

S-21-3

**Meeting of Faculty
7 September 2021
Leacock Council Room - L232**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book

DOCUMENTS: S-20-36, S-20-37, S-21-1, S-21-2

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

1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Prof. Forest **moved**, seconded by Prof. Robillard, that the Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

2) SEATING OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES S-21-1

Dean Lennox welcomed and thanked the student representatives for serving on the Faculty of Science meetings. The Faculty is looking forward to working together with student representatives because student voice matters.

3) MINUTES OF 27 MAY 2021 S-20-36

Prof. Hurtubise **moved**, seconded by Prof. Stix, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

4) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

5) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

a) Nominating Committee S-21-2

1. Science Nominating Committee (for information):

The Nominating Committee consists of the Science Senate Representatives, and almost all are Chairs/Director of the Faculty of Science; the Convenor is Professor Jacques Hurtubise. The Committee approves and recommends memberships in Faculty of Science committees.

2. Science Chairs' Council (for information):

The Science Chairs' Council serves as an advisory committee to the Dean, and consists of the Dean, the Vice-Dean, the Associate Dean (Academic), the Associate Dean (Graduate Education), the Associate Dean (Research), the Associate Dean (Student Affairs), and the heads of all units in the Faculty of Science, including the MSE and the Redpath Museum.

3. Tenure Committee (for information):

The Tenure Committee consists of Faculty of Science representatives and Senate representatives from various faculties.

4. Committee on Student Standing (for approval):

The Committee on Student Standing (CSS) reviews student appeals of decisions made by the Director of Advising Services.

Mr. Bhutkar **moved**, seconded by Prof. Forest, that the membership of the CSS be approved.

The motion carried.

5. Academic Committee (for approval):

The Academic Committee reviews and approves all academic content taught in the Faculty of Science.

Prof. Hurtubise **moved**, seconded by Prof. Blanchette, that the membership of the Academic Committee be approved.

The motion carried.

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.

A member from the Department of Biochemistry will be announced at the next Faculty meeting scheduled for 12 October 2021.

Prof. Robillard **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, that the membership of the Scholarships, Fellowships and Awards Committee be approved.

The motion carried.

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.

Five additional alternate students will be reported at the next Faculty of Science meeting on 12 October 2021.

Prof. Forest **moved**, seconded by Prof. Breau, that the membership of the Leo Yaffe & Principal's Prizes Committee be approved.

The motion carried.

8. Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (for approval):

Representatives of all faculties sit on the Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

Correction: Prof. Margaret Kalacska (Geography) will be replacing Prof. Tamara Western (Biology) on the CGPS.

Dr. Dechief **moved**, seconded by Prof. Stix, that the membership of the Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies be approved.

The motion carried.

9. B.A. & Sc. Program Administration Committee (for approval):

The B.A. & Sc. PAC reviews changes to, and coordinates the administration of, the B.A. & Sc. degree programs. Only the Science membership is subject to approval by the Faculty of Science.

Prof. Breau **moved**, seconded by Mr. Bhutkar, that the Science membership of the B.A. & Sc. Program Administration Committee be approved.

The motion carried.

b) Scholarships Committee

S-20-37

Associate Dean (Academic) Hundemer, Chair, Science Scholarships Committee, reported on the undergraduate scholarships given to continuing students based on their 2020-2021 academic year grades.

The Scholarships Report consists of named awards provided by generous donors and the Dean's contribution to top up these awards to ensure that all students received comparable awards. Associate Dean Hundemer said that most of the funding came from very generous donors and thanked them for their considerable contributions.

In summary, 619 students received scholarships compared to 441 in 2019-2020; 654 awards were given out versus 524 in 2019-2020, and the SGPA cut-offs were 4.00 for both B.A.&Sc. and B.Sc. students. Associate Dean Hundemer congratulated the 2021 recipients for their achievements.

6)

DEAN'S BUSINESS

a) Announcements

(i) New Appointments and Promotions

Dean Lennox congratulated the following newly appointed Professors and Faculty Lecturers. The Faculty of Science was privileged to attract these outstanding professors. He then congratulated both the recently tenured Professors, and newly promoted Full Professors for their outstanding contributions and accomplishments.

2021 New Professors			
Oana Balmau	Computer Science	Assistant Professor	01-JAN-2021
Xujie Si	Computer Science	Assistant Professor	01-JAN-2021
Mette Bendixen	Geography	Assistant Professor	01-AUG-2021
Katelin Schutz	Physics	Assistant Professor	01-AUG-2021

2021 New Faculty Lecturers		
Jens Kreitewolf	Psychology, Mathematics & Statistics	01-JAN-2021
Diane Dechief	Office of Science Education	15-JUN-2021

Faculty Members Granted Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor June 1, 2021	
Thomas Preston	Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences and Chemistry
Kim Berlo	Earth and Planetary Sciences
Natalya Gomez	Earth and Planetary Sciences
James Kirkpatrick	Earth and Planetary Sciences

Graham MacDonald	Geography
Linan Chen	Mathematics and Statistics
Tim Hoheisel	Mathematics and Statistics
Yi Yang	Mathematics and Statistics
Eric Hehman	Psychology
Lauren Human	Psychology
Signy Sheldon	Psychology
Anna Weinberg	Psychology
Jackie Cheung	School of Computer Science
David Meger	School of Computer Science

Full Professor Promotions		
Melania Cristescu	Biology	01-MAY-2021
Audrey Moores	Chemistry	01-MAY-2021
Keshav Dasgupta	Physics	01-MAR-2021
Brigitte Vachon	Physics	01-MAR-2021
Andreas Warburton	Physics	01-MAR-2021

(ii) Kudos

On behalf of the Faculty of Science, Dean Lennox congratulated the following awardees for their outstanding accomplishments and achievements.

- Professor Andrew Hendry (Biology) was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada
- Professor Rowan Barrett (Redpath Museum), Professor Daryl Haggard (Physics), and Professor Anna Weinberg (Psychology) joined the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists
- Ms. Ingrid Birker (Redpath Museum), Ms. Anna Coscia (Human Resources), Ms. Nancy Nelson (Biology) and Professor Lawrence Mysak (Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences) were named Unsung Heroes of McGill
- Mr. Robert Bogue (Earth & Planetary Sciences), Mr. Arna Ghosh (Computer Science), Ms. Victoria Glynn (Biology), Ms. Yeganeh Habibi (Chemistry), Mr. Chenghao Liu (Chemistry), Mr. Mathis Messenger (Geography) and Mr. Muhammad Ghufuran Rafique (Chemistry) received Vanier Scholarships
- Professor Jeffrey McKenzie (Earth & Planetary Sciences) was elected Fellow of the Geological Society of America
- Professor David Rolnick (Computer Science) was named an MIT Technology Review 'Innovator Under 35'
- Professor Matt Dobbs (Physics), Professor Tomislav Friščić (Chemistry), and Professor Anna Weinberg (Psychology) are new Canada Research Chairs (Spring 2021)
- Professor Anna Weinberg (Psychology) was awarded Principal's Prize for Outstanding Emerging Researchers

- Professor Richard Koestner (Psychology) won the Canadian Psychological Association's Donald O. Hebb Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychology as a Science
- Professor Gonzalo Cosa (Chemistry), Professor Paul François (Physics) and Professor Siamak Ravanbakhsh (Computer Science) received Exploration grants from Canada's New Frontiers in Research Fund
- Professor Victoria Kaspi (Physics) was named co-winner of the Shaw Prize in Astronomy

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

(iii) Federal Election

As previously announced by the federal government and the MRO McGill Communications, Dean Lennox encouraged all members to vote at the upcoming federal election on Monday, 20 September 2021. Dean Lennox said that although classes were not cancelled, he encouraged instructors to avoid scheduling exams and have other deadlines on that date to encourage all students to vote.

(iv) National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on 30 September 2021

Dean Lennox reminded members that the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation would be observed on 30 September 2021. Although federal government offices will be closed, McGill will be open. After discussions about the possibility of cancelling classes and other activities on that day, it was deemed challenging due to scheduling constraints and program requirements during the Fall semester. A number of students may prefer to be absent from class to participate on campus or off campus activities. Dean Lennox encouraged instructors not to schedule assignments or exams on 30 September 2021. Members should inform Ms. Dicki Chhoyang, Interim Director, Indigenous Initiatives if instructors plan an event in class or outside.

(v) Return to Campus

Dean Lennox reported that courses seem to be running smoothly so far with some minor glitches. About 300 courses are being offered during the Fall 2021 semester, and approximately 200 are entirely in-person, and about 100 have a significant remote component. Vice-Dean David Stephens, Associate Dean Axel Hundemer, and Associate Dean Anthony Mittermaier were engaged with the course planning process. There are approximately 85.5% of McGill students who are fully vaccinated. Vaccine passports are required only for extracurricular activities, according to the Ministry of Education. Vice-Dean Stephens added that more information concerning final exams would become available later in the semester.

(vi) 32nd Edition of Soup and Science

Starting 27 September to 1 October 2021, the 32nd edition of Soup and Science will be held remotely from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Three-minute presentations will be given by four Faculty members and one student member on each day. There will be no Soup and Science scheduled on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on 30 September 2021.

7) SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE SOCIETY (SUS) REPORT

Mr. Rohan Bhutkar, President of the Science Undergraduate Society, reported on the activities of the SUS.

With the transition to in-person/blended learning and extracurriculars, the SUS meetings and the department meetings have embraced a blended platform. The first General Council Meeting will be held via Zoom on 15 September 2021, while the executive committee meetings have been held in person. The Departmental Orientation Day (including training from the equity team and environmental sustainability) for executives of all departments will be held on 11 September 2021 to prepare everyone for the year to come.

One of the primary goals of the current academic year is to retain the lessons learned about online learning and apply them to the in-person context to aid in its effectiveness. The Vice-President (Academic) has taken on this goal by building upon our Graduate Schools Fair online platform last year. SUS will host universities from around the world in early November 2021. The Academic Portfolio is also setting up formal channels for Academic Complaints through the SUS to prepare for any issues that may arise alongside planning for other academic events such as Academia Week.

The Sustainability Portfolio will be continuing the SUS Buddy Program (another initiative to support incoming students by pairing them with upper-level students) under the Mental Health Committee. Additionally, the Social Sustainability Committee has highlighted relevant social justice topics, shared them on their platforms, and planned events surrounding social sustainability.

First-Year Orientation, or Frosh, was successfully conducted at the end of August 2021 in a hybrid context! There were over 600 froshies who took part in the events over the four days. The V-P Internal and the Science Internal Committee are also planning to follow the event with smaller-scale events later in the academic year geared explicitly towards all Science Students.

Regarding communications with Science students, the V-P Communications has officially started distributing listservs for the academic year (including a French translation) and continued with the Instagram account to reach more students. The SUS handbook will be revised to be used by all students and a larger PR committee.

The SUS Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with McGill University expired a while ago. Meetings with the Deputy Provost of Student Life and Learning office are still on hold due to issues related to COVID-19.

Finally, SUS is launching the Alumni Mentorship Program and is awaiting results from the first round of emails to determine the scale of students to include.

Dean Lennox thanked Mr. Bhutkar for the report and looked forward to working with the SUS. He said it was essential to get students' experiences and would be happy to provide support.

8) **SCIENCE EQUITY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE**

Associate Dean Nilson gave a brief introduction to the structure of the Science Equity and Climate Committee. The SECC is the Faculty-level committee that handles the EDI portfolio at the Faculty level and works generally toward a supportive climate for working and learning across the Faculty of Science. One of the important functions of the SECC is to serve as a hub that brings together all the departments and other units in this vital portfolio.

The membership includes faculty members from each academic department plus other essential units, such as the Office for Science Education, the Office for Science Outreach, and the Science Office for Undergraduate Student Advising (SOUSA). Bringing everyone together can play a crucial role in communicating information about what's going on at the university and faculty level for members to bring back to their constituents.

As a hub, the SECC serves to receive feedback and ideas from the different units and share best practices. A series of monthly meetings will be launched later in September 2021. One of the priorities for 2021-2022 will be to help support and coordinate the work of the department-level EDI committees by setting up defined terms of reference for these committees. The goal of this project is not only to help by providing a framework for their work but also to ensure the sustainability of these committees in the future to make them formal sustainable structures within the departments.

On a related note, the Faculty of Science will be co-sponsoring Black History Month in February 2022 with keynote speakers; therefore, stay tuned.

9) **PROVOST'S ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS ANTI-BLACK RACISM**

Associate Dean Nilson reminded members that there are three job searches set to launch in Fall 2021. These are provostial positions established under the Provost's Action Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism. The three scholars, whose work involves matters related to racism or the black community, will be in the Department of Geography, Department of Psychology, and the School of Computer Science. The Chairs/Director of the departments and the search committees met multiple times over the summer 2021 to plan the search and discuss how to disseminate the advertisements. One important part of this coordination across the searches is to ensure that the applicants are aware that these hires are taking place in the context of three hires in the Faculty of Science, and in the context of the larger plan at the university level.

Associate Dean Nilson reported that Prof. Terry Givens has started her appointment as a Full Professor in the Department of Political Science and as the Provost's Academic Lead and Advisor on the McGill's Action to Address Anti-Black Racism (AP-ABR). One of her important roles will be to mentor the junior professors that will be hired under the AP-ABR. Associate Dean Nilson informed members that they can watch Prof. Givens on YouTube, where she has given a number of interviews regarding her book "Radical Empathy: Finding a Path to Bridging Racial Divides."

Dean Lennox thanked Associate Dean Nilson for her reports and for her leadership in two very important roles for McGill and the Faculty of Science.

10) **THE NEW VIC PROJECT UPDATE**

Dean Lennox gave an update on the New Vic Project. On 31 August 2021, there was a Town Hall presentation on the project with a sneak preview of the site. There were 485 people in attendance and as of 8 September 2021 through November 2021, the project must undergo public consultations. The *Office de consultation publique de Montréal* (OCPM) will hold a question-and-answer session on 23 September 2021 at 7 p.m. Details of the project may be found at <https://newvic.mcgill.ca/the-new-vic-project/>. For more details of the Town Hall presentation, see the article published in The Reporter on 16 September 2021.

11) **REPORTS OF ASSOCIATE DEANS**

- a) Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer

Associate Dean Hundemer presented the Assessment Regulations for Fall 2021 Faculty of Science courses. The regulations take into consideration the University policies as well as the TLS Guidelines. All instructors and students are encouraged to look over the regulations. The main changes to the Fall 2021 assessment regulations were that students are expected to be in Montreal, and that synchronous assessments are possible for in-person and remote courses.

Accommodations for different time zones are no longer needed this semester. For the first time in McGill's history, courses are offered in-person and online during the Fall term. Associate Dean Hundemer said that it was important to note that students should not feel disadvantaged no matter which of the two modes of course delivery they are involved with, ensuring that all students are treated equally. Instructors may offer in-class tests/mid-term exams, etc., during regular class time or outside of class time but must offer exam accommodations for students with exam conflict. Concerning remote exams, extra time (5 minutes for 50-minute class; 10 minutes for longer course time) must be given to students in the event of internet issues. Special accommodations must be made for students with documented reasons (e.g., illness, death in the family, etc.) for students unable to take an exam at the scheduled time.

Final exams may be held in person or remotely with extra time allowed, taking into account internet/computer glitches. Another option is to offer a longer form of assessment (i.e., term paper) in place of a three-hour final exam. See full details of the Assessment Regulations here:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/science/covid-19/instructors/assessment-regulations-fall-2021>

Dean Lennox thanked Associate Dean Hundemer for a detailed and comprehensive report regarding the Assessment Regulations for Fall 2021. He emphasized the importance of the regulations for both instructors and students.

b) Associate Dean (Student Affairs) Anthony Mittermaier

Associate Dean Mittermaier said instructors are welcome to contact him for special accommodation planning for students who missed exams due to COVID-19.

c) Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson

Associate Dean Nilson reported on the following two items:

a) As of 1 September 2021, doctoral oral defences may resume in person, and units may offer the option for a hybrid or online defence. GPS will no longer be organizing the defences. If the oral defence is scheduled online or as a hybrid defence, the unit will be responsible for setting up the Zoom link. The defenses can be run as they were previously but following public health guidelines, ensuring proper distancing, and ensuring that everyone is wearing a mask. One advantage of the hybrid format is that the external examiner can participate in the Defense. Previously, the examiner would usually be at another institution and would not travel to McGill. Another example would be if both the student and the supervisor are away, the whole defence can be done remotely. This flexibility ensures that defenses are not delayed and that students can graduate on time.

b) A reminder that deadlines are coming up for graduate fellowships from national and provincial agencies for Master's and Doctoral degrees students. Supervisors should encourage their students to apply for an external fellowship because the more students are supported by external fellowships, the farther the internal budgets will go. Also, a fellowship is a great learning tool and a good experience for the student as they develop

their project. The application deadlines and processes may be found on the GPS's website.

d) Associate Dean (Research) John Stix

Associate Dean Stix said that in terms of research, there was a lot happening for 2021-2022. The CFI 11 competition was currently taking place, and hopefully, McGill will be successful. The Canada Excellence Research Chairs (CERC) and the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) competitions will be launched soon. Associate Dean Stix also announced that letters of intent are welcome for the 2022 New Frontiers in Research Fund - Transformation (NFRFT) competition. Members are welcome to contact Associate Dean (Research) John Stix for more information and support about these competitions.

Dean Lennox thanked Associate Dean Stix for the report and encouraged members to enter the competition.

12) **MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no members' questions.

13) **OTHER BUSINESS**

Dean Lennox commented that there were many reasons to be optimistic this semester. It was essential to acknowledge and celebrate all that had been accomplished in the past 18 months. The path is looking good, and it will be refined to make sure it is an excellent one. Since 11 March 2020, instructors have done amazing things both with their courses and in their research. There are about 180 administrative and support staff, 264 professors, and about 6000 students in the Faculty, and it is important to celebrate with colleagues and students for significant achievements. Dean Lennox expressed appreciation for the incredible work done by the Director of Administration, Maria Babiak, the Senior HR Advisor, Tina Kafantaris, Vice-Dean David Stephens, Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer, Associate Dean (Student Affairs) Anthony Mittermaier, Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson, and Associate Dean (Research) John Stix.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.