

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
MEETING OF FACULTY
14 February 2023 at 3:00 p.m.
Held via Zoom Conference Application**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book

DOCUMENTS: **AC-22-17 to 24**

Dean Lennox called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. and welcomed members to the sixth meeting of the 2022-2023 academic year.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Item # 13, Senator Brigitte Vachon will be reporting on the Senate Meeting of 18 January 2023, after Item # 5, Business Arising from the Minutes.

Prof. Stix **moved**, seconded by Prof. Perepichka, that the amended Agenda be approved.

The motion carried.

2. Memorial Tribute: Professor Emeritus John F. Harrod, Department of Chemistry

Prof. Dima Perepichka, Chair of the Department of Chemistry, read the following Resolution:

Dr. John F. Harrod, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Chemistry at McGill University passed away peacefully in Montreal on January 26, 2023, in his 89th year.

John was educated at the University of Birmingham in the UK receiving his B.Sc. (Hons.) in 1952 and Ph.D. in 1958 and then did postdoctoral work at the University of British Columbia with Prof. Jack Halpern, a former McGill graduate. He started working as a polymer research chemist at the General Electric Research Lab in New York State in 1960 and joined the faculty at McGill University in 1966. Prof. Harrod's arrival at McGill has marked the time of a major expansion of the Department of Chemistry. He was one of pioneers in organometallic chemistry, particularly known for his contributions to organosilicon chemistry. His many research accomplishments were recognized by several honors, including the Tomlinson Chair in Chemistry, Killam Research Fellowship and Alcan Award in Inorganic Chemistry from the Canadian Society for Chemistry. He retired in 1998, after working at McGill for 32 years, and was appointed as Professor Emeritus. In his career, Prof. Harrod has published almost 200 research articles and co-authored an undergraduate textbook *Inorganic Chemistry: Principles and Applications*. This book was published in 1989 and was translated into several languages, including Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Greek.

Outside of chemistry, John had many interests. He was an avid sportsman – tennis and skiing particularly, and he enjoyed extended walks in France. In 1964, he took a leave of absence from General Electric and volunteered for the

International Voluntary Service based in Zurich, working for over a year on disaster and humanitarian relief projects in Algeria, Northern Greece, and Switzerland. He was also an extremely competent craftsman. The family cottage that he built near Lac Chevreuil in the Laurentians is still being used to this day by his extended family. John was a renaissance man - a poet, a musician playing guitar and recorder, and a puppeteer (especially at Christmas time).

John was widely known on campus. He served as Chair of the Department of Chemistry (1976-79) and as President of MAUT (1981-82).

John is survived by his wife of over 45 years, Prof. Leanore Lieblin, and his three children Jean-Pierre, Rachel and Ariel, and their families. His memory will be treasured.

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

On behalf of the Faculty of Science, Dean Lennox expressed condolences to the family of Prof. Harrod. He said that Prof. Harrod was not only a great scientist and scholar, but also a truly great person. Prof. Harrod's impact on McGill was significant, particularly in his support of young faculty members. As someone who worked alongside Prof. Harrod for 35 years, Dean Lennox said he personally benefited from Prof. Harrod's gentle but insightful guidance. Additionally, Prof. Harrod was one of the three individuals who championed the concept of merit, which was a significant departure from the previous system of percentage-based salary increases.

3. Candidates for Degrees

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| a) Bachelor of Arts and Science | S-22-18 |
| b) Bachelor of Science | S-22-19 |

Associate Dean Mittermaier said there were 36 students graduating with the B.A. & Sc. degree, and 183 students graduating with the B.Sc. degree. The corresponding figures for 2022 were 27 and 216. The CGPA cut-offs for both the Dean's Honour List (top 10%) and for Distinction (top 25%, but below the top 10%) would be set prior to the May 2023 graduation.

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

The motion carried.

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| c) Diploma in Environment | S-22-20 |
| d) Diploma in Meteorology | S-22-21 |

There were no students graduating with the Diplomas in Environment and Meteorology.

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

The motion carried.

Associate Dean Mittermaier expressed his gratitude towards the SOUSA advisors for their dedication and tireless efforts in preparing the graduation lists. Dean Lennox also acknowledged the hard work of the advisors.

4. **Minutes of 24 January 2023** **AC-22-17**

Prof. Gyakum **moved**, seconded by Prof. Perepichka, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

5. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

4. **Report of Committee**
- Academic Committee **S-22-22**

Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer described the following proposals approved at the Academic Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 7 February 2023.

1. **Psychology**

New Course

PSYC 385 Psychology Research Project 1 **AC-22-204**
3 credits

New Course

PSYC 484D1/D2 Psychology Research Project **AC-22-205**
6 credits

New Course

PSYC 485 Psychology Research Project 2 **AC-22-206**
3 credits

New Course

PSYC 486 Senior Honours Research 1 **AC-22-207**
3 credits

New Course

PSYC 487 Senior Honours Research 2 **AC-22-208**
3 credits

New Course

PSYC 488D1/D2 Senior Honours Research **AC-22-209**
6 credits

Associate Dean Hundemer described the above new Psychology courses. The aim was to reduce the credit weight for the independent research courses, precisely three credits for one-term courses and six credits for two-term courses. To avoid confusion amongst students, the research courses are given new numbers, and the old research courses will be retired after all students have graduated. The rationale is to align the courses with the credit weight typically given for the Faculty's undergraduate "396" research courses, a one-term three-credit course. The goal was also to distinguish between independent research courses and other research courses with a seminar component. Many supervisors are reluctant to take students on for a six-credit one-term research course because there are no projects that would allow students enough hours to complete the work that would be required in such courses.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, that the above courses be adopted.

The motion carried.

B.Sc. Program Changes:

- Honours in Psychology **AC-22-210**

B.A. & Sc. Program Changes:

- Joint Honours Component in Psychology

[AC-22-213](#)

Associate Dean Hundemer said several minor modifications had been made to the above Psychology programs. Program descriptions have been added to the programs, and some housekeeping changes/clarifications have been made. Other changes included: retiring a senior Honours seminar course and replacing it with a research methods course (approved above). Also added was a new course requirement to augment the statistical rigor of training in the Honours and Joint Honours programs. In addition, the Complementary Honours course requirements were slightly modified, allowing students to take 400-level courses as part of their Complementary Honours courses.

Associate Dean Hundemer informed members that SCTP now requires program descriptions for programs where none currently exist.

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

The motion carried.

B.Sc. Program Changes:

- Major in Psychology
- Liberal – Core Science Component in Psychology

[AC-22-211](#)

[AC-22-212](#)

B.A. & Sc. Program Changes:

- Major Concentration in Psychology
- Minor Concentration in Psychology

[AC-22-214](#)

[AC-22-215](#)

Associate Dean Hundemer said some of the programs' text had been clarified. The program descriptions and the newly approved courses above have been included in the programs. In the B.A. & Sc. Major Concentration in Psychology, a statement has been added to alert students that the program may not be sufficiently specialized for certain graduate programs and that students should consider other options.

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

The motion carried.

2. Computer Science

- COMP 551 Applied Machine Learning
Changes: prerequisites, restrictions
4 credits

[AC-22-192](#)

Associate Dean Hundemer explained that a prerequisite was added to COMP 551 because the instructor found that students needed more background to succeed in the course. Another prerequisite (ECSE 305) was removed since the course is no longer offered. A restriction (PSYC 560) was being added in reciprocity to the restriction in a newly approved course (PSYC 650) during the Fall semester.

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

The motion carried.

New Course

COMP 513

Advanced Computer Systems
4 credits

AC-22-167

Associate Dean Hundemer said COMP 513 has previously been taught as a topics course and was now being presented for adoption as a regular course.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

New Course

COMP 685

Machine Learning Applied to Climate Change
4 credits

AC-22-170

Associate Dean Hundemer said that COMP 685 was a higher-level seminar course on machine learning to be taught by a new professor.

A member raised the concern during the meeting that the Bieler School of Environment had not been consulted for feedback on possible overlap with environment courses. However, upon reviewing the proposal, there were no objections.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gyakum, that the course be adopted, pending consultation with the Bieler School of Environment.

The motion carried.

Secretary's Note: After the meeting, the School of Computer Science consulted with the Bieler School of Environment and received a consultation report with no objections.

B.Eng. Program Changes:

- Minor Program in Computer Science

AC-22-193

Associate Dean Hundemer described the changes in the Minor in Computer Science and said that ECE would be offering equivalent courses to COMP courses required for the program. Other changes are housekeeping in nature and deleting a retired course.

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

The motion carried.

3. Geography

GEOG 314

Geospatial Analysis
Prerequisite Web control
3 credits

AC-22-194

Associate Dean Hundemer explained that currently, many students are enrolling in GEOG 314 without taking the prerequisite course, GEOG 201. This was causing administrative issues, hence, a prerequisite control on Minerva will block registration for GEOG 314 if the prerequisite still needs to be completed.

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

The motion carried.

GEOG 325

New Master-Planned Cities
Changes: prerequisites, restrictions
3 credits

AC-22-195

Associate Dean Hundemer said that students were registering for GEOG 325 before taking the prerequisite course, GEOG 217, and to address this issue, a Web prerequisite control will be implemented on Minerva. In addition, the instructor determined that this prerequisite provided the necessary background for the course, and GEOG 210 was no longer needed.

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

The motion carried.

4. Earth & Planetary Sciences/Geography

New Course

EPSC 522/GEOG 522 Advanced Environmental Hydrology
3 credits

AC-22-196/197

Associate Dean Hundemer said EPSC 522 and GEOG 522 is an upper-level course in hydrology training. The course will be taught by a new instructor jointly appointed in the Departments of Earth & Planetary Sciences, and Geography.

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

The motion carried.

5. Mathematics & Statistics

Program Name Change:
- B.Sc. Honours in Statistics

AC-22-198

For Information Only:

- B.A. Honours in Statistics

AC-22-199

Associate Dean Hundemer explained that the renaming of the existing B.A. and B.Sc. Honours Programs in Probability and Statistics to **Honours Program in Statistics** was to better reflect the program's content and spirit, and to emphasize that it is the Honours version of the current B.Sc. Major in Statistics and B.A. Major Concentration in Statistics Programs. The revised title will make it more transparent for students pursuing careers in industry or government. The existing B.A. and B.Sc. Honours Programs in Probability and Statistics will be retired.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, that the program name changes be approved.

The motion carried.

Dean Lennox thanked Associate Dean Hundemer for presenting the report in such a measured and coherent way. On behalf of the Faculty, Dean Lennox extended his appreciation to all the members of the Academic Committee for their vigilance and careful review of the proposals.

7. Dean's Business

a) Associate Dean (Student Affairs) Anthony Mittermaier

(i) Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List (DMURL) **S-22-23**

Associate Dean Mittermaier reminded members that the DMURL provides recognition for students who have completed at least 9 credits of graded research-based courses in at least two different units, and who have a minimum GPA of 3.00 on these courses. There were eight B.Sc. students and four B.A. & Sc. students listed in Document S-22-23 who would be graduating with this designation. Associate Dean Mittermaier thanked Mr. Victor Chisholm, SOUSA, for his work on the DMURL.

(ii) B.Sc. Global Designation **S-22-24**

Associate Dean Mittermaier said that the B.Sc. Global was a designation being given at graduation. Students must have at least three credits of a second language course, at least three credits of an independent research project course, plus a third component, chosen from various preselected options. There was one candidate who would graduate with the B.Sc. Global designation in Document S-22-24. Associate Dean Mittermaier thanked Ms. Myriam Thériault, Internships & Field Studies Office, for her work on the Global Designation.

b) Dean's Announcements

(i) Kudos

On behalf of the Faculty of Science, Dean Lennox congratulated Prof. Eve J. Lee (Physics) for being awarded the 2022 Professor M. K. Vainu Bappu Gold Medal from the Astronomical Society of India. The purpose of the award is to promote knowledge in the fields of Astronomy and Astrophysics, as well as to recognize the contributions of young scientists from any part of the world.

(ii) McGill24

Dean Lennox announced that on Wednesday, March 15th, 2023, McGill24, a 24-hour fundraising campaign around the world, will take place. This campaign is particularly exciting because it engages students, particularly recent graduates, and creates a new network of donors. Before the pandemic, various local alumni groups in places like Hong Kong, San Francisco, or Toronto would get together for social events that included fundraising for McGill24. An important aspect of this campaign is the significant participation of faculty and staff across the University. Donations collected will support various programs within faculties, leading to significant impact. Many of the events target smaller programs and ideas, usually initiated by students, which foster new communities of contacts and networking. Examples of these programs include the following:

Edith Engelberg Graduate Teaching Award - The Award is created to honour the memory of the late Mrs. Edith Engelberg, a former inspiring teacher within McGill's Department of Physics. The award supports a new graduate student teaching award in her name.

Anne Kosowski Fund – The has been created to celebrate Anne's numerous contributions to the education and quality of life of students, colleagues, and friends. The fund aims to support graduate students in times of need.

Physics BIPOC Summer Research Experience – To increase representation of BIPOC undergraduate students in Physics by offering research experiences in their labs during the summer.

Psychology Research Experience Stipend (PRESti) – Make a difference in the lives of undergraduate psychology students by providing them with opportunities for first-hand research experience in the department.

Scientista – Help advance the skills and career opportunities of women and other people of underrepresented genders in STEM. The funds raised will go towards the annual symposium, mentorship, and events developing hard and soft skills.

Women in Tech – Its mission is to encourage female students from all backgrounds and fields of interest to discover and pursue opportunities in the tech industry through networking, workshops, mentorship and educational opportunities.

Student Research Initiative (SRI) – This on-campus student-run organization facilitates the introduction of students to undergraduate research. The SRI Award provides non-merit based financial support for summer research projects to undergraduate science students at McGill, removing barriers to research opportunities.

McGill Scientific Writing Initiative – The McGill Scientific Writing Initiative (MSWI) is hosting its third annual SciComm Case Competition in which undergraduate students navigate the intricacies of scientific texts in order to effectively convey scientific material to a variety of audiences. This year's theme is Evolution.

McGill Student Emergency Response Team (MSERT) – Join our efforts to create a safer campus together! Your donation will be directed towards increasing the capacity of our current Psychological First Aid courses. Gifts will also allow us to prioritize the purchase of new medical equipment, contributing toward improved safety of all staff and students on campus.

Biochemistry Undergraduate Society (BUGS) Student Researcher Experience – Help overcome financial barriers associated with getting involved in research by providing awards to Biochemistry and Immunology undergraduates to support their efforts and encourage undergraduate research in our community.

McGill's Team at the International Physicists' Tournament – Help us attend the final of the International Physicists' Tournament and represent McGill and Canada. Canada was selected for the first time ever to participate in the final in April in France.

STEMM Diversity @ McGill – help this student-run initiative increase equity, diversity, inclusion and representation in STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and Medicine).

Dr. Peter Hoaken Memorial Travel Award – The prize will provide financial support to outstanding master's and PhD students pursuing research in the Department of Psychology.

Dr. Adi Eisenberg Memorial Lecture – Honour Dr. Eisenberg's remarkable contributions and inspiring legacy by bringing esteemed speakers in areas of polymer chemistry and self-assembly to McGill for the benefits of students, staff and faculty.

Jennifer Abbott, from the Faculty's Advancement Office, encouraged members to share these events on social media.

(iii) Update on the Stewart Biology Building

As previously announced to the McGill community, Dean Lennox has provided further details on the burst pipes and flooding incidents that occurred in the Stewart Biology Building due to deep-freeze temperatures over the weekend of 5 February 2023. The incident caused water infiltration in both the North and South Blocks of the building, part of the total of nine water pipe breakages across different buildings on campus. Immediate action was taken by McGill's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and Environmental Health and Safety (EHS), who assessed the situation and conducted testing. The results of the testing revealed detectable asbestos in the residue/water/surfaces, prompting the closure of the building on 6 February 2023. Special teams were brought in to clean the building with specific protocols, taking into account the presence of sensitive experiments ranging from ants to mice, birds, and plants. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has been made available for staff and graduate students involved in the care of the experiments. Currently, testing is underway to validate the cleaning process by testing the air for any dispersed asbestos in Stewart North, with results expected to be available to the Faculty by 15 February 2023.

Prof. Fussmann said it was necessary to reassure people that those entering the building under protective conditions are safe to do so at the moment, regardless of the outcome of the upcoming test results. The priority is to enter the building and continue the necessary work, while taking all precautions to ensure safety. It is hoped that the negative air test results will be available soon, and once they are confirmed, the building can be reopened and operations can resume as normal.

Dean Lennox expressed gratitude to Carole Verdone-Smith, Deputy Building Director from the Department of Biology, who has done a remarkable and exceptional job in a very difficult situation. He also extended thanks to Marilena Cafaro, Associate Director of Infrastructure in the Faculty, Prof. Gregor Fussmann, Chair, and Prof. Blaine Ditto, Chair, and the faculty, students, and staff in the Departments of Biology and Psychology.

8. Science Undergraduate Society (SUS) Report

Joy Zhang, the SUS President reported on the following activities.

Some general announcements: The Science Election season is underway! Starting Wednesday, 15 February 2023, potential nominees will be collecting signatures to fulfill their candidacy. The Executive Council has launched an 'Instagram Takeover' campaign to promote elections and respective positions. The General Assembly is scheduled for 22 February 2023, allowing students to bring their concerns directly to the councillors. The Equity Commissioner is conducting trainings for departmental executives who could not attend last semester's training. The amendments to the SUS Financial By-laws have been passed, and the next steps are to implement a centralized system within the SUS and departments, starting with amending the Financial By-laws.

The VP Academic has recently concluded the annual Academia Week event, featuring skills workshops, presentations, and a research panel organized jointly with the Office of Science Education (OSE). She is also hosting a joint event with MSURJ about Equity in Research. The Academic Complaints Form has been advertised on social media, and she continues to work through incoming academic complaints. A consultation with SKILLS21 has taken place regarding feedback from the Faculty of Science, mostly noting ways to improve student engagement.

The VP Communications is assisting departments with updating their constitutions, many of which will be ratified through the General Council this semester. The VP Sustainability is finalizing the SUS Leaders in Science Scholarship and aims to release it for applications in the coming weeks. She is also planning another Charity week, with proceeds going to Dans la Rue. The VP Internal is collaborating with the Arts

Undergraduate Society to plan Graduation Ball, with the working group being hired this week. The annual formal, SUS Gala, is scheduled for this Friday, with 800 tickets already sold (the event was capped at 250!).

Departmental councils are also busy planning events such as Wine and Cheeses, end-of-year formals, and the First Year Undergraduate Society is planning Finals Fest alongside the OSE.

On behalf of the Faculty, Dean Lennox thanked Joy Zhang for her Report, and said it was great to see the engagement and involvement of the SUS.

9. Science Equity and Climate Committee

Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson reported on the Science Equity and Climate Committee meeting held on 25 January 2023.

(i) Graduate Student Travel Advances

Graduate students are incurring expenses from research-related travel and holding balances on their credit cards while waiting for reimbursement. To resolve this issue, the Faculty of Science worked with the Finance Team to create a one-page description of how to obtain travel advances. This document was sent to the departments for dissemination. In an effort to ensure visibility of this information, the SECC sent the email directly to the leadership of the departmental graduate student organizations, and to the GPDs and GPCs with a preface emphasizing the usefulness of this tool. SECC members were also asked to disseminate the information to their departments. The goal is to distribute the information widely.

In response to a member, Associate Dean Nilson confirmed that the general one-page instructions on travel advances had been sent to everyone, but that SECC reminder will be sent to the departmental graduate program coordinators, with a copy also being provided to the Chairs/Directors.

In response to a member, Associate Dean Nilson confirmed that the one-page instructions on how graduate students can obtain travel advances will be sent to the departmental graduate program coordinators, with a copy also being provided to the Chairs/Directors.

(ii) Update from Dr. Diane Dechief, Office of Science Education

Dr. Dechief updated members about the Faculty of Science Inclusive Teaching Initiative project which was first announced at the Faculty of Science meeting on 11 October 2023.

(iii) Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Climate in the Faculty

The SECC discussed facilitating discussion groups on equity, diversity, inclusion, and climate. Members shared their approaches to organizing these groups in their departments. There is a lot of interest in these issues, and sharing tips on effective organization can meet the needs of the community. Lastly, the SECC collected information about the structure of equity, diversity, inclusion, and climate work in departments to develop a complete picture of what is happening in the faculty.

On behalf of the Faculty, Dean Lennox thanked Associate Dean Nilson for the very informative report and for the work of the Committee.

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

Associate Dean for Graduate Education, Laura Nilson, reminded members that Black History Month was launched on 1 February 2023. The opening celebration featured a

keynote speech by Rinaldo Walcott, Professor and the Carl V. Granger Chair in Africana and American Studies at the University of Buffalo (SUNY). Additional events can be found at <https://www.mcgill.ca/equity/category/article-categories/black-history-month>.

Dean Lennox thanked Associate Dean Nilson for the update.

11. The New Vic Project Update

Dean Lennox announced that there would be no report for the current meeting, but he would provide an update to members at the next Faculty of Science meeting scheduled on 28 March 2023.

12. Reports of Associate Deans

- a) Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer
- b) Associate Dean (Student Affairs) Anthony Mittermaier
- c) Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson

There were no reports from Associate Deans Hundemer, Mittermaier, and Nilson.

- d) Associate Dean (Research) John Stix

Associate Dean (Research) Stix reported that the Faculty is awaiting the results of the Canada Research Chairs (CRC), James McGill Professors (JMP), and William Dawson Scholars (WDS) competition, and the outcomes are due in the next couple of weeks. However, the Faculty has had a track record of success in these competitions in the past, and they are currently working hard to maximize their success in various prizes and awards, particularly the NSERC programs.

Dean Lennox expressed gratitude to Preeti Purba-Singh for her excellent work in preparing professional and polished proposals, and Associate Dean Stix echoed these sentiments. The Faculty is committed to ensuring that the proposals are of the highest quality to increase their chances of success in these competitions.

Dean Lennox thanked Associate Dean Stix for his Report.

13. Report on Actions of Senate

- Senate Meeting, 7 December 2022:

The Report was prepared by Senator Jeffrey McKenzie, and read by Prof. John Gyakum.

It was broadly a quiet session of Senate with just reports from various committees, no notable actions of Senate, and very few questions. The complete reports are available on the Senate website.

Senate started with a memorial tribute for Professor Emeritus Walter Mushynski.

Principal Manfredi made numerous remarks. Of note for the Faculty of Science: Quebec's Minister of Education visited campus, including the Genome Centre. The Principal had recently attended a U15 meeting during which there was extensive discussions around graduate student stipends and the training and attracting of talent to Canada's universities.

Report of the Academic Policy Committee was provided by Professor Buddle on behalf of Professor Lebeau. Of note, departmental cyclical reviews are back! Now with new guidelines, including increased flexibility.

Senator Leckey provided the report of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, noting that the committee now includes co-chairs from Senate and the Board of Governors. The committee has focused on how best the various EDI committees and sub-committees should interact.

Cristiane Tinmouth, Associate Vice-Principal of Financial Services, gave the Annual Report on the Financial State of the University. Overall, a positive outlook, with some specifics of interest to the Faculty of Science: in fiscal year 2022 the total spend to date for IT projects was \$95.5 million and for deferred maintenance projects was \$109.1 million. Expenses and expenditures have increased compared to previous year due to relaxing of hiring freeze (i.e., in other words, a hiring thaw) and increased university activities. There has been a decrease in international students (and associated fee income), primarily a result of the Federal Government being unable to process visas. This will be a multiyear issue as this low-international-enrollment cohort moves through. Overall, university in sound financial situation.

Denis Mondou, Chair of the Committee on Physical Development, provided the Annual Report of the Committee on Physical Development. There was questions and discussion about the 'new models of work', in which the University experimented with some staff working in a shared space. There were concerns voiced by Senators about how the pilot project was conducted, including that staff who felt they were guineapigs. Overall, many staff involved in the project felt it was not a healthy work environment. In response to an additional question, Mondou indicated that McGill's building condemned index was 30% (very poor), and that these buildings were receiving the most attention.

Professor Christopher Buddle provided the Annual Report of the Committee on Libraries. Fiat Luxe continues. There was a question regarding student space during the construction phase of the project, to which Buddle indicated that work has already started in finding an addition 3000 seats for students across campus. The Schulich Library will open in June, a start date for McLennan Library renovations, which will further ease seating stress.

Professor Angela Campbell provided the Annual Reports on the Strategic EDI Plan and the Action Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism. Campbell stated that the challenge of these committees is more than just EDI hiring but putting our ideals into action.

Senate was concluded at 4:00 PM.

- Senate Meeting, 18 January 2023: Senator Brigitte Vachon

The Chair reported that The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, visited campus to discuss Canada's environmental policy and the fight against climate change with Chemical Engineering students. The Minister was briefed on campus priority projects including the New Vic Project and invited to return to campus in the future to discuss the projects further.

The Chair also reported that Quebec Finance Minister Eric Girard presented Quebec's economic update on December 8, 2022. The Provincial Government's budgetary deficit for 2022-2023 is anticipated to be lower than announced in March 2022, though the return to a balanced budget is still planned for fiscal year 2027-2028. While the economic outlook of the province for 2023 has declined, Government investment in higher education is still expected to increase over the next three fiscal years, primarily due to new targeted programs that were previously announced, including scholarships in areas of labour shortages, and student aid measures. To mitigate impact of inflation, the indexation rate of public services will be capped at 3%, effective January 1, 2023, for a period of four years. This cap will affect University-regulated tuition fees and Senators

were informed that the government intends to compensate universities for the difference between these increases, but the exact level of compensation is currently unknown

The Chair congratulated the University community for raising \$421,000 in benefit of Centraide of Greater Montreal and pointed out that the fundraising goal of \$425,000 should be achieved after all donations are processed.

The Board of Governors approved the extension of the current appointment of Senator Crago as Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation) for a one-year period.

A report of the Academic Policy Committee (APC) was presented. Of note is the approval by Senate of a new Master's thesis program (M.Sc.) in Architecture (45 credits) in the Faculty of Engineering.

Senate approved a list of nominations put forward by the **Senate Nominating Committee** for the Committee on Student Services, and the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee.

Senator Labeau presented to Senate for information the first of three presentations with respect to the planning of the **2023-2024 University Budget**. Based on actuals and commitments as of September 30, 2022, financial information collected from units and historical trends, the expectation is that both revenues and expenses will be higher than originally anticipated. The anticipated deficit is of \$9.2M, including a \$5.5M remaining contingency, as compared to the originally expected amounts of \$9.4M and \$20M contingency. While revenues from the sale of goods and services have increased more than expected, tuition and fee revenues have decreased. Some of the variance is also due to increases to Administrative and Support Staff salaries as incurred by the new Collective Agreement. Some of the priorities for 2023-2024 are to balance the budget, further the University's Mission, maintain competitive salary increases, and increase student recruitment. It was noted that staff turnover in certain areas of the University is a challenge and that this challenge will be addressed while maintaining fiscal responsibility. In terms of financed accumulated deficit, the target limit will be \$130M in 2023-2024.

Senator D'Iorio presented the **report from the Board of Governors to Senate**. He reported that the Board had approved the appointment of Professor H. Deep Saini as Principal and Vice-Chancellor of McGill University for a five-year term. The Board also approved a Research Grant Agreement between McGill University, and Brain Canada in support of the Virtual Integrated Patient Platform project. The Construction of Lot 1 of 3 of the New Residence Hall (Repairs to the Façade) was also approved, as well as the University Advancement's (UA) Customer Relationship Management System project.

Professor Buddle presented for information an **update on New Models of Academic Program Delivery**. This update included an overview of the draft recommendations relating to online/blended learning, the definitions of program types, and development of the University's credit and non-credit summer activities. The enhancement and support of experiential learning opportunities was also outlined in the draft recommendations, as well as the importance of the University maintaining flexibility in response to needs as they develop and emerge. The working group will submit its final report to the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic) before 1 March 2023.

During discussions, it was suggested that a broad survey of the current student cohort's experience with respect to online and blended learning may be useful, as well as a fundraising initiative in support of investment in instruction. Clarification on the University's approach to paid vs unpaid experiential learning opportunities was requested to which Senator Labeau commented that the University aimed to maximize paid

opportunities, while managing unpaid ones, through avenues such as need-based financial support. The broad draft recommendations as well as recognition of the need to develop unit/department/faculty-specific guidelines to online/blended learning methods of instruction received general support from members of Senate. Some concern was expressed regarding the potential increase in workload for instructors as a result of the implementation of some of these recommendations. Regarding the need for resources, Professor Buddle stated that discussions will need to consider the development of classroom upgrades and investments.

14. Members' Question Period

There were no members' questions.

15. Other Business

There being no further business, Prof. Gyakum **moved**, seconded by Prof. Fabry, that the meeting be adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

The motion carried.