

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
Meeting of Faculty  
5 October 2020 at 3:00 p.m.  
Held via Zoom Conference Application**

**ATTENDANCE:** As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book

**DOCUMENTS:** **S-20-2 (Revised), S-20-3 to S-20-9**

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

**1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Prof. Chmura **moved**, seconded by Prof. Western, that the Agenda be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

*Secretary's Note:* Item # 5 of the Agenda should have read **Minutes of 8 September 2020** instead of 4 June 2020.

**2) RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF ROBERT "BOB" LYNN CARROLL, EMERITUS  
PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY AND REDPATH MUSEUM**

Prof. Hans Larsson read the following resolution on the death of Prof. Carroll, which Faculty subsequently unanimously approved:

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of Dr. Robert Lynn Carroll, Professor in the Redpath Museum, McGill University. Bob was born and raised on a farm near Lansing, Michigan. From an early age he became fascinated in palaeontology and spent many summer family camping trips in the Green River Formation of Wyoming and White River Badlands of South Dakota hunting fossils. After receiving his BSc in Geology at Michigan State University and his PhD at Harvard under the supervision of Al Romer, he visited the Redpath Museum for a short postdoctoral fellowship. When packing up his belonging to move onto another postdoctoral position in London, the Director of the Redpath offered him a full time position when he returned.

Bob began at the Redpath Museum in 1964 and was to become the most important figure for the museum after William Dawson himself. Not only did Bob revise the famous Joggins Fossils Dawson collected, he was instrumental in maintaining the museum as a research unit through the 60s, 70s, and 80s. He wrote what we in the field refer to as the 'big silver book' (that over 30 years later is still the standard reference for vertebrate palaeontology) and over 150 publications. He named over a dozen new fossil species, was early to adopt the field of developmental evolutionary biology to palaeontology, and supervised an extraordinarily large number of graduate students who now hold prominent positions worldwide. Although never self-promoting, his prolific work earned him awards ranging from the Paleontological Society's Charles Schuchert Award, the Geological Association of Canada's Billings Medal, the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology's Romer-Simpson Medal, the Royal Society of Canada's Miller Medal, and the Order of Canada. Perhaps his greatest honours are the over half dozen fossil species named after him.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Dr. Carroll's wife, Anna, his son David and granddaughter Juliette. His loss was felt throughout the vertebrate palaeontological world. Although his bellowing voice has been noticeably absent from the Redpath Museum, a portion of the permanent galleries will be dedicated in his honour. He will be greatly missed.

3) **RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF HENRY MICHAEL REISWIG, PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY AND REDPATH MUSEUM**

Prof. Hans Larsson read the following resolution on the death of Prof. Reiswig, which Faculty subsequently unanimously approved:

With great sadness, we share the news of the passing of Dr. Henry Michael Reiswig, Professor in the Redpath Museum, McGill University. Although Dr. Reiswig was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, he grew up in the San Francisco Bay area spending an inordinate amount of time with marine wildlife. After completing his undergraduate at University of California, Berkley, and a doctorate at Yale University, he took a job at the Redpath Museum in 1972. There, he established himself as a world authority on hexactinellid sponges, also known as Glass Sponges. He researched, taught, and curated in the Redpath Museum until his official retirement in 2001 and moved to Victoria, BC to continue his work in the relative solitude of his garage that he had converted into a laboratory. While there, he maintained a strong research collaboration with the Royal British Columbia Museum.

Dr. Reiswig described over 50 new species of sponges, with his most recent description published posthumously in August this year. He was known for his encyclopedic knowledge all things invertebrate and his unassuming presence. He was so humble that he was surprised when asked to apply for Full Professor. When he eventually did, his peers were surprised he hadn't been promoted to full professor status years before.

To ensure Henry's legacy of hexactinellid biology, the Redpath Museum is working to incorporate his vast specimen collection as a resource for future generations of sponge biologists.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Dr. Reiswig's daughters Jennifer, Penelope, and Amy, his many friends, colleagues and all those whose lives he touched. He will be greatly missed.

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

Dean Lennox remarked that Prof. Carroll and Prof. Reiswig were two "giants" of the Redpath Museum and Canada's "giants" in their research areas.

4) **Candidates for Degrees**

- a) Bachelor of Arts and Science
- b) Bachelor of Science

**S-20-4**

**S-20-5**

Vice-Dean Stephens reported that for the B.A. & Sc. degree, there were 5 candidates, compared to 17 in October 2019. For the B.Sc. degree, there were 68 candidates, compared to 69 in October 2019.

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

**B.A. & Sc.:**

- Dean's Honour List (top 10%) – 3.92 CGPA
- Distinction (top 25%, but below the top 10%) – 3.71 CGPA

**B.Sc.:**

- Dean's Honour List (top 10%) – 3.95 CGPA
- Distinction (top 25%, but below the top 10%) – 3.84 CGPA

Vice-Dean Stephens **moved**, seconded by Prof. Western, that the candidates for the B.A. & Sc. and the B.Sc. be approved for their respective degrees.

**The motion carried.**

c) Diploma in Environment

**S-20-6**

Vice-Dean Stephens said that there was one candidate for the Diploma in Environment.

Vice-Dean Stephens **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, that the candidate for the Diploma in Environment be approved.

**The motion carried.**

d) Diploma in Meteorology

**S-20-7**

There were no candidates for the Diploma in Meteorology.

Vice-Dean Stephens 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.**

Vice-Dean Stephens thanked both departmental advisors and Faculty advisors (SOUSA) for their diligence and hard work in preparing the graduation lists.

5) **MINUTES OF 8 SEPTEMBER 2020**

**S-20-3**

Prof. Chmura **moved**, seconded by Prof. Western, that the Minutes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

6) **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer provided the following written response to the question regarding class attendance in Fall 2020 Courses (Minutes of the Faculty meeting of 8 September 2020, Page 9, Item #12 (b) (ii) Faculty of Science: Fall 2020 Assessment Regulations:

**Attendance Grades:**

Instructors are permitted to use class attendance in Fall 2020 as part of their assessment scheme as long as its weight is reasonable (10% or less; preferably 5% or less) and students who cannot view the lectures live due to time-zone issues are not disadvantaged.

Example: Students receive their attendance grade based on whether they view the lecture live or watch the lecture recording within 24 hours.

However, instructors are urged to consider that the fact that a student has “viewed” a live lecture or lecture recording does neither prove that the student actually watched the lecture or recording nor does it prove that the student engaged with the course material in any meaningful way.

Associate Dean Hundemer pointed out that instructors should preferably use class participation instead of attendance.

## 7) **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

### a) **Nominating Committee**

**S-20-2 (Revised)**

Dean Lennox said that the membership of the following two standing Committees was incomplete at the Faculty of Science meeting held on 8 September 2020. The membership was now complete and it was being brought back to Faculty for approval.

#### **Item # 6. Scholarships, Fellowships and Awards Committee (for approval):**

The Vice-Dean or Associate Dean (Academic) or Associate Dean (Education) or delegate serves as the Chair of the Committee. The Committee is also made up of department representatives.

#### **Item # 7. Leo Yaffe & Principal's Prizes Committee (for approval):**

The Leo Yaffe and Principal's Prizes Committee recommends candidates for these awards for excellence in teaching.

Prof. McKenzie **moved**, seconded by Prof. Western, that the membership of the Scholarships, Fellowships and Awards Committee, and the Leo Yaffe & Principal's Prizes Committee be approved.

**The motion carried.**

## 8) **DEAN'S BUSINESS**

- Announcements

### a) **Kudos**

Dean Lennox presented the following announcements:

(i) **Professor Christie Rowe (Earth & Planetary Sciences)** was awarded the American Geophysical Union's (AGU) Francis Birch Lecture

The AGU has 130,000 members, and its annual meeting usually has close to 30,000 participants. The named lectures at the AGU annual meeting are significant awards, acknowledging researchers with cutting edge findings in the sub-disciplines.

(ii) **Professor Jeffrey Mogil (Psychology)** was elected Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences

“The Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS) announced 77 new Fellows to its ranks, including 10 from McGill. One of the most prestigious honours in the Canadian health sciences community, election to the CAHS recognizes individuals for their leadership in and commitment to their field of expertise.”

(iii) **Professor Alfonso Mucci (Earth & Planetary Sciences)** was awarded the Royal Society of Canada's Willet G. Miller Medal

"The RSC applauded the oceanographer as "an internationally renowned geochemist who has made numerous contributions in geochemistry and biogeochemistry."

(iv) **Professor Christian Genest (Mathematics & Statistics)** receives Royal Society of Canada's John L. Synge Award

"The Royal Society of Canada selects Prof. Christian Genest as the 2020 recipient of the John L. Synge Award in mathematics for his world-leading research in statistics. This award, which was issued on an irregular basis, has been given nine times since 1986. Genest is the first statistician to receive it."

Dean Lennox emphasized the importance of these awards in not only achieving recognition, but also in future research promotions. He added that writing up the applications/nominations involved a large amount of work by professors and by the Science Research Office, Eduardo Ganem Cuenca and Preeti Purba-Singh.

(v) Concerning the recent announcement on the **Provost's Action Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism**, Dean Lennox informed members that this topic would be a recurring item on the Agenda at future Faculty of Science meetings.

(vi) With reference to the latest announcement from the Government of Québec that Montréal was declared a COVID-19 red alert zone, Dean Lennox said he was waiting to hear from the administration how the red zone would impact McGill. For the Faculty of Science, this will mean that the teaching hubs and in-person advising/tutoring will not be operating until 28 October 2020. Discussions about plans for the winter 2021 semester are ongoing. The majority of the courses will be offered remotely and wherever possible, there will be in-person teaching. Further details will be announced soon.

(vii) Dean Lennox announced that the Faculty of Science will be holding a virtual Town Hall for students on Friday, 9 October 2020 at 9 a.m. It was very important to get feedback from students to learn about what is working well and not working well.

#### **b) Vice-Dean David Stephens:**

(i) Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List (DMURL) **S-20-8**

Vice-Dean Stephens described the DMURL. 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 3 B.Sc. students listed in Document S-20-8 who would be graduating with this honour. There were no B.A. & Sc. students graduating with the DMURL designation.

(ii) B.Sc. Global Designation **S-20-9**

Vice-Dean Stephens 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 was one candidate who would graduate with the B.Sc. Global designation in Document S-20-9.

#### **9) SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE SOCIETY (SUS) REPORT**

Mr. Marc Mekhanik, on behalf of the SUS President, Ms. Sydney Merritt, gave the following report:

The Vice-President (Academic) is working with CAPS to finalize the details of the Graduate and Professional Schools Fair, which will be held virtually on November 4, 2020, in collaboration with the AUS. The VP (Academic) portfolio is also working on setting up channels for academic complaints through the SUS, as well as working on the logistics of the SUS Winter Academia Week. The Academic Events Committee is planning to start hosting “virtual study halls” to encourage students to work and socialize with each other online.

The SUS Buddy Program (under the Mental Health Committee) is in full swing for first year Science students and their mentors. This was also complemented by a number of mentorship programs for U1 students that are run by the various departments. This committee will be hosting the first Peer Support Group on Friday, October 9, 2020. The program is designed to encourage students to share their experiences and participate in some online socialization; the sessions will end with brief meditation. Additionally, the Social Sustainability Committee has continued to highlight relevant social justice topics and sharing on their platforms, and are planning to host an online webinar regarding social sustainability with guest speakers sometime during the fall.

In terms of First Year engagement, the VP (Communications) is in the process of interviewing all applicants for the First Year Undergraduate Science Society. This group will serve as the appointed representative for U0 students in Science, and hopefully, it will be able to provide more insight and feedback regarding online learning in the larger first-year classes. The VP (Internal) and the Science Internal Committee are also planning to follow this first year engagement plan with smaller scale events, later in the academic year, and will be specifically geared towards first year students. Bi-monthly socials and online challenges for all Science Students are being planned.

The SUS Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with McGill University will expire this year, and renegotiations were still on hold because the Office of the Deputy Provost of Student Life and Learning (DPSLL) was working on issues relating to COVID-19 and remote delivery.

Dean Lennox emphasized the Faculty of Science's support regarding the SUS Buddy Program, especially during these challenging times. The Faculty would be happy to provide support by all possible means.

#### **10) SCIENCE EQUITY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE (SECC)**

Associate Dean Nilson gave some highlights on the first SECC meeting that took place on 24 September 2020. During a roundtable discussion, representatives shared activities that had taken place in their respective units over the summer. A few departments have now initiated their own equity, diversity and inclusion committees. Related to anti-Black racism and prompted by the events during the summer 2020, some units hosted: (i) a series of reading and discussion clubs; (ii) a panel discussion with experts on research with prevalence of anti-Black violence; and (iii) an information meeting and study session about anti-Black racism. It was encouraging to see members of the Faculty moving quickly and thoughtfully in these areas.

#### **11) Provost's Action Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism**

Associate Dean Nilson briefly presented the Provost's Action Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism document. She said that this topic would be discussed at future SECC meetings.

Some of the highlights of the Action Plan were:

- Background, context, and structure of the plan

- Aligning with McGill's EDI Strategic Plan (2020-2025), the Action Plan will be oriented along the following five axes
  1. Student Experience
  2. Research & Knowledge
  3. Outreach
  4. Workforce
  5. Physical Space
- In developing the Action Plan, a number of reports and material were developed. There were four Town Halls, two of which were reserved for the Black community at McGill. Additional consultations took place with different groups (Black Students' Network, McGill Black Alumni Association, the Dr. Kenneth Melville McGill Black Faculty Caucus etc.),
- For each of the five axes (above), the Action Plan lists the consultations and/or surveys that took place as well as action items that will address different points in each axis and a timeline for achieving them.
- In addition to actions to be taken by the central University, planning at the Faculty and departmental level will contribute to achieving the goals of the plan.

Associate Dean Nilson encouraged members to read the document, which may be found at:

[https://www.mcgill.ca/provost/files/provost/action\\_plan\\_to\\_address\\_anti-black\\_racism.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/provost/files/provost/action_plan_to_address_anti-black_racism.pdf)

Dean Lennox emphasized that this topic was extremely important for everyone. In reply to a question about the Bellairs Research Institute as a site for future research and learning on topics as Barbadian-Canadian relations, slavery, etc., Dean Lennox said that a working group would be organized in future..

## 12) **The New Vic Project - Update**

Dean Lennox presented a summary report on The New Vic Project. On 1 September 2020, McGill submitted the feasibility study document to the Government of Québec for approval. The departments involved in the project are Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences, Chemistry, Earth & Planetary Sciences, Geography, and members of the Physics Department who are jointly appointed with the Chemistry Department, as well as some units in the Faculty of Engineering.

Dean Lennox presented with slides the interior and exterior design of the New Vic Project. The new site will include various laboratories (e.g., teaching labs, shared labs used to interact with other lab types), classrooms, reading rooms, large spaces for public lecture events, a large atrium, and much needed space for poster sessions. There will be sustainable walls, as well as Green rooftops for holding classes and social events. Additionally, the new site will house approximately 150 professors and their research groups in the Faculty of Science, and about 50 professors in the Faculty of Arts, and moreover, a large atrium.

The potential released (Science-associated) space includes the Otto Maass and Pulp and Paper Buildings, Frank Dawson Adams, and a great deal of Burnside Hall. A discussion concerning the liberated spaces is forthcoming. However, it is important that the Faculty will be involved in the planning of the released space.

Dean Lennox said that a more in-depth presentation will be held at the Faculty meeting in February 2021, as well as in departments. Construction is projected to begin in 2023 and the New Vic is scheduled to open its doors in 2028. Dean Lennox welcomed any questions, comments, feedback, or concerns from the members of Faculty.

### 13) REPORTS OF VICE-DEAN AND ASSOCIATE DEANS

#### a) Vice-Dean David Stephens

There was no report for the current meeting.

#### b) Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer

##### - Admissions and Enrolment

Associate Dean Hundemer presented the Admissions and Enrolment Report for fall 2020. At the start of the admission process, there were concerns that there would be a decrease in enrolment due to the international travel restrictions and online courses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, by late summer 2020, the total enrolment increased for all faculties at McGill, except for five faculties/schools. There was a 2.5% increase in the total Science enrolment for fall 2020 and a 17.8% increase in the B.A. & Sc. degree.

##### Faculty Enrolments

	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	% Increase
Desautels Faculty Management	2454	2425	-1.2
Faculty of Agric Environ Sci	1363	1334	-2.1
Faculty of Arts	8284	8527	2.9
Faculty of Dentistry	153	157	2.6
Faculty of Education	1403	1430	1.9
Faculty of Engineering	3438	3505	1.9
Faculty of Law	748	708	-5.3
Faculty of Medicine	737	752	2
Faculty of Science	4829	4951	2.5
Graduate Studies	9366	9375	0.1
Ingram School of Nursing	693	698	0.7
Interfaculty, B.A. & Sc.	585	689	17.8
Post Graduate Dentistry	29	31	6.9
Post Graduate Medicine	1326	1331	0.4
Postdoctoral Fellows	804	611	-24
School of Continuing Studies	3220	2790	-13.4
School of Phys & Occ Therapy	337	314	-6.8
Schulich School of Music	501	520	3.8
Grand Total	40270	40148	-0.3

The number of new Science admissions was 1410 in fall 2020 compared to 1269 in fall 2019. The new B.A. & Sc. admissions also increased to 225 in fall 2020 from 180 in fall 2019. The Provost's targets were much lower than the actual enrolments for both degrees.

##### Provost Target



	2019	2020	% Increase	Provost Target	% Target Overshoot
Science Freshmen	1269	1410	11.1	1150	22.6
B.A. & Sc. Freshmen	180	225	25	180	25

There was initial concern that students would be registering for fewer courses in fall 2020, but instead, the numbers have slightly increased and were comparable to fall 2019 in most faculties.

#### Average number of courses taken by undergraduate students:

	Fall 2019	Fall 2020
Desautels Faculty Management	4.4	4.45
Faculty of Agric Environ Sci	4.59	4.69
Faculty of Arts	4.26	4.34
Faculty of Education	4.57	4.66
Faculty of Engineering	4.71	4.82
Faculty of Science	4.47	4.52
Ingram School of Nursing	5.54	5.11
Interfaculty, B.A. & Sc.	4.46	4.53
School of Continuing Studies	1.97	1.98
School of Phys & Occ Therapy	4.62	4.59
Schulich School of Music	6.35	6.04
Grand Total	4.31	4.38

The table below gives a breakdown of the sources of Science students. There was a slight increase in the number of Québec students and international students, and the largest increase of students came from the rest of Canada for fall 2020.

#### Freshman Student Fee Status

	2019	2020	% Increase
Canadian or permanent resident	288	380	31.9
International	269	277	3
Quebec resident	664	685	3.2
Grand Total	1269	1410	11.1

U1 B.Sc. students apply to one of the following program groups:

- Biological, Biomedical and Life Sciences (BBL group)
- Bio-Physical-Computational Sciences (*new group as of Fall 2018*)
- Physical, Earth, Math and CS (PEMC group)
- Neuroscience (NEUR group)

For fall 2020, there was an increase in the BBL and BPC groups, while there was a small decrease in the PEMC group. The Faculty's goal was to increase the PEMC group to 40%. In fall 2019, there was a decrease in the BBL group possibly due to the new BPC group.

#### Science: Admission Groups

	2019	2020	% in 2019	% in 2020
BBL	645	733	50.8	52

PEMC	473	507	37.3	36
BPC	34	57	2.7	4
BSC-NEUR	32	37	2.5	2.6
PRE-DENT	10	8	0.8	0.6
PRE-MED	72	67	5.7	4.8
Grand Total	1269	1410		

The enrolment for U0 Science students has increased whereas the enrolment for U0 Engineering has decreased. It is important to keep a close watch on the Engineering numbers because U0 Engineering students take Science freshman courses. The combined U0 enrolments in Science and Engineering are 816, representing an increase of 7.9% for fall 2020.

The decrease in U1 returning students for fall 2020 may seem concerning, however, this was due to the decrease in U0 admissions in fall 2019 but an increase in U1 admissions from CEGEPs.

A particular concern is possible overcrowding in U1, although it seems that this is manageable during this time.

#### Enrolment by Student Level

	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	%Increase
UG Level Year 0	415	491	18.3
UG Level Year 0 Engineering	341	325	-4.7
UG Level Year 0 Science+Eng	756	816	7.9
UG Level Year 1 New	881	944	7.2
UG Level Year 1 Returning	534	407	-23.8
UG Level Year 1	1415	1351	-4.5
UG Level Year 2	1101	1315	19.4
UG Level Year 3	1671	1690	1.1
Undergraduate Non-Degree	199	99	-50.3
Grand Total	4829	4951	2.5

Over the last several years, the total enrolment had decreased in the B.A. & Sc. degree, while in fall 2020 the overall enrolment has increased, except for U1 returning students. The decrease in the number of U1 returning students in fall 2020 was because of the decline in enrolment in U0 B.A. & Sc. students in fall 2019 (similar to the case of U1 returning Science students). In the future, the goal is to increase the enrolment in the B.A. & Sc. degree.

#### B.A. & Sc. Enrolment by Student Level

	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	%Increase
UG Level Year 0	95	128	34.7
UG Level Year 1 Returning	93	89	-4.3
UG Level Year 1 New	90	101	12.2
UG Level Year 1	183	190	3.8

UG Level Year 2	137	171	24.8
UG Level Year 3	161	199	23.6
Grand Total	585	689	17.8

In response to questions about tracking winter registrations and students' issues with online courses and social isolation, Associate Dean Hundemer said that the winter data was not yet available and would be very difficult to predict at this time. To address students' challenges with online learning, the Faculty will be holding town halls for students. With regard to registration, Dean Lennox added that although there was a wide variation in universities across North America, McGill was doing well.

A member pointed out that since May 2020 and throughout the summer, many Science advisors had been encouraging potential incoming students to join McGill. Dean Lennox congratulated all Science advisors, professors and students, Eduardo Ganem Cuenca, Preeti Purba-Singh, and Enrolment Services for doing great work during these very challenging times.

Dean Lennox thanked Associate Dean Hundemer for a very important and informative report, and for working tirelessly these past seven months.

In reply to a member's question, Dean Lennox said that the Admissions and Enrolment Report would be circulated to Chairs/Directors after it is presented at a Senate meeting.

c) Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson

Associate Dean Nilson reported that at a recent Graduate Advisory Meeting with the Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) and Associate Deans (Graduation Education), GPS announced the following initiatives:

(i) A module was being developed on graduate supervision, analogous to *It Takes All of Us* (a mandatory online sexual violence education program for the entire McGill community that was initiated in 2019) for research supervisors.

(ii) A module for graduate students to track and identify their career goals named the Individual Development Plan (IDP) (<https://www.mcgill.ca/mypath/>) via the myPath toolkit. Students will be required to complete the plan, to whatever degree they choose, but the plans will not be assessed and no personal information will be required.

News Release from the Federal Government Concerning International Travel Exemptions

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2020/10/government-introduces-new-border-measures-to-protect-canadian-public-health-provides-update-on-travel-restrictions.html>

Associate Dean Nilson informed members that there was a news release from the Federal Government on 2 October 2020 concerning international travel exemptions for graduate students. As of 20 October 2020, international graduate students will be allowed to attend a designated learning institution provided that there is a COVID-19 readiness plan that has been approved by the province or territory. As a reminder, Associate Dean Nilson pointed out that it is not clear whether students will experience further delays in obtaining the required immigration paperwork, but that GPS and the McGill International Student Services would provide a template letter to students and research supervisors, confirming that the student is required to be in Montreal even in the current remote learning context..

*Secretary's Note:* On 21 October 2020, McGill confirmed that it has qualified as a Designated Learning Institution and is therefore able to reopen to international students who are currently outside Canada.

d) Associate Dean (Research) John Stix

Associate Dean Stix reported that as part of the COVID-19 economic response plan, the Government of Canada has set up the Canada Emergency Fund for researchers. The program includes several funding stages. The first stage was mainly to cover research-related salary expenses incurred from 15 March 2020 to 29 August 2020. In the current second phase, the expenses are to support: (i) ramping-up of research and (ii) research maintenance costs. Members may reach out to their unit's Chairs/Directors or administrative officers. The deadline for reimbursement requests is 28 October 2020.

Dean Lennox thanked Associate Dean Stix for his report and for the incredible amount of excellent work during these trying times.

**14) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD**

Although there were no formal questions submitted, Dean Lennox said he would entertain questions.

Responding to a member's question about restarting research activities at the Bellairs Research Institute in Barbados, Dean Lennox said that an official decision had not yet been taken. Due to the travel restrictions and its 14-day self-quarantine requirement, it was unlikely that the Institute would be operational for winter 2021. The Board of Governors will be making a decision at the December 2020 meeting.

**15) OTHER BUSINESS**

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

**The motion carried.**