

FACULTY OF SCIENCE
In-person Meeting of Faculty
6 December 2022
Robert Vogel Council Room (L232), Leacock Building

DOCUMENTS: S-22-13, S-22-14

Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., and welcomed members to the fourth Faculty of Science meeting of the 2022-2023 academic year.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Zhang **moved**, seconded by Prof. Watt, that the Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

2. Minutes of 8 November 2022 S-22-14

Prof. Roulet **moved**, seconded by Prof. Watt, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

4. Report of Committee

- Academic Committee **S-22-13**

Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer described the following proposals approved at the Academic Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 22 November 2022.

1. Psychology

New Course:

PSYC 411 Discrimination & Wellbeing in Marginalized Communities [AC-22-147](#)
3 credits

PSYC 411 is an upper-level course in the Psychology Department that looks at the various impacts of discrimination on the mental health and well-being of different marginalized populations, with a big focus on ethnic and racial discrimination and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

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

The motion carried.

Course Retirement:

PSYC 488 D1/D2 Special Topics Seminar [AC-22-148](#)
3 credits

PSYC 488D1/D2 had not been offered in several years, and the Department has no plans of offering it again.

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

The motion carried.

Course Revisions:

PSYC 351	Research Methods in Social Psychology 3 credits Changes: Course title, course description, Prerequisites, Restrictions	AC-22-149
PSYC 352	Cognitive Psychology Laboratory 3 credits Changes: Course title, Corequisite, Restrictions	AC-22-150
PSYC 353	Laboratory in Human Perception 3 credits Changes: Course title, course description	AC-22-151

The most important revisions in the above courses were to rename the advanced research method and laboratory courses in Psychology to meet the requirements of the Order of Psychologists of Québec. Additionally, housekeeping changes were made to reflect the current course offering better.

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

The motion carried.

2. Program changes: B.Sc. Minor in Electrical Engineering [AC-22-146](#)

The changes in the Minor Program in Electrical Engineering were due to the renumbering of courses in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

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

The motion carried.

3. Atmospheric & Oceanic Science

Course Revisions:

ATOC 480	Honours Research Project 3 credits Change: Restriction	AC-22-152
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Currently, ATOC 480 is only open to Honours students. The change in restriction would allow students in the Major programs an excellent opportunity to take an Honours research project course.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gyakum, that the change be approved.

The motion carried.

Program changes:

- B.Sc. Honours Atmospheric Science	AC-22-153
- B.Sc. Major in Atmospheric Science	AC-22-154

COMP 551, Applied Machine Learning, a Complementary course, has been added to the Major and Honours Programs in Atmospheric Science in response to the increased interest in Machine Learning and job offers in the field.

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

The motion carried.

- B.Sc. Minor in Atmospheric Science

[AC-22-155](#)

The only Required course has been moved to the list of Complementary courses to improve flexibility and encourage students in the Mathematics and Statistics, and Physics programs to choose the Minor.

Prof. Gyakum **moved**, seconded by Prof. Paquette, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

- B.Sc. Major Atmospheric Science and Physics

[AC-22-156](#)

The total program credit weight has been decreased by three credits to ensure that students complete the program on time. Some Required courses have been moved to the Complementary list, thus providing more flexibility while simultaneously offering possibilities for students to choose a Minor program. Also added to the program: a machine-learning course to align with the Major and Honours Programs (approved above), a programming course, and a research course.

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

The motion carried.

5. Dean's Business

- Announcements

(i) Trottier Space Institute at McGill (currently McGill Space Institute)

Dean Lennox announced that one of McGill's great benefactors, Mr. Lorne Trottier and the Trottier Family Foundation made an incredible gift of \$26M to McGill University and Université de Montréal's École Polytechnique to research astrophysics and exoplanets. In recognition of the historic gift, the McGill Space Institute will be renamed the *Trottier Space Institute at McGill*, and the *Trottier Institute for Research on Exoplanets at Université de Montréal*.

The McGill Trottier Space Institute will receive \$16M, of which \$8M will be used to construct an annex to the Institute's current building. The other portion will go towards funding graduate and postdoctoral fellowships and expanding program and research support. UdeM's Institute for Research on Exoplanets (iREx) will receive \$10M to support its research on potential life outside the solar system.

Dean Lennox informed members that under the leadership of the former Dean of the Faculty of Science, Prof. Martin Grant, and the generous donations of Mr. Trottier, many new top professors were hired. Additionally, the Trottier Institute for Science and Public

Policy in the Faculty of Science and the Trottier Institute for Sustainability in Engineering and Design in the Faculty of Engineering were established.

(ii) FSCI 198 Climate Crisis and Climate Actions

Dean Lennox noted that Monday, 5 December 2022 was the last day of classes and that FSCI 198 was offered for the first time during the current semester (Fall 2022). Dean Lennox thanked Director Marcy Slapcoff and Dr. Diane Dechief from the Office of Science Education, who created the course, and said he looked forward to the student reviews on the course. With the upcoming United Nations Biodiversity Conference COP15 in Montreal (7-19 December 2022), Dean Lennox said 25 delegate passes were available for students and course instructors to attend the conference.

6. Science Undergraduate Society (SUS) Report

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

The Executive team was trained on equity by the SUS Equity Commissioner this past month. The President is continuing to compile syllabi for the Science Syllabus Repository and aiming to implement it at the University-level by working with SSMU. A few executive members attended the student feedback session of the NewMAD initiative and discussed it with the working group. The departments are hard at work planning many events. The President highlighted the Biology Undergraduate Association for selling merchandise one of the Executives designed and made.

The SUS plans to conduct a financial overhaul of the financial operations system, including collapsing the departmental bank accounts into a general SUS bank account due mainly to the difficulty and liability of filing yearly audits and taxes. Currently, consulting with different parties (banks, department councils, and other faculty associations). Departmental council equalizations have been issued.

The President is continuing to plan the annual formal event, the SUS Gala, in February 2023. The Graduate and Professional Schools Fair event partnered with AUS was very successful, with lots of great feedback. The in-person event had much more traffic than the virtual, though there was a greater variety of schools/programs attending the virtual day. Plans to promote Mercury evaluations and the final exam deferral policy are underway. This year for the first time, the Vice-President (External) ran the student bar, After Hours. The Vice-President (Sustainability) is continuing to work on her project, an equity-based research grant with the Faculty of Science Equity Committee. In addition, a mental health survey was sent to students and collected over 200 responses. The Vice-President (Internal) is planning the Science Games and Graduation Ball. Science Games will replace the traditional carbon offset purchase with a donation to a local charity, as this would be more meaningful for students. The Sustainability and Internal portfolio are also planning a cultural day alongside SSMU.

The meetings will resume in 2023. Happy holidays everyone!

Dean Lennox thanked Joy Zhang for the SUS report and encouraged the SUS Executive to meet sometime in January 2023 with the Dean and Vice-Dean David Stephens. Dean Lennox said he would like to extend best wishes to all students for this Holiday season.

7. Science Equity and Climate Committee (SECC)

Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson reported on the Science Equity and Climate Committee meeting held on 21 November 2022. The agenda and discussion for this meeting centered on three-member reports:

1. Dr. Rosalie Bélanger-Rioux from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics gave an overview of the work of the Department's Equity, Student Outreach, and Wellness Committee. She talked about a wide range of initiatives, two of which are mentioned below:
 - The Department hosts a "so you're graduating month" event every year, providing graduate students with resources, such as how to ask for recommendation letters, career planning, etc., for students who may not have access to this information.
 - Dr. Bélanger-Rioux runs a pedagogy discussion group and a workshop/training for instructors teaching large classes where participants discuss promoting a positive and inclusive classroom environment.
2. Prof. Sarah Wooley from the Department of Biology talked about "Demystifying graduate school," an event that the Department has been running for undergraduates. The goal is to ensure *all* students have information about what graduate school is about, how to apply, how to get lab experience as an undergraduate student, what unwritten expectations students might run into, etc.
One of the outcomes of both reports generated much discussion and sharing among the group of a toolkit of details about these offerings; thereby, different departments can replicate them in their contexts.
3. Associate Dean (Student Affairs) Anthony Mittermaier and Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson informed the group about a workshop organized by the Provost's Equity Team called "EDI in Research and Grant Proposals Workshop." They participated in the workshop to learn more, discuss its strengths and limitations, and see if it would be a helpful resource to the Science principal investigators as they think about their research, research groups, and grant applications.

8. Provost's Action Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism (ABR)

Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson reminded members that in 2020, McGill Provost Christopher Manfredi announced McGill's Action Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism. The Plan was developed through consultation with a broad group of stakeholders throughout the McGill Community and is organized around the five pillars (Student Experience, Research and Knowledge, Outreach, Workforce, and Physical Space). It aligns with McGill's mission statement, which includes a commitment to the principles of equity and inclusiveness. It outlines McGill's ambitious commitments to enhance the representation and flourishing of Black students, faculty, and staff.

Associate Dean Nilson informed members that the ABR Plan's Annual Report for 2022 will be presented at the Senate meeting scheduled for 7 December 2023 and to the Board of Governors on 15 December 2023. To access the Report, the link to the ABR website is below. Associate Dean Nilson said she would present some of the items at a future Faculty meeting.

[About Anti-Black Racism at McGill | Addressing Anti-Black Racism - McGill University](#)

9. The New Vic Project Update

Dean Lennox said the New Vic Project is continuing with the design details. As announced in the press, a court injunction is in place until late February 2023 to allow the Société québécoise des infrastructures (SQI), McGill, and the representatives of the Indigenous community to develop a plan for the exploration of the entire site. Dean Lennox will give further details on the Project at future Faculty meetings.

10. Reports of Associate Deans

- a) Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer

Associate Dean Hundemer reminded members that the final examinations begin on 7 December 2022 and that instructors should be available for the exams or should be easily reachable. Also, the Office of Student with Disabilities has been renamed to *Student Access and Achievement*.

b) Associate Dean (Student Affairs) Anthony Mittermaier

Associate Dean Mittermaier reminded members about the procedures for deferred examination requests for December 2022 final examination session and drew members' attention to the information available online: <https://www.mcgill.ca/exams/dates/supdefer>

c) Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson

Associate Dean Nilson informed members that each year, McGill, through the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, provides the Faculty of Science with a funding allocation that is dedicated to supporting Science graduate students. In December, the Faculty receives information about the amount that will be received for the 2023-2024 academic year. The Faculty will then process this information to generate funding envelopes for each unit in Science. Units will be notified as soon as possible to allow departments to plan admissions decisions and overall funding plans well ahead of time.

The Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies has launched a new website called [GradHub - McGill University](#). The website is designed to be a resource for incoming students, and it contains information about how to accept admissions offer, opportunities for funding, resources for international students, living in Montreal, etc. Some resources are also relevant to current students, such as those related to health and well-being, engagement and clubs, academic support, career planning, and learning French.

d) Associate Dean (Research) John Stix

Associate Dean Stix updated members on the CFI 11 competition. The proposals are currently being reviewed and will be announced in May-June 2023. He reminded researchers that the next CFI 12 competition would be communicated in the not-too-distance future, and he strongly encouraged researchers to start thinking about projects. Associate Dean Stix said that although much work is involved with putting together a CFI proposal, if successful, CFIs are genuinely rewarding.

11. Report on Actions of Senate

- Senate Meeting, 16 November 2022: Senator Laura Nilson

The meeting opened with Welcoming Comments from the Chair, Memorial tributes from the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, and the regular business of approving the report of the Steering Committee and the Minutes of the October Senate meeting.

Here are a few highlights from the Chair's remarks:

The Chair began his remarks with the news that the Board of Governors (BoG) had approved the appointment of Professor Deep Saini as McGill's 18th Principal and Vice-Chancellor and Full Professor in the Department of Plant Science in the FAES. He will start his renewable 5-year term on April 1, 2023. The Chair thanked the Chair of the BoG, the Chancellor, the Advisory Committee, and especially the Secretary-General for their work.

In the area of community relations, the Chair reported details of a number of recent transformative gifts. A gift from Victor Dahdaleh will launch the Victor Philip Dahdaleh

Institute of Genomic Medicine, a gift from McGill alum Charles Bronfman will support the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada, a gift from McGill alum David Laidley will support the recently-launched Laidley Centre for Business Ethics, and a gift from the Ludmer Family Foundation will support the launch of the Ludmer Centre for Neuroinformatics and Mental Health.

The Chair also shared selected Kudos, including the awarding in late October of the Brockhouse Canada Prize for Interdisciplinary Research in Science and Engineering to select members of the team behind the CHIME (Canadian Hydrogen Intensity Mapping Experiment) telescope, which includes, of course, members of the McGill Space Institute (MSI) and Faculty of Science.

Questions and Motions by Members: None

Senate then moved into open session, where Senate considered and approved the Report of the Senate Nominating Committee before moving into the Open Discussion on Academic Excellence.

Senate holds an Open Discussion once a semester. Senators suggest topics, which are then reviewed and discussed by the Senate Steering Committee, which chooses topics for the coming academic year. A working group then develops the topic into three specific questions that are then discussed at the Senate meeting by Senators in breakout groups.

This term's topic was "How do we think about and define Academic Excellence for Academic Staff?" and the three questions considered were:

- What factors do we take into consideration?
- Who evaluates these, e.g., if there are revised elements that academic peers are not well-placed to evaluate, would we ever ask non-academics to evaluate a prof's academic performance?
- Should McGill provide more explicit guidance about such contributions, and in what regulations or documents would such guidance be provided?

There was a thorough discussion that was presented back to the larger group. This was followed by comments from Celeste Pedri-Spade, McGill's Associate Provost for Indigenous Initiatives, and Terri Givens, the Provost's Academic Lead and Advisor on McGill's Action Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism. Their remarks were followed by an additional 10 minutes of discussion on the topic.

The next item was the regular report of the Academic Policy Committee, which was presented to Senate for information.

This was followed by five annual reports, also presented to Senate for information:

- Annual report of the Academic Policy Committee, which included detailed lists of all items approved by the Committee and its subcommittees
- Annual report on University Advancement, which included a ppt presentation describing some of the impressive gifts in FY22, some of the successes of the 2022 McGill 24 campaign, and the progress toward McGill's goal for its current campaign. One specific item that caught my attention was the summary of direct donor impact on students, which includes
 - the #1 student aid program in Canada,
 - expansion of the Student Emergency Support Fund to include any student in need of urgent aid,
 - the McGill Students and Scholars at Risk Fund, for those displaced by conflicts or emergencies.

- Annual report on the Code of Student Conduct provided an overview of activities undertaken and matters considered with respect to the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures in 2021-2022.
- Annual report on the Investigation of Research Misconduct noted that over the past six years, there had been only twelve findings of research misconduct, and of these, 25% of individuals admitted fault upon being confronted. Another highlight was the establishment of the Office of the Research Integrity Officer, including an assistant to support this work.
- Annual report on Staff Grievances and Disciplinary Procedures.
- The complete documents, including presentations at Senate, are kept as part of the official minutes.

These reports and the complete documents of the meeting, including these annual reports and other presentations, are kept as part of the official Senate minutes and can be found on the McGill Senate website.

<https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/senate-2022-2023/meeting-documents/november-16-2022>

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:39 p.m.

12. **Members' Question Period**

There were no members' questions.

13. **Other Business**

Dean Lennox reminded members that 6 December 1989 marks the 33rd anniversary of the tragic event at the Université de Montréal's Ecole Polytechnique. He said it was very important to take a moment to reflect and talk about violence against women.

There being no other business, Prof. Gyakum **moved**, seconded by Prof. Jeon, that the meeting be adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

The motion carried.