacher and made us learn way more than the content of the class, he made us view mathematics differently. He taught us to look at the world around us and express it mathematically so as to extract useful information from it. He has a very strong vision for what he wants his students to learn and understand, and during lectures his passion for the subject is contagious. Sequences and compactness and continuity were no longer only symbolic definitions but rather living, breathing, ideas that we can see and visualize and understand in a practical way. This is a very progressive way of teaching math, he stressed the necessity of a problem-solving mindset and emphasized the logic behind math: the focus is on comprehension rather than computation which is better done by a computer." And lastly " He makes me excited to wake up far earlier than I'd like to, in order to come to class."

Students also derived great benefit from Professor Choksi's detailed notes for each lecture, and from his recently completed textbook, *Partial Differential Equations: A First Course*, which is now being used at other universities in addition to McGill. In comments they said: "His notes are magical; they are so well written. He wrote the most detailed and complete textbook that I've ever seen. Reading it feels as if he was right next to you, explaining the concepts....by far the best text I have ever read, for any subject, providing clear, intuitive explanations and proofs of the material. Not only was I able to actually understand what you were saying, but I thoroughly enjoyed reading it. I also love that it provides a clear sense of appreciation for the poetic beauty of the material itself."

Professor Choksi's door is always open to anyone needing help or advice, and he has encouraged and mentored an impressive number of undergraduate students to do research projects, with notable success leading to multiple publications. Many of these students have developed a lasting love for mathematics and are now doing graduate studies. In summary, Rustum Choksi is an outstanding educator who communicates the

beauty and relevance of mathematics to students from all backgrounds, and it is a pleasure to announce him as the 2021 recipient of the Leo Yaffe Award.

Prof. Choksi thanked the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, and the Committee. He said that he was just overwhelmed by the quality of the undergraduates, and that McGill was extraordinarily lucky to have such high-quality students.

Dean Lennox thanked Prof. Zorychta for the wonderful citation, and he thanked Prof. Zorychta and the Committee members for their diligent work in perusing the nominations.

4. Faculty of Science Excellence Awards

Dean Lennox introduced the Chair of the Faculty of Science Excellence Awards Committee, Prof. Masad Damha from the Department of Chemistry.

Prof. Masad Damha said that these awards recognize outstanding performance and contributions made by members of the Faculty's administrative and support staff classified in four categories: Academic Associate, Clerical, Management and Technical. The committee received nominations for three of these categories.

Award Committee: Prof. Masad Damha (Chair), Liette Chin (Computer Science), Rosario Commodari (Chemistry), Martin Duval (Gault Nature Reserve), Nancy Nelson (Biology), Robert Turner (Physics), and Joseph Vacirca (Geography).

Prof. Damha thanked the members of the Committee for their contributions, and thanked Faye Hughes and Josie D'Amico for their involvement with the Committee.

“AA” Category Recipient (Academic Associate)

This current year's winner in the inaugural Academic Associate category is **Jean Marc Gauthier**, Director of Undergraduate Teaching Laboratories & Building Director in the Department of Chemistry.

Prof. Masad read the following citations:

Jean-Marc has been with the Department of Chemistry for almost 21 years. He began his McGill career in 2000 as a General Chemistry (CHEM110/120) Lab Coordinator. He became the Director of Undergraduate Teaching Labs in 2012, overseeing and contributing to delivery of 12 undergraduate lab courses. In 2013, after the retirement of Normand Trempe, Jean-Marc took on the additional major responsibility as our Building Director.

Jean-Marc is valued by his students, faculty and staff for his passionate dedication, fine-tuned logistics, consummate professionalism, extraordinary enthusiasm, and dedication to our university and the community.

The nomination letters emphasized that Jean-Marc is largely responsible for the revitalization of undergraduate teaching (both academic program and lab infrastructure). He has contributed to several innovation/renovation projects including the org chem, integrated and general chemistry teaching labs, as well as the Green Chemistry renovation in Pulp and Paper. Prof. Perepichka and 4 former Chairs can all attest that under JM's watch the Chemistry undergraduate labs have become the McGill showcase to the Government and an example to other Universities in Canada and US (several of whom visited our labs while planning their own renovations).

Others noted that “Jean-Marc has always worked tirelessly for the benefit of the department, but never more so than this year. He was instrumental in setting up

protocols to ensure a safe working environment for all staff and students in the Department of Chemistry to allow academic research to continue. He led the transition of our undergraduate chemistry lab to virtual labs operation, e.g., inventing online activities.... and introducing remote control of the physical lab instruments.”

His colleagues also noted that Jean-Marc does so much for our Department, the Faculty, and the University, and most importantly, he does it with a smile.

Our faculty and staff, as well as the selection committee for this award, consider extremely fortunate to count Jean-Marc among our colleagues and agree that he is absolutely deserving of this inaugural Faculty of Science Excellence Award in the Academic Associate category.

Mr. Gauthier said he was truly honoured and thanked the Department of Chemistry and the Committee. He said he was very fortunate to work with many remarkable people and that he could not do it without the support of his dedicated colleagues.

“C” Category Recipient (Clerical)

The current year’s winner in the Clerical category is **Susan Gabe**, Undergraduate Student Affairs Coordinator in the Department of Biology.

Susan began working at McGill in 1975 as Chief Technician in the Redpath Museum. And in 1999, Susan joined the Biology Department where she is currently Undergraduate Administrative Student Affairs Coordinator. She carries with her a rich history of the department, the staff, the professors, the courses, and the various changes that have occurred during her work at McGill.

Faculty praise Susan’s professionalism, and collegiality, and describe her as “reliable”, “extremely knowledgeable”, “passionate”, “dedicated”, “a problem solver”, “someone who encourages open dialogue”. They also noted:

“Susan works in the Undergraduate Advising office, a very fast-paced environment in which everything is time critical. She is in constant communication with students and faculty for course approvals, student advising, liaising, coordinating, and hiring approximately 150 TAs every term. “

“Susan does all of this with patience, diligence, good humor, friendliness, and satisfaction because she cares”.

“She sets a high standard by starting early in the morning, by staying in good physical and mental shape, and treating everyone kindly and fairly”.

“Seen with her bicycle whenever Montreal's weather allows it, Susan is conscientious and practical when it comes to sustainable practices.”

“Everyone in the department depends heavily on Susan's expertise and abilities and contribution to the department's ability to deliver on its education mission and she does it with patience and a smile on her face.”

Therefore, it is a pleasure to announce Susan Gabe as a recipient of the 2021 Faculty Science Excellence Award.

Ms. Gabe said it was an absolute pleasure to work with the staff and the professors in the Department of Biology and that winning the award meant a great deal to her because she enjoys her work immensely.

“M” Class Recipient (Management)

The 2021 winner in the Management category is **Ingrid Birker**, Coordinator of Public Programming in the Redpath Museum.

Ingrid started with the Redpath Museum in 1981, where she held the official position of Curator of Invertebrate and Plant Fossils. She was promoted to Public Programme and Science Outreach Administrator in 2005 and in 2019 became the Redpath Museum Public program and Education Coordinator. She has developed a variety of programs including Freaky Friday, Mini-Science, STARS, and the Sunday Family Discovery Workshop series, etc.

Ingrid’s ability to bring natural science alive for non-scientist McGillians is renowned. This is best illustrated by the feedback the Redpath Museum has received from both the public and her colleagues. Here are some sample comments:

‘Ingrid is a powerhouse!’

“Ingrid is naturally a ‘people’s person’ totally committed to sharing natural history with the public. She personally interacts with more than 1,000 people per day in the Redpath Museum and has taken her natural history courses to daycares, schools, afterschool libraries and to young adults under supervisory care.”

“Ingrid’s efforts in the organization of the various Museum events for children popularizing science have been a huge success with the grandchildren of our family.”
‘Her workshops are the best in town!'; ‘The whole family participates...crafts make us remember what we learned.’; ‘I never realized that cephalopods could be so interesting and important.’

“Undeterred by COVID-19 restrictions, Ingrid has enthusiastically embraced the virtual world and now runs a host of interactive programs online.”

“The most telling demonstration of Ingrid’s community spirit is that of the 47 McGill Science students she hired and worked with in the Sunday Discovery Program she has inspired about a third of them to pursue careers as science educators or communicators.”

Ms. Birker thanked the Committee and the amazing support and encouragement she has received over the years at the Redpath Museum and with the public. She said it was an honour and privilege to receive the award and to work at McGill.

Dean Lennox congratulated all three winners for their accomplishments. Each recipient will be receiving a monetary in recognition of their award.

Dean Lennox thanked Prof. Damha and the members of the Committee for their important and valuable work. Dean Lennox thanked Prof. Hurtubise and the members of the Committee for their valuable work. The Faculty has long understood that staff members play important roles in contributing to the success of faculty members and students, and it is really important to validate their contributions.

Secretary’s Note: In light of the COVID-19 situation, the framed certificates will be awarded at a later date.

5. Minutes of 13 April 2021

[S-20-26](#)

Mr. Bhutkar **moved**, seconded by Prof. Forest, 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-20-31

Associate Dean Hundemer, Chair, Science Scholarships Committee, gave the following report from the Scholarships Committee:

(i) The Scholarships Report, Document S-20-31, included Faculty and departmental awards and medals. For the 2020-2021 academic year, the CGPA cut-off for Faculty awards was 4.00 versus 3.99 for the previous year. The departmental awards are selected by the relevant department.

(ii) The Governor General's Silver Medal has been awarded to **Benjamin Rudski, 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 at McGill. There are only two medals given each year for the entire university.

(iii) The Moyses Travelling Scholarship has been awarded to **Katherine Savard, Major Program in Physics**. The Selection Committee invited four candidates to an interview. Two Moyses 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. Ms. Savard will be pursuing her studies at the Cambridge Institute of Astronomy, UK.

Associate Dean Hundemer congratulated the winners of the Governor General's Silver Medal and the Moyses Travelling Scholarship and all the scholarship recipients.

b) Academic Committee

S-20-32

Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer described the following proposals that were reviewed and approved at the Academic Committee meeting on 27 April 2021.

1. Biology

BIOL 342

Global Change Biology of Aquatic Ecosystems

AC-20-77

Changes: Course Title, Course Description, Restrictions

3 credits

The proposed changes in title and description better reflect the course's content and could increase enrolment.

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

The motion carried.

2. Earth & Planetary Sciences

EPSC 240

Geology in the Field

AC-20-78

Changes: Corequisites, Restrictions, Supplementary

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

The motion carried.

BIOC 458	Membranes and Cellular Signaling Changes in Restrictions 3 credits	AC-20-85
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BIOC 456 was removed from the list of restrictions because the course no longer exists.

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

The motion carried.

BIOC 470	Lipids and Lipoproteins in Disease Changes in Restrictions	AC-20-86
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BIOC 570 was removed from the list of restrictions since the course no longer exists.

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

The motion carried.

BIOC 503	Biochemistry of Immune Diseases Changes: Title, Description 3 credits	AC-20-87
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The changes in title and description were updated to bring them in line with the current course objectives and content.

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

The motion carried.

4. Microbiology & Immunology - Course Retirement

MIMM 503	Honours Research Project in Immunology 1 Course Retirement 3 credits	AC-20-88
MIMM 504	Honours Research Project in Immunology 2 Course Retirement 6 credits	AC-20-89
MIMM 505	Honours Research Project in Molecular Microbiology 1 Course Retirement 3 credits	AC-20-90
MIMM 506	Honours Research Project in Molecular Microbiology 2 Course Retirement 6 credits	AC-20-91

Due to the university closure caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and remote learning, four new provisional Honours research courses were introduced for Fall 2020, Winter

2021. The purpose of the new courses was to reduce the number of contact hours in the laboratories and temporarily replace two 12-credit courses, MIMM 501D1/D2 and MIMM 502D1/D2. For 2021-2022, the Department is reinstating the original courses, MIMM 501D1/D2 and MIMM 502D1/D2, and retiring the above courses.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Mr. Bhutkar, that the above changes be approved.

The motion carried.

Program Revisions:

- Honours Program in Microbiology & Immunology

AC-20-92

As a result of the above MIMM course retirements, the Honours Program in Microbiology & Immunology was updated, accordingly.

Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Mr. Bhutkar, that the program changes be approved.

The motion carried.

6. Physiology

Program Revisions:

- Liberal Program –Core Science Component in Physiology

AC-20-93

Two Required courses, both focusing on neuroscience, were moved to the Complementary lists offering students the option to choose one of the two neuroscience courses. The purpose of this is to avoid overemphasizing neuroscience topics and reducing the total program requirements by three credits (from 50 credits to 47).

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

The motion carried.

- Major in Physiology

AC-20-94

The revisions in the Major Program in Physiology were the same as the Liberal Program, above, reducing the program requirements from 65 credits to 62.

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

The motion carried.

7. Physics

Program Revisions:

- Honours in Physics

AC-20-96

The revisions in the Honours Program in Physics were to allow more flexibility. Removing a Required course to the Complementary list offers students a wider variety of 400- and 500-level courses in the final year of the degree. The overall number of program credits remains the same.

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

The motion carried.

8. Candidates for Degrees

a) Bachelor of Arts and Science

S-20-27

b) Bachelor of Science

S-20-28

Associate Dean Mittermaier said there were 89 students graduating with the B.A. & Sc. degree, and 814 students graduating with the B.Sc. degree. It was interesting to note that this was the second highest Spring cohort of B.Sc. graduands since 1998.

Honorifics cut-offs for the B.A. & Sc. and B.Sc. degrees were:

BSc:

Dean's Honours List (top 10%) \geq 3.95

Distinction (next 15%) \geq 3.85

BA&Sc:

Dean's Honours List (top 10%) \geq 3.93

Distinction (next 15%) \geq 3.85

Associate Dean Mittermaier **moved**, seconded by Mr. Bhutkar, that the above degree lists be recommended to the Senate Steering Committee for the Bachelor of Arts and Science degree, and for the Bachelor of Science degree.

The motion carried.

c) Diploma in Environment

S-20-29

d) Diploma in Meteorology

S-20-30

Associate Dean Mittermaier said that there were no students graduating with the Diplomas in Environment and Meteorology.

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

The motion carried.

9. Dean's Business

(i) Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List (DMURL) S-20-33

Associate Dean Mittermaier described the DMURL. He 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 on these courses. There were 65 B.Sc. students and 16 B.A. & Sc. students listed in Document S-20-33 who would be graduating with this honour. February and June graduates were also included in this document.

(ii) B.Sc. Global Designation

S-20-34

Associate Dean Mittermaier 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. There were 15 candidates who would graduate with the B.Sc. Global designation in Document S-20-34.

b) Announcements

(i) Dean Lennox said that 2020-2021 had been an exceptional year, and it was essential to reflect and acknowledge all that has been accomplished in the Faculty and at McGill. Despite the many challenges, the students responded incredibly well to online learning in the Faculty. With the recent public announcements, it appears that Fall 2021 will be more active than anticipated, but with some limitations. Led by Vice-Dean David Stephens, Associate Dean Axel Hundemer, Associate Dean Laura Nilson, and Associate Dean John Stix, the Faculty will be immersed in the planning of the Fall 2021 semester together with Faculty members and the SUS.

(ii) Regarding McGill's Bicentennial, a \$2-billion fundraising campaign, Dean Lennox said that the Faculty's fundraising goal was \$150 million, directed towards developing six thematic institutes and part of the Faculty's strategic plan. The first and existing institute was the McGill Space Institute, and the second institute will be the Office of Science Education (OSE), under the leadership of Director Marcy Slapcoff. Over the past year, the OSE has contributed immensely to instructors' online teaching, bringing in many innovations to the Faculty and students. Dean Lennox said that the third initiative will be led by Vice-Dean Stephens (Department of Mathematics and Statistics) who will give an overview on the Computational Data Systems Initiative.

(iii) Computational Data Systems Initiative

Vice-Dean Stephens said that the Computational Data Systems Initiative (CDSI) had resulted from some extensive consultations in the departments in the Faculty and relevant departments at McGill. The goal was to develop an institute ultimately, but it will be considered an initiative for now. The CDSI will serve as a hub for research collaboration training in the broad area of computational statistical quantitative methods. The focus is on the challenges of large-scale data analysis. The purpose of the CDSI is to support researchers with additional infrastructure; foster new collaborations, matching discipline-specific expertise with relevant computational and data analysis skills; coordinate academic activities (theme semesters, visiting researchers, seminar series); and offer support, advice, and training in computational and data analysis methods. The CDSI would be similar to research institutes in Canada and around the world. There is a strong presence of this research in the Faculty directly involved in computational and data-intensive research, with representation from almost all units. The CDSI will provide additional infrastructure to support this, with an emphasis on collaboration. Vice-Dean Stephens explained that the potential scientific themes were ecology and biodiversity; biomedicine; climate models and analysis; mathematics and modelling of planet earth; and demographic change and human activity. The CDSI will support a consulting unit in computation and data to support researchers across the Faculty. The document, prominently prepared by Maria Pastor, was not ready for dissemination at this time. A formal document will be brought to a future Faculty meeting for approval in Fall 2021. For any comments or more information, members could contact Vice-Dean Stephens at cdsi.science@mcgill.ca.

Dean Lennox thanked Vice-Dean Stephens and his colleagues for presenting a very important initiative unlike at McGill.

(iv) Kudos

- a) **Professor Chao-Jun Li** (Department of Chemistry) received the **2021 Humboldt Research Award by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation**

“Researchers from abroad, regardless of their discipline or nationality, are honoured for their outstanding research record, and are invited to conduct a research project of their own choice in Germany in close collaboration with fellow experts at a German research institution.”

- b) **Professor Vincent van Hinsberg** (Earth & Planetary Sciences) **was awarded the Geological Association of Canada's W. W. Hutchison Medal**

“For his major contributions to the geological sciences by using mineral chemistry and petrology to address issues ranging from the composition of subduction fluids to the nature of subduction during the Archean.”

Dean Lennox congratulated Prof. Li and Prof. van Hinsberg for their success and accomplishments.

- c) **Dr. Samuel Lewis Sewall**, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Chemistry, has won one of the **2021 Dean of Students Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Academic Advising**.

Mr. Peter Barry (Chief Academic Advisor; Science Office for Undergraduate Student Advising) announced that there were a total of 11 nominees: five advisors from the Faculty of Science and three from SOUSA. They were: Ryan Bouma, Vanessa Hansen, Paul Olioff, and Curtis Sharman.

Dean Lennox congratulated Dr. Seawall and the four nominees for their achievements.

For more in-depth information about the above awards, visit [Kudos](#)

10. **Science Undergraduate Society (SUS) Report**

Mr. Rohan Bhutkar, the new President of SUS for 2021-2022, gave the following report.

Overall, the new executive team has made a successful transition and is beginning to work on projects for the upcoming year. The planning process for Fall 2021 was ongoing and looking forward to the year to come.

Regarding the communications portfolio, work has begun on the students' handbook. While the handbook has been targeted towards first-year students in previous iterations, it will now be geared towards all students. This decision was made as quite a few students are still unfamiliar with campus life, and that information will be important in this year's tentative transition. Another major change will be moving the handbook to a partially online format for increased accessibility, although printed copies will be available for students.

The internal portfolio has been very active both in terms of planning and the execution of activities. A confirmation has not yet been received from the McGill administration on the format of Frosh, but SUS has been creating plans for hybrid Frosh while avoiding making any bookings for in-person activities. Leader and Staff hiring was completed, although applications may have to be re-open in the summer. The Frosh team has started reaching out to sponsors for monetary and in-kind donations - no signed contracts yet, but people are interested. In addition to the Science finances, the SUS will also be handling PTOTs Frosh finances to avoid SSMU involvement with Frosh. This year's theme has been chosen and was awaiting equity approval, and once approved, the merchandise will be ordered. The coordinating team will be attending an all-faculty training / virtual retreat during the weekend. The V-P (Internal) from last year has also

been hosting a virtual graduation ball. The event was a series of competitions with a variety of prizes up for grabs.

Regarding academically associated activities, partnership with OSE and TLS has begun in coordinating professors who did an exceptional job or utilized a novel technique during 2020-2021. The SUS will hold a workshop/Q&A style presentation for professors interested in these methods. Additionally, the SUS has begun planning for the annual graduate fair but will need confirmation from the university regarding the room capacity or whether the graduate fair will be held online.

Lastly, the executives have completed the recruitment and hiring for their committees.

Dean Lennox thanked Mr. Bhutkar for the report and for the work of the SUS.

11. Science Equity and Climate Committee

Associate Dean Laura Nilson reported on the recently revised and Senate-approved version of McGill's policy on Harassment and Discrimination. As a reminder, it was important for everyone, particularly those in academic and administrative authority positions, to be aware that such a policy exists and its content and procedures. The policy revisions were developed by a working group that met bi-weekly from June to August 2020, after extensive consultation with groups representing faculty and staff associations and unions and student associations. The policy was reviewed and then endorsed by the MAUT. Some of the more substantive changes to the policy were the following:

- (i) Creation of a new office (Office for Mediation and Reporting) to oversee mediation and investigations of reports of harassment and/or discrimination. Reports could be filed either under the Policy on Harassment and Discrimination or the Policy Against Sexual Violence.
- (ii) Appointment of designated assessors who are employees or on contract with McGill to carry out investigations and who holds the necessary expertise to conduct these investigations.
- (iii) Extended scope of the policy will be extended to include confidential and or third-party reports.
- (iv) Extension of the time delay from 12 to 24 months for filing a report.
- (v) Permission for graduated students to file a report within that timeframe.
- (vi) Extended definition of "Report" and "Reporter" to allow persons within research institutes and hospital to file reports under the present policy.

Associate Dean Nilson said that the entire revised policy has been posted here <https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/archives/senate-documents-2020-2021/may-12-2021>

12. Provost's Action Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism

Associate Dean Laura Nilson reported that McGill has appointed, beginning 1 July 2021, Prof. Terri Givens as the Provost Academic Lead and Advisor on the McGill's Action to Address Anti-Black Racism (AP-ABR). One of her roles will be to mentor the junior professors that will be hired under the AP-ABR, a valuable resource, especially at the outset of the hiring process. Prof. Givens' mentorship will complement the mentorship available more broadly through the newly developed Provostial Mentorship Network and mentorship provided by the Dr. Kenneth Melville McGill Black Faculty Caucus. New support is available for both the new hires planned under the AP-ABR and as an academic lead and advisor in general.

13. The New Vic Project Update

Dean Lennox gave a brief presentation on the New Vic Project. He said that significant progress had been made, and the design development was 30% completed. A 2000-page report of text, images, and floor plans is now complete for the design. The new site will have a new entrance, huge meeting spaces, access to the mountain, occupants and the public will have access to the green roof, two very large atria bringing a great deal of natural light. The forecourt will be a space that does not exist at McGill, and it will be adaptable for public meetings and casual use. There is a big emphasis on the project of having casual space. There are four different types of lab spaces designated for student research space, although the principle of the building is shared space. There will be 3000 undergraduates, 800 graduate students, 150 professors, plus 200 staff members, on any given day. Dean Lennox said he hoped to report on the progress of the next phase in Fall 2021.

14. Reports of Director & Associate Deans

- a) Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer
- b) Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson

There were no reports for the current meeting.

- c) Associate Dean (Research) John Stix

Associate Dean Stix gave an update on the CFI competition. The CFI-11 competition will be running throughout summer 2021. He remarked that many exciting proposals had been submitted, ideas and expressions of intent, from Faculty members. Associate Dean Stix said he would be informing Faculty about the next major research funding opportunities that will be launched later this year: the Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC).

- d) Associate Dean (Student Affairs) Anthony Mittermaier

Associate Dean Mittermaier announced that due to COVID-19, student exchanges and study abroad for undergraduates and graduates were cancelled for summer 2021 and Fall 2021. For any questions, members could contact him directly.

15. Reports on Actions of Senate

a) Senate Meeting of 20 April 2021- Senator Sébastien Breau

The Senate meeting began with memorial tributes for Dr. James McNutt (School of Communication Sciences) and Prof. Baldev Raj Nayar (Political Science). Senators Riddle-Merritte and Daryanani also paid tribute and dedicated a minute of silence to those lost to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Principal Fortier opened her remarks with an update on the pandemic situation in Quebec and how the latest public health measures may impact campus activities and planning for the fall semester. On the government relations front, the Principal summarized key features from the latest (i) federal budget (continued support for tri-council research and new investments in student support programs) and (ii) provincial budget (5.5% increase in post-secondary education funding, new student support initiatives and \$4.4 billion in new infrastructure investments over the next 10 years). In terms of external relations, Principal Fortier noted the announcement of the inaugural McCall-McBain cohort of students as well as the March 31st bicentennial launch which was well attended. FACSCI members receiving kudos included Prof. Jennifer Sunday (Biology), the McGill Chemistry Outreach Group and Auriane Canesse (PhD student in Physics).

Senator Manfredi provided an overview of the University's budget (which will be presented to the Board of Governor's for approval on April 22nd). For the 2020-21 fiscal year, the latest forecast is for a \$6.3 million deficit (or half of the earlier projected deficit of \$13 million). This figure includes the announced return of merit/performance-based salary increases deferred in 2020. Looking ahead, the 2021-22 budget projects a \$9.8 million deficit. There is still much uncertainty built into the budget because of the pandemic, but the projected deficit is primarily driven by an anticipated decrease of 1.9% in total FTEs (as the base case scenario for enrolment assumptions). Senator Manfredi also presented the latest reports from the Academic Policy Committee and Senate Nominating Committee, both of which were approved by Senate.

Senator Campbell presented (for information and discussion) a series of proposed revisions to the Policy on Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law (which will be submitted for Senate's approval in May 2021). Senators Beech, Winer and Zabowski also presented (for information and discussion) proposed revisions to the University Student Assessment Policy. These are substantive revisions that will require an extensive consultation across the McGill community before returning for Senate's approval in 2022.

Senators Crago and Labeau presented highlights from the annual reports on Research and Innovation and Scholarships and Student Aid, respectively.

Principal Fortier closed the meeting by announcing the topic ("The Execution of McGill's Mission in a Post-Pandemic World") for the next year's Joint Board of Governors and Senate Steering Committee.

b) Senate Meeting of 12 May 2021 – Report Prepared by Senator Sébastien Breau on behalf of Senator Tracy Webb:

The last Senate meeting began with a memorial tribute for Professor Emeritus Harry Goldsmith who was trained as a chemist at McGill before moving to the Department of Experimental Medicine.

Prof. Sarah Woolley (Department of Biology) and her collaborators have earned a prestigious Program Grant by the Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP).

Prof. Chao-Jun Li (Department of Chemistry) has been elected the recipient of a Humboldt Research Award.

The Canadian Astronomical Society and the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada awarded the 2021 J.S Plaskett Medal to Ziggy Pleunis for the best doctoral thesis in astrophysics in Canada.

Senate endorsed the formal recognition and promotion of October as Queer History Month by McGill University and support the University's plans to provide resources for the annual celebration of Queer History Month.

Senate formally approved the M.A. & Sc.; Non-Thesis (45 cr.), which is the first at McGill. Also, a new certificate for social services offered to McGill students in Nunavut was approved.

Senate approved the Nominating Committee Report and the revised Policy on Harassment and Discrimination.

Ms. Gillian Nycum, Registrar and Executive Director, Enrolment Services, presented the Student Demographic Data Survey Preliminary Results. There was quite a lot of rich

data in terms of McGill's student population in terms of gender, sexual orientation, ethnic identity, persons with disabilities.

Senator Campbell presented the Biennial Report on Employment Equity, and Professor Dan Bernard presented the annual report on staff grievances and disciplinary measure measures, basically, who was one report filed in 2020.

The Secretary General provided a short report from the Board of Governors. The meeting closed with a confidential Report on Honorary Degrees and Convocations.

16. **Results of Science Election for Senate**

[S-20-35](#)

Dean Lennox announced the new Science Senators. He said the terms would begin 1 September 2021, and would end on 31 August 2024.

- Prof. Mathieu Blanchette (Computer Science)
- Prof. Melanie Dirks (Psychology)
- Prof. Brigitte Vachon (Physics)

Continuing representatives on Senate, and the number of years they have yet to serve are:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| • Prof. Sébastien Breau (Geography) | - two years |
| • Prof. Jacques Hurtubise (Mathematics & Statistics) | - one year |
| • Prof. Jeffrey McKenzie (Earth & Planetary Sciences) | - two years |
| • Prof. Laura Nilson (Biology) | - one year |
| • Prof. Dima Perepichka (Chemistry) | - two years |
| • Prof. Martin Robillard (Computer Science) | - two years |

Dean Lennox congratulated the new Senators, and thanked the continuing Senators for their service. Members should feel free to contact any of the Senators if there are issues that may be very important.

17. **Members' Question Period**

There were no members' questions.

18. **Other Business**

Dean Lennox said that it was essential also to reflect and acknowledge the leadership and the support from both the provincial and federal governments over the last 15 months. The support has been truly extraordinary in programs, research supplements, family members, etc. It allowed McGill to continue to create knowledge and teach students. The fact that there has been a budget increase is incredible, and that in other provinces across the country, has been a different situation. Dean Lennox also announced that there would be weekly Town Halls on most Fridays during summer 2021 to update Faculty members on the latest status from McGill and the governments.

Dean Lennox thanked everyone for joining the meeting and wished everyone a happy summer!

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.