

FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
4 June 2020 at 3:00 p.m.
Held Via Zoom

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book

DOCUMENTS: S-19-27 to S-19-36

Dean Lennox called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., and welcomed members to the last Faculty of Science meeting of the 2019-2020 academic year.

1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The motion carried.

2) McCALL MacBAIN FOUNDATION

Natasha Sawh, Director, Grants and Fellowships, gave an overview of the McCall MacBain Scholarships - leadership-driven scholarships for students seeking admission to a master's program for fall 2021. The McCall MacBain Scholarships are designed for academically strong students who can make a difference in the world. Applications for scholarships will be available as of 15 June 2020. Director Sawh encouraged members to reach out to prospective master's students, as well as colleagues at other universities. More details about the scholarships are described [here](#)

Dean Bruce thanked Director Sawh for attending the current meeting and for describing the McCall MacBain Scholarships. Members are encouraged to contact Director Sawh (natasha@mccallmacbainscholars.org) for additional information.

3) RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF ARTHUR SAUL PERLIN, EMERITUS PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

Professor Dima Perepichka, Chair of the Department of Chemistry, read the following Resolution on the Death of Professor Emeritus Arthur Saul Perlin:

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of Dr. Arthur Saul Perlin, Emeritus Professor in the Department of Chemistry, McGill University, on Wednesday, May 6, 2020, just a few days short of his 97th birthday.

Professor Perlin was born in Sydney, Nova Scotia in 1924 and spent all of his early years in the Maritimes, many of them working on the family farm, *The Sanitary Dairy*. He eventually came to McGill to study Chemistry and Music, where he obtained both his M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees. As well as being an outstanding organic chemist, he was an accomplished tenor singer, who performed on stage in operas and, often, as a Cantor at his local synagogue. He loved travelling with his family and undertaking all kinds of outdoor activities, but especially hiking, skiing, cycling and ice hockey.

Professor Perlin completed his Ph.D. degree in carbohydrate chemistry in 1949, under the supervision of Professor Clifford Purves. The title of his dissertation was "Studies on the Carbonyl Groups of Oxidized Celluloses". He next postdoctoral research at the National Research Council of Canada laboratory in Ottawa, where he met his wife Ruth Freedman, and at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland with Sir Edmund Hirst. Following these two research stages, he joined the NRC laboratory in Saskatoon as a research scientist and remained there for about 15 years. He quickly established a highly

successful career there and was eventually recruited in 1967 by Leo Yaffe, Chair of the Department of Chemistry at McGill, as the E. B. Eddy Professor of Industrial and Cellulose Chemistry, a position he held until his retirement and subsequent appointment as Professor Emeritus in 1991.

Throughout his long academic career, Professor Perlin mentored numerous graduate and postdoctoral students who went on to successful careers in academia and industry. He published extensively in several areas of synthetic organic chemistry and was considered to be a pioneer in the use of ^{13}C -NMR spectroscopy in carbohydrate and cellulose chemistry leading to what is now known as "The Perlin Effect". This term was coined jointly in 1990 by Professor Saul Wolfe at Queen's University and Professor Mario Pinto's group at Simon Fraser University. Professor Perlin's considerable research efforts were recognized both nationally and internationally; for instance, was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in the Academy of Science in 1969 and he received the Claude S. Hudson Award from the American Chemical Society for his outstanding work in carbohydrate chemistry in 1979. He published his research widely and was a particularly strong supporter of the *Canadian Journal of Chemistry*, in which had over 100 papers throughout his career.

Several times a year, Professor Perlin and his wife Ruth would invite his whole research group to their house for a party. Their five children were often present at these gatherings. There would be much singing and joy at these times. Professor Perlin was always regarded by the students in his undergraduate organic chemistry course and the members of his research group as a "true gentleman", who was always ready to give someone support and, if necessary, the benefit of doubt.

We extend heartfelt condolences to his wife, Ruth; his children Ana (Patrick), Louise (Jan), Deborah (Robert), Myra-Elizabeth (Douglas) and David (Mary); and his seven grandchildren. He will be sorely missed by many friends and scientific colleagues throughout the world.

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Dean Lennox commented that Prof. Perlin was a true giant in the world of Science, and indeed, as per the resolution, a true gentleman.

4) RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF JOHN TRISCHUK, EMERITUS PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

Professor Sangyong Jeon, Chair of the Department of Physics, read the following Resolution on the Death of Professor Emeritus John Trischuk:

It is with great regret that I inform you of the passing of Dr. John Trischuk, Emeritus Professor in the Department of Physics at McGill University on May 7th 2020.

Dr. Trischuk was born in Kamsack, Saskatchewan, and grew up in Edmonton, Alberta. He then moved to St. Lambert at the age of 15. After graduating from McGill in Engineering Physics in 1961, he received his Ph.D. from the California Institute of Technology in 1967. His thesis research was in the field of Nuclear Physics, which brought him to the attention of Professor Robert Bell, then Director of The Foster Radiation Laboratory at McGill. Following his graduation from Cal Tech, Dr. Trischuk returned to McGill as a Research Scientist. In this position, he made several important contributions, especially in conceiving a technique to identify a very rare process known as proton-proton bremsstrahlung. A year later in 1968, he became a Professor at McGill.

While at McGill, Dr. Trischuk was involved in many of the world's leading experiments at Brookhaven National Laboratory, CERN, Fermilab, Berkeley and the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory. His main research focus was the study of heavy quarks. The physics of heavy quarks has played a pivotal role in the elucidation of the properties and interactions of hadrons and in establishing the validity of the Standard Model. In his long career, Dr. Trischuk made many important contributions to experiments studying heavy quarks, ranging from their interactions with neutrinos and to CP-violations.

After 33 years of teaching at McGill, Dr. Trischuk retired in late 2001 but he continued to teach undergraduate courses after his retirement, and to participate in seminars, taking a special interest in Cosmology.

Dr. Trischuk left an important legacy in Canadian high energy physics as one of the founding members of the Institute of Particle Physics. The IPP started in the 1970s as a consortium of researchers at McGill, Toronto, and Carleton. Dr. Trischuk helped to build this important Canadian institution that makes it possible for Canadian researchers to play leading roles in major international experiments such as BaBar – which was his last experiment – and ATLAS at CERN's Large Hadron Collider.

His legacy also includes many graduate students as Dr. J. Va'vra at the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, and Professor D. Bailey at the University of Toronto, to name just a few. He also passed his love of both high energy physics and cycling to his nephew William Trischuk (Honours Physics McGill, Ph.D. Harvard 1990), a Professor of Physics at the University of Toronto.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Dr. Trischuk's wife, Miriam, to his children David, Bonnie, Sean, Heather, to his grandchildren, as well as to his extended family members, his many friends and colleagues, and to all those whose lives he touched. He will be missed.

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

On behalf of the Faculty of Science, Dean Lennox expressed condolences to the families of Prof. Perlin and Prof. Trischuk.

5) LEO YAFFE TEACHING AWARD

Prof. Edith Zorychta, Chair of the Leo Yaffe Teaching Award and Principal's Prize for Excellence in Teaching Committee, introduced the 2019-2020 Leo Yaffe Teaching Award for the Faculty of Science.

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 2020 is ***Dr. Laura Pavelka from the Department of Chemistry.***

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, and the recipient for 2020 is ***Dr. Laura Pavelka*** from the Department of Chemistry. Her philosophy of teaching is centered on using multiple strategies in the classroom to generate high levels of student engagement and the creation of a dynamic, interactive learning environment. Her goal is to get students excited about learning chemistry, and she has done this so successfully that she has become a legend at McGill.

Student evaluations of Laura's teaching are uniformly outstanding, and their comments explain why. To quote: *"Dr. Pavelka was one of the amazing surprises I had when coming to McGill. Before having her as my instructor, I had heard the rumors of how incredible she was,...and they were right. What a fantastic and caring professor she is; saying that she is an excellent teacher is honestly an understatement."* Students repeatedly emphasize how passionate Laura is when teaching, her great sense of humour, the many innovative strategies she uses in lectures and when assigning grades, and her willingness to help outside of class – all of these actions reflect how deeply she cares about them. Many assert that she is literally everything you could ask for in a professor. By using a variety of teaching techniques, including illustrations, physical models, and guided example problems, she connects to their diverse learning styles so well that a large class has been compared to being with a tutor.

Laura is equally valued by her McGill colleagues for her innovative approaches to teaching and her guidance to others as they explore new strategies in the classroom and beyond. She has also become a national leader in science teaching through her published articles and her presentations at conferences of the Canadian Society for Chemistry.

In summary, her students say it best: *"I have had some remarkable professors at McGill, but none of them can compare to Dr. Pavelka in terms of dedication and enthusiasm. She does everything in her power to make sure that nobody gets left behind" and "she will leave a lasting impact that goes far beyond our time at McGill."* There could be no finer tribute to the quality of her teaching.

It is a pleasure to announce Laura Pavelka as the 2020 recipient of the Leo Yaffe Award."

Dr. Pavelka said it was a great honour to receive the Leo Yaffe Teaching Award. She thanked the students, the Department of Chemistry, and the Faculty of Science.

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

6) FACULTY OF SCIENCE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Prof. Alanna Watt, Chair, Faculty of Science Excellence Awards, described the Faculty of Science Excellence Awards. This Award is to acknowledge outstanding performance and contribution by members of the administrative and support staff classified in each category: **Clerical, Technical, and Management**.

Prof. Watt read the following citations:

Nancy Nelson, Student Advising Administrator, Biology

"M" class recipient (Management)

- "Nancy Nelson has been working at McGill since 2006, in several different departments and faculties, often in advising. She is a key member of the Biology community, where she works as Student Advisor to Undergraduate students (including in joint programs).
- Nancy Nelson is praised for her commitment and excellence by all: students, professors, and her peers. Words used to describe her are: "outstanding", "irreplaceable", "an inspiration", "excellent".

- Her approach can be summed up as to “put students first” (as one professor attested), which leads her to be proactive and innovative so that students have the best possible trajectory in their studies.
 - One example: she has quantified student profiles of students encountering hurdles in their studies, allowing her to pinpoint gaps in knowledge and address them.
 - Another example: she has developed curriculum flowcharts for new interdepartmental programs, which helps students navigate them successfully, while avoiding scheduling conflicts.
 - She has a wealth of knowledge which has been instrumental for the revision of the Biology Undergraduate curriculum. Her participation in the Curriculum Task Force Committee has been key to its success.
 - Nancy Nelson is in regular communication with ~700 UG Biology students; the sheer volume of e-mails she sends and receives to students is phenomenal. Yet individual students attest to feeling that she is available, reachable, and dedicated to their success.
 - One professor describes Nancy as someone who makes the University a better, more rewarding place because “her dedication is contagious.”

Nancy Nelson said that she enjoys working with students, and she thanked the Department of Biology for their support.

Rosario (“Ross”) Commodari, Administrative Coordinator, Chemistry
 “C” class recipient (Clerical)

- “Ross Commodari has worked at McGill since 2017 as an Administrative coordinator and briefly in Geography as graduate program coordinator. As an Administrative coordinator in Chemistry, he supports faculty members on finances, visiting student and staff hiring, immigration, HR, and graduate affairs.
- Faculty praise Ross Commodari’s professionalism, and collegiality, and describe him as “outstanding”, “respected and admired”, “dedicated”. His role leads him to interact extensively with new international students and postdocs, and he is a wonderful ambassador, welcoming them to McGill and to Chemistry. Postdoctorals and students often come to him before their own PI, as they know that he will have the answers.
- Ross Commodari works extremely hard and excels in the quality of his work. Part of his work focuses on international hiring, and he has streamlined and simplified this process.
 - One example: he researched and implemented a different route for immigration for a visiting student which ended up saving time and paperwork for everyone.
- He spearheaded, organized and fundraised for the “Family Care Holiday Gift Drive” to collect presents for parent students during the holidays.
- Ross Commodari is the McGill Well Being ambassador in Chemistry. This has been an important role during the pandemic, and he shares weekly e-mails updates entitled “Are you OK?” to reach out to the Chemistry community through this challenging time.”

Ross Commodari said he was grateful and thanked the Department of Chemistry, and in particular Sandra Aerssen, former Administrative Officer in the Department.

Joseph Vacirca, IT Support, Geography
 “T” class recipient (Technician)

- “Joseph Vacirca started working at McGill in 1993, and has been in Geography since 2004. His position has evolved since then, as the IT field requires constant learning and development.

- Joseph Vacirca supports hundreds of staff and students in Geography, and demonstrates genuine concern for them. He “cares for people as much as machines” in the words of one colleague.
- Colleagues describe him as “going above and beyond his responsibilities” to “not just provide standardized answers, but finding solutions to difficult problems efficiently and rapidly”, “knowledgeable and resourceful”.
- Joseph Vacirca’s work has focused on the Canadian Airborne Biodiversity Observatory (CABO) project funded by NSERC, a \$4M international project, as well as several others such as LOOKNorth, and international collaborations with for e.g. the European Space Agency. Several professors remarked on how essential his support was for the success of these projects.
- IT support sometimes requires help to researchers after traditional work hours; several colleagues remarked that Joseph responds and completes these urgent requests immediately, irrespective of when they come in. This was particularly noted upon by researchers and students working remotely, for whom Joseph’s prompt help was often the difference between research success and failure.”

Joe Vacirca said he was truly honoured, and thanked his supporters in the Department of Geography.

Dean Lennox congratulated all three winner for their accomplishments. Each recipient will be receiving a monetary award as well as a framed certificate in recognition of their award.

Dean Lennox thanked Prof. Watt and the members of the Committee for their important and valuable work.

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

7) CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

Director Nicole Allard

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| a) Bachelor of Arts and Science | S-19-28 |
| b) Bachelor of Science | S-19-29 |

Director Allard said there were 70 graduands for the B.A. & Sc. degree, and currently there were 807 for the B.Sc. degree. The corresponding figures for 2019 were 82 and 711.

Director Allard said that the honorifics cut-offs for the B.A. & Sc. and B.Sc. degrees were:

B.A. & Sc.:

- Dean’s Honour List – 3.92 CGPA
- Distinction – 3.71 CGPA

B.Sc.:

- Dean’s Honour List – 3.95 CGPA
- Distinction – 3.84 CGPA

Director Allard **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, that the above degree lists be recommended to the Senate Steering Committee for their respective degrees.

The motion carried.

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

The motion carried.

- c) Diploma in Environment **S-19-30**
- d) Diploma in Meteorology **S-19-31**

There were no candidates for the Diploma in Meteorology, and no candidates for the Diploma in Environment.

Director Allard thanked both departmental advisors and Faculty advisors (SOUSA) for their diligence and hard work in preparing the graduation lists. Director Allard and Dean Lennox thanked instructors for submitting the grades within the deadline during this challenging period.

Dean Lennox said he would like take this opportunity to thank Director Nicole Allard for leading the Faculty in getting the job done.

8) MINUTES OF 14 APRIL 2020 **S-19-27**

Prof. Roulet **moved**, seconded by Associate Dean Hundemer, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

9) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

10) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- a) Scholarships Committee **S-19-32**

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

(i) The Scholarships Report, Document S-19-32, included Faculty and departmental awards and medals. For the 2019-2020 academic year, the CGPA cut-off for Faculty awards was 3.99. The departmental awards are selected by the relevant department.

(ii) The Governor General's Silver Medal has been awarded to **Michael Lindner-D'Addario, First Class Honours in Physics and Chemistry**. 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. Related to the COVID-19 current situation, the medal will be presented by Principal Suzanne Fortier at a future Science Convocation ceremony.

(iii) The Moyse Travelling Scholarship has been awarded to **Amy Zhou, First Class Honours in Physics**. The Selection Committee invited four candidates to an interview. 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. Ms. Zhou will be pursuing her doctoral studies at Cambridge University.

b) Academic Committee

S-19-33

The Academic Committee approved the following proposals on 28 April 2020:

1. PSYCHOLOGY

Course Revision:

PSYC 562	Measurement of Psychology Processes Changes: description, prerequisites, supplementary Calendar information 3 credits	AC-19-88
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Associate Dean Hundemer said that the changes in description and prerequisites were due to a new faculty member teaching PSYC 562.

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

The motion carried.

2. PHARMACOLOGY & THERAPEUTICS

New Course:

PHAR 397	Pharmacology Research Project 2 3 credits	AC-19-89
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Associate Dean Hundemer introduced a new undergraduate research course, PHAR 397, for students who have completed PHAR 396 and wishing to carry out a second research project in a subsequent term.

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

The motion carried.

3. ANATOMY & CELL BIOLOGY

New Course:

ANAT 514	Advanced Human Anatomy Laboratory 3 credits	AC-19-118
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Associate Dean Hundemer described a new course, ANAT 514. The creation of ANAT 514 was in response to students' requests for an additional course in human anatomy. In addition, the course would prepare students interested in pursuing graduate studies in the anatomical sciences.

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

The motion carried.

Course Revisions:

ANAT 499	Supervised Library Research Changes in prerequisites; restrictions 1 credit	AC-19-119
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Associate Dean Hundemer said that the changes in restrictions were necessary to specify the intended audience, and thereby, the instructor's permission was no longer required in the prerequisites.

ANAT 542	Transmission Electron Microscopy of Biological Samples	AC-19-120
	Changes: course activities; title, description, supplementary Calendar information	
	3 credits	

Associate Dean Hundemer explained that the focus of the content and structure of the course was modified, hence the changes in title and course activities.

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

The motion carried.

4. **PHYSIOLOGY**

Course Revisions:

PHGY 508	Advanced Renal Physiology	AC-19-121
	Change in description	
	3 credits	

Associate Dean Hundemer said that the change in the course description was to better reflect the course content and to define the students' expectations in the course.

PHGY 513	Translational Immunology	AC-19-122
	Changes: title, description, prerequisites	
	3 credits	

Associate Dean Hundemer explained that the revisions to the title and description were required to better outline the course content. Also, a prerequisite has been added to ensure that students have the preparation necessary to succeed in PHGY 513.

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

The motion carried.

5. **BIOLOGY UNDERGRADUATE COURSES & PROGRAMS**

Associate Dean Hundemer said that the Department of Biology conducted a program review and has redesigned the programs and courses. In summary, the purpose of the proposed changes were:

- to ensure better coordination across the programs and courses
- to increase quantitative skills
- to increase hands on experience and flexibility
- to expand existing course, BIOL 206
- to create three new courses (BIOL 216, BIOL 302, BIOL 311)
- to increase the number of advanced courses in the various programs
- to revise prerequisites in courses affected by the program changes

New Course:

BIOL 216 Biology of Behaviour **AC-19-92**
3 credits

Associate Dean Hundemer described a new integrative course, BIOL 216, for U1 students in the modified B.Sc. Major, Honours, Core Science Component, and the B.A. & Sc. Programs. BIOL 216 will also be a prerequisite for a number of courses on the Agenda for the current meeting.

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

The motion carried.

New Course:

BIOL 302 Fundamentals of Genetics and Genomics **AC-19-93**
3 credits

Associate Dean Hundemer introduced a new genetics course, BIOL 302, which is a higher level course than the existing genetics course, BIOL 202. BIOL 302 will replace BIOL 202 in the revised B.Sc. Major, Honours and Core Science Component in Biology. Students in the B.A. & Sc. Program will have the option of taking either BIOL 202 or BIOL 302.

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

The motion carried.

New Course:

BIOL 311 Laboratory for Organismal Biology **AC-19-94**
3 credits

Associate Dean Hundemer explained that in order to increase quantitative skills and hands on experience in the Biology programs, BIOL 206 (see below) has been expanded into two required courses with a different focus, BIOL 206 (see below for changes) and BIOL 311 (new). Since there were only two laboratory courses (BIOL 206 and BIOL 301) available to all students, and since students have repeatedly requested a new organismal laboratory course, BIOL 311 will be an appropriate addition.

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

The motion carried.

All of the following minor course changes were necessitated as a result of the above new courses.

Course Revisions:

BIOL 200 Molecular Biology **AC-19-90**
Change in corequisites
3 credits

BIOL 202 Basic Genetics **AC-19-118**
Changes: prerequisites, restrictions
3 credits

BIOL 205	Biology of Organisms Change in title 3 credits	AC-19-91
BIOL 206	Methods in Biology Changes title, description, supplementary Calendar information 3 credits	AC-19-95
BIOL 300	Molecular Biology of the Gene Change in prerequisites 3 credits	AC-19-96
BIOL 301	Cell and Molecular Laboratory Changes in description; prerequisites 4 credits	AC-19-97
BIOL 303	Developmental Biology Changes in prerequisites; corequisites 3 credits	AC-19-98
BIOL 306	Neural Basis of Behaviour Change in prerequisites 3 credits	AC-19-99
BIOL 313	Eukaryotic Cell Biology Changes in description; prerequisites 3 credits	AC-19-100
BIOL 324	Ecological Genetics Changes in prerequisites 3 credits	AC-19-101
BIOL 370	Human Genetics Applied Change in prerequisites 3 credits	AC-19-102
BIOL 416	Genetics of Mammalian Development Changes in prerequisites; restrictions 3 credits	AC-19-103
BIOL 544	Genetic Basis of Life Span Change in prerequisites 3 credits	AC-19-104
BIOL 546	Genetics of Model Systems Change in prerequisites 3 credits	AC-19-105
BIOL 568	Topics on the Human Genome Change in prerequisites 3 credits	AC-19-106
BIOL 575	Human Biochemical Genetics Change in prerequisites	AC-19-107

3 credits

Associate Dean **moved**, seconded by Professor Western that the above changes be approved.

The motion carried.

B.Sc. Program Changes:

- Honours in Biology **AC-19-108**
- Major in Biology **AC-19-109**
- Liberal: Core Science Component in Biology **AC-19-110**

Associate Dean Hundemer described the above program changes. The revisions included the addition of the three new courses discussed above, the removal of various courses, the inclusion of COMP 204, and an alternate Chemistry pre/corequisite course. The Core Complementary courses have been organized in three subdisciplines allowing students to choose one course from each.

Associate Dean **moved**, seconded by Professor Western that the above program changes be approved.

The motion carried.

B.A. & SC. Program Changes:

- Major Concentration in Biology **AC-19-111**

Associate Dean Hundemer explained that the two B.A. & Sc. Major Concentrations in Biology (Cell/Molecular Option, Organismal Option) have been combined into one Major Concentration in Biology. The purpose of consolidating the two major concentrations was to align it with the revised B.Sc. Major, Honours and Liberal Core Science Component in Biology. With these changes, students will gain flexibility in choosing their courses.

B.A. & SC. Program Retirement:

- Major Concentration in Biology; Organismal Option **AC-19-112**

With the restructuring of the Major Concentration in Biology, the Major Concentration in Biology; Organismal Option is no longer needed.

Associate Dean **moved**, seconded by Professor Western that the above program changes and program retirement be approved.

The motion carried.

6. BIOLOGY GRADUATE COURSES & PROGRAMS

New Course:

BIOL 601 Introduction to Graduate Studies in Biology **AC-19-113**
1.5 credits

New Course:

BIOL 602 Molecular Biology Research and Professional Skills **AC-19-114**
1.5 credits

New Course:

BIOL 603 Organismal Biology Research and Professional Skills **AC-19-115**

Graduate Program Changes:

- M.Sc. in Biology (Thesis) **AC-19-116**
- Ph.D. in Biology (Thesis) **AC-19-117**

Associate Dean Hundemer said that after an extensive review of the graduate programs in Biology, three Complementary graduate courses, BIOL 601, BIOL 602, and BIOL 603, have been created and included in the revised Master's (Thesis) and Doctoral (Thesis) Programs in Biology. The rationale for the creation of the three new courses were designed to formalize training in research and communication skills, increase exposure to topics such as equity, diversity and inclusion, provide students with a cohort and sense of comradery, as well as and to strengthen communication within a diverse department.

Associate Dean **moved**, seconded by Professor Western that the above new courses and program changes be approved.

The motion carried.

Dean Lennox congratulated the Department of Biology for making significant changes to the undergraduate and graduate curriculum. He also expressed appreciation for the important function of the Academic Committee.

11) DEAN'S BUSINESS

- Director Nicole Allard:

a) Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List (DMURL) **S-19-34**

Director Nicole Allard described the DMURL. She 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. She said that there were 85 B.Sc. students and six B.A. & Sc. students listed in Document S-19-34 who would be graduating with this honour. February and June graduates were also included in this document.

Director Allard thanked Mr. Victor Chisholm, Undergraduate Research Officer, for his diligent work in identifying the DMURL students and compiling the list (Document #S-19-34).

b) B.Sc. Global Designation **S-19-35**

Director Nicole Allard said that the B.Sc. Global was a designation being given at graduation. Students must have at least three credits of a second language course, at least three credits of an independent research project course, plus a third component, chosen from various preselected options. She said there were 21 candidates who would graduate with the B.Sc. Global designation in Document S-19-35.

c) Announcements

Dean Lennox congratulated the following Faculty members for their achievements.

(i) Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professors

Prof. Matthew Harrington (Chemistry)
Prof. Piotr Przytycki (Mathematics & Statistics)
Prof. Marcin Sabok (Mathematics & Statistics)
Prof. Thomas Brunner (Physics)
Prof. Daryl Haggard (Physics)
Prof. Jonathan P. Britt (Psychology)
Prof. Sarah Racine (Psychology)

(ii) William Dawson Scholars

Prof. Joelle Pineau (Computer Science)

Prof. Adrian Liu (Physics)
Prof. Milica Miočević (Psychology)

- (iii) **Distinguished James McGill Professors**
Prof. Peter Grütter (Physics)
Prof. Victoria Kaspi (Physics)
- (iv) **James McGill Professor**
Prof. Daniel Wise (Mathematics & Statistics)
- (v) **Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS)**
Prof. Louigi Addario-Berry (Department of Mathematics and Statistics)
Prof. Johanna G. Nešlehová (Department of Mathematics and Statistics)
- (vi) **2020 Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) Gold Medal Award for Distinguished Lifetime Contributions to Canadian Psychology**
Prof. Debbie Moskowitz (Department of Psychology)
- (vii) **R.U. Lemieux Award (CIC)**
Prof. Masad Damha (Chemistry)
- (viii) **Chemical Institute of Canada's Catalysis Award (CIC)**
Prof. C.J. Li (Chemistry)
- (ix) **Canada's Lifetime Achievement Award**
Prof. Laurie Hendren (Computer Science)

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

Ms. Sydney Merritt, President of the SUS, gave the following report:

On May 1, 2020, the SUS President, as well as the new SUS Executive officially started their terms. While the summer months are not normally the most active for SUS Executives, SUS has been working to adjust the services and planned events from in-person meetings to online supplements for the fall semester.

The first priority for the coming year is to create and promote spaces online that will bolster and encourage the "science community" among undergraduates. The Vice-President (Academic), Sneha Shinde, is working to transition the Graduate Schools Fair online, while other sub-committees such as the Science Internal Committee are looking into events that can be held virtually outside of "classroom time" for science students. With this transition to a virtual campus SUS has also been looking into increasing the SUS presence online through increased social media activity as well as distribution of materials such as the First Year Handbook virtually.

The Vice-President (Sustainability), Maxine Wu, has also been working with both the Mental Health and Social Sustainability committees to compile resources to support students relating to both the COVID-19 crisis as well as the Black Lives Matter movement.

The SUS Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with McGill University does expire this year, yet renegotiations are still on hold. Meetings with the office of the Deputy Provost of Student Life and Learning (DPSLL) concerning the MOA are expected to resume shortly. The DPSLL is still addressing concerns relating to COVID-19 and the fall semester.

In terms of First Year Orientation, or Frosh, the new VP Internal Jared Joseph-Warden (in conjunction with all other faculties) is planning to conduct frosh online during the first week of September. Jared and his team of 13 coordinators are also planning to follow this online event with smaller in-person events later in the academic year that are specifically geared towards incoming students. With the loss of in-person classes, the main focus of these events, and Frosh, will be to encourage these key interpersonal relationships among incoming students -- relationships that can be both socially and academically beneficial.

Dean Lennox thanked Ms. Ghazi for the informative report. The initiatives of the SUS are very important, and the Faculty are looking forward to collaborating with the SUS.

13) SCIENCE EQUITY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE (SECC)

Associate Dean Nilson will give an update on the SECC at the next Faculty of Science meeting.

14) The New Vic - Update

Dean Lennox gave a brief update on the New Vic project. The last Committee meeting was about the design of the new New Vic project, and working out the details. This process is expected to be completed in approximately six-eight weeks, and then it will be submitted to the Québec government in mid-August 2020. The next phase will involve the blueprints. McGill will be requesting \$75M from the federal government. Dean Lennox will provide more details at the next Faculty meeting scheduled for 8 September 2020.

15) REPORTS OF DIRECTOR AND ASSOCIATE DEANS

a) Director (Advising Services) Nicole Allard

There was no report for the current meeting.

b) Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer

Associate Dean Hundemer said that the admission numbers have met the Faculty's target for Fall 2020. He remarked that since the Fall semester will proceed mostly remotely, the Faculty will put in a considerable amount of work to convince students to accept their admissions offer and to register for courses at McGill.

c) Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson

Associate Dean Nilson gave a brief overview of the efforts by the Faculty of Science and the University during the COVID-19-related changes everyone has been facing.

Current students - Faculty level

During both the research shut down and phase in, explicit statements were built into the Faculty's processes to make it clear that graduate students should not be required to be on campus (exemption or phase-in) if students did not feel comfortable.

At the university level, GPS has been very flexible, e.g., shifting thesis deadlines, posting FAQs. The Faculty of Science has been in close communication with GPS to transmit input from the graduate students and professors in the Faculty, and to make sure that information from GPS was communicated to Science students and faculty members.

Incoming students

GPS has been doing a lot of work to engage with graduate students who have been offered admission.

1. GPS held seven webinars at the end of April 2020 for new potential graduate students and are in the process of doing webinars for incoming students.
2. Comprehensive FAQs on the GPS website to give students general information but also to give guidance about starting in the current environment: <https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/covid-19-updates/faqs-graduate-admissions>
3. GPS has been working with funding agencies and the government to ensure that new students who would not be in Montréal for the start of the Fall semester could still start their programs remotely, and begin to receive the financial support that students would have received if on campus.

d) Associate Dean (Research) John Stix

Associate Dean Stix informed members that research was increasing and was proceeding as expected, and that all staff were taking every precaution. He thanked the PIs for their due diligence in ensuring the students' comfort level.

16) REPORTS ON ACTIONS OF SENATE

Please note that the entire Minutes of Senate are available on the web at:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/senate-2019-2020/senate-meeting-documents-2019-2020>

- Senate Meeting of 21 April 2020: Senator Peter Yau

The Senate meeting of April 21, 2020 was conducted virtually via webex. There were two items on the agenda: a) the Chair's remark, and b) Motion for the senate to endorse the Strategic Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Plan 2020-2025.

a) Chair's Remarks

Principal Fortier's remarks included a number of items: 1) the closure of the McGill campus due to the COVID-19 crisis, 2) postponement of Spring 2020 in person Convocation, 3) McGill Student Emergency Support fund raising over \$1M with \$350,000 contributed from McGill, 4) various meetings and consultations at the federal and provincial level on concerns and economic challenges of the crisis, extension of research grants, international student immigration issues, 5) MCGILL24's new record of raising close to \$3M.

Among the kudos were 1) the appointment of Prof. Daniel Jutras (Law) as rector of Université de Montreal, 2) naming of Prof. Sujata Madan (Management) as a 3M National Teaching Fellow, 3) Dr. Guy Rouleau (MNI director) receiving the Wightman Award for neurological disease research, 4) Dr. Vincent Mooser (Medicine) to lead the Quebec COVID-Biobank initiative.

The Principal and Provost Manfredi then answered a number of questions regarding Fall term teaching, resumption of research activities, new committees and working groups to deal with the crisis, the McGill provisional budget, and in-person ceremonies for Spring 2021 Convocation as part of the bicentennial celebrations.

b) Endorsement of the EDI Strategic Plan

Associate Provost Angela Campbell presented a detailed Strategic Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) plan for Senate's endorsement. The plan establishes objectives, key metrics, sites of accountability to guide EDI for the period 2020-2025 at McGill. Extensive discussion followed the presentation. The main points were that the Plan is a living document and feedback will be incorporated throughout the implementation process, any corrective measures to address

underrepresentation in the workforce will not adversely affect any particular individual, certain groups working on initiatives related to the plan can continue to do so, and there was also a budget for the plan.

A motion for the Senate to endorse the EDI Plan, and recommend it to the Board of Governors for endorsement was then put to a vote and adopted.

Senate adjourned at 3:35 pm.

- Senator Peter Grütter will report on the Senate Meeting of 13 May 2020 at a future Faculty meeting.

17) RESULTS OF SCIENCE ELECTION FOR SENATE

S-19-36

Dean Lennox announced the new Science Senators. He said the terms would begin 1 September 2020, and would end on 31 August 2023.

The new Senators are:

- Professor Sébastien Breau (Geography)
- Professor Jeffrey McKenzie (Earth & Planetary Sciences)
- Professor Dima Perepichka (Chemistry)
- Professor Martin Robillard (Computer Science)
- Professor Tracy Webb (Physics)

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

- Professor Jacques Hurtubise (Mathematics & Statistics) - two years
- Professor David Stephens (Mathematics & Statistics) - one year
- Professor Bettina Kemme (Computer Science) - two years
- Professor Laura Nilson (Biology) - two years

Dean Lennox congratulated the new Senators, and thanked the continuing Senators.

18) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD

There were no members' questions.

20) OTHER BUSINESS

Dean Lennox thanked everyone for joining the current meeting, and wished everyone a good and healthy summer!

There being no further business, the meeting be adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

The motion carried.