

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Monday, February 18, 2013
Leacock Council Room – L232**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book.

DOCUMENTS: S-11-15to S-12-22

Prof. Richard Koestner introduced **Professor Melanie Dirks, Department of Psychology**, and Prof. Jacques Hurtubise introduced **Professor Adam Oberman, Department of Mathematics & Statistics**. Each gave a three-minute presentation prior to the start of the meeting.

Dean Grant called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Prof. Moore **moved**, seconded by Prof. Bell, that the Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

(2) CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

a) Bachelor of Arts and Science S-12-16

602.1 Director (Advising Services) Nicole Allard said there were 21 students graduating with the B.A. & Sc. degree, twice the number compared with February 2012.

Director Allard **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, that the above degree list be recommended to the Senate Steering Committee for the Bachelor of Arts and Science degree.

The motion carried.

b) Bachelor of Science S-12-17

602.2 Director Allard said there were 155 students graduating with the B.Sc. degree, and that there were 140 the previous year.

Director Allard **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, that the above degree list be recommended to the Senate Steering Committee for the Bachelor of Science degree.

The motion carried.

c) Diploma in Environment S-12-18

There were no students for the above Diploma.

d) Diploma in Meteorology S-12-19

There were no students for the above Diploma.

602.3 Director Allard further **moved**, seconded by Prof. Blanchette, that the Dean be given discretionary power to make such changes in the degree list as would be necessary to prevent injustice.

The motion carried.

602.4 Director Allard said that the CGPA cut-off for the Dean's Honour List would be known in June. (February and June grades are combined to determine the cut-off.)

602.5 Director Allard thanked Mr. Peter Barry, Chief Academic Advisor, the SOUSA advisors, and all departmental advisors who were involved with the graduation lists.

(3) MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 2012

Prof. Moore **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hurtubise, 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) **Academic Committee** **S-12-20**

The Academic Committee approved the following on Tuesday, December 11, 2012:

SECTION A: NEW COURSES

Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences

ATOC 357	Atmospheric & Oceanic Sci Lab	AC-12-44
	3 credits	

605.1 Associate Dean Hendren said that as a result of reviewing undergraduate programs, and after surveying current students, it had been decided to institute ATOC 357. Most other meteorology programs in North American universities offer this type of course. ATOC 357 is an excellent initiative.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Robillard, that the new course be adopted.

The motion carried.

SECTION B: COURSE CHANGES

(1) Psychology **AC-12-42**
PSYC 506 Cognitive Neuroscience of Attn
Changes: course activities, restriction
3 credits

605.2 Associate Dean Hendren said that PSYC 506 had been available to students only in Psychology and Cognitive Science. The proposed change in restriction will allow students in Neuroscience Programs to take the course.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Koestner, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

- (2) **Atmospheric & Oceanic Science**
ATOC 312 Rotating Fluid Dynamics **AC-12-43**
Changes: number [from 412], title, description,
prerequisites and restrictions
3 credits

605.3 Associate Dean Hendren said ATOC 312 was being renumbered (from ATOC 412) to allow students to be better prepared to take ATOC 512 in U3. ATOC 312 would now be considered as a “stepping stone” to ATOC 512 for both Major and Honours students.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Blanchette, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

605.4 Associate Dean Hendren thanked Prof. Daniel Kirshbaum for the hard work and very impressive clean-up of the programs in the Department of Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences.

SECTION C: MINOR COURSE CHANGES (For Information Only)

- Report on Minor Course Changes **AC-12-38**

605.5 Associate Dean Hendren described the changes in prerequisites for BASC 396 and BASC 499.

SECTION D: NEW PROGRAMS

None

SECTION E: PROGRAM CHANGES

- (1) **Cognitive Science (B.A. & Sc.)**
- Interfaculty Program in Cognitive Science **AC-12-39**
- Honours Program in Cognitive Science **AC-12-40**

605.6 Associate Dean Hendren said that she had met for the first time with the Interfaculty Program Committee in Cognitive Science, and that the meeting had been fruitful.

605.7 The major change was the removal of the single capstone course, and its replacement with a list of nine potential capstone courses. The sub-headings (Lists A and B) were removed for the sake of clarity and in order to allow flexibility. The course lists had been updated with appropriate additions and removals. Since currently there are two identical research courses, COGS 401 and COGS 402, one will be retired, and the other, COGS 401, will be offered in both fall and winter.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Onishi, that the above changes be approved.

The motion carried.

(2) B.A. & Sc. Program Revisions AC-12-41

605.8 Associate Dean Hendren said that all students will now have to take the integrative course, BASC 201, as a Required course. The list of Complementary integrative courses was being removed since their place will be taken by BASC 201.

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

The motion carried.

(3) Atmospheric Science

- Minor in Atmospheric Science AC-12-45

605.9 Associate Dean Hendren said that the changes to the Minor in Atmospheric Science involved the newly created lab course, ATOC 357, and the renumbered ATOC 312 (from 412), both of which were approved above.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Blanchette, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

- Liberal Program: Core Science Component in Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences AC-12-46**
- Major in Atmospheric Science AC-12-47**
- Honours in Atmospheric Science AC-12-48**

605.10 Associate Dean Hendren said that the changes reflected the new course ATOC 357 and the renumbered ATOC 312. Other changes were made to increase the flexibility of the programs.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hurtubise, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

Program Retirements:

- Major in Atmospheric Science – Atmospheric Chemistry Option AC-12-50**
- Honours in Atmospheric Science – Atmospheric Chemistry Option AC-12-54**

605.11 Associate Dean Hendren said that there were very few students taking the Atmospheric Chemistry Option. She emphasized that new options should not be introduced if there is low enrolment.

605.12 In response to Prof. Lennox, who asked whether there had been a consultation report from the Department of Chemistry, Associate Dean Hendren said that Prof. P. Ariya, interim Chair of the Department of Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences, was cross-appointed to the Department of Chemistry.

605.13 Associate Dean Hendren said that the proposed changes were a very positive initiative from the Department of Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Moore, that the above two program retirements be approved.

The motion carried.

(4) Biology
- Major in Biology: Quantitative Biology Option **AC-12-52**

605.14 Associate Dean Hendren said that the Quantitative Biology Option was a fairly new program, and interdisciplinary. Some adjustments are often required after the first few years.

605.15 PHYS 232 and MATH 323 were being added to the core requirements; students could now take either COMP 202 or COMP 250. Additionally, other courses were added, removed or transferred.

605.16 Associate Dean Hendren mentioned that there were consultation reports from Chemistry, Computer Science, and Physics.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Bell, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried

605.17 Associate Dean Hendren said that a Quantitative Biology Option for the Honours Program in Biology would be forthcoming, provided that it could be organized without having too many credits.

SECTION F: Other (For Information Only)

- April 2013 Final Examinations - Director Nicole Allard

605.18 Director Allard said that the final examinations in April 2013 will not be held in the Arthur Currie Gymnasium. The university will be using some university buildings that are not normally used for examinations, and has rented space from Mondays to Thursdays in the Scotia Bank Cinema Building. This will involve more running around in order to accommodate different sections.

b) Committee on Student Standing **S-12-21**

605.19 Director Allard said that there had been one appeal to have a course not calculated into GPA and not for credit. The request had been approved.

(6) DEAN'S BUSINESS

- Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List **S-12-22**

606.1 Director Allard said that the DMURL recognizes students who have completed at least 9 credits of graded research-based courses in a minimum of two departments. She said that four students would be graduating with this honour.

606.2 Dean Grant said that Victor Chisholm had calculated that 49% of undergraduate students graduate with one significant research course.

(7) REPORT ON ACTIONS OF SENATE

607.1 Please note that the entire Minutes of Senate are available on the Web at <http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/senate-2012-2013/senate-2012-2013-meeting-documents>

Senate Meeting of December 5, 2013 – Prof. Bruce Lennox

The following is my summary of the highlights of the Senate Meeting of Dec. 5 2012.

1. The Principal and Chair opened the meeting with remarks about her recently circulated response to the Manfredi Report (Open Forum on Freedom of Expression and Peaceful Assembly). She told Senate that this response addressed recommendations concerning clarifications to The Code of Student Conduct, the “James Protocol” and the training program for both permanent and temporary security personnel. She added that work was currently underway to adapt the Provisional Protocol (Regarding Demonstrations, Protests, and Occupations) into a permanent protocol. As we know now, this work is now in a further consultation phase.

2. The Principal then discussed government relations, beginning with the planned Summit on Higher Education. This Summit is now known to be held next week. In December, it was understood that the Summit would focus on

- Quality of higher education;
- Accessibility and participation in higher education;
- Governance and financing of universities
- Contribution of institutions and research to Quebec society.

As we now know, the Agenda for this Summit is ill-defined at best.

3. The Principal then spoke about the November provincial budget and the subsequent announcement of cuts to universities’ funding for the current fiscal year. The Principal reminded Senate the University is being put in the position of preparing its third Budget within the fiscal year. The lowlight of the November announcement of course was a spending cut of 5.2%, with a further cut to universities’ operating grants to follow in 2013-2014.

4. With some irony noted, these comments were followed by Annual Report on the Financial State of the University, presented by Mr. Michael Di Grappa, Vice-Principal (Administration and Finance). He emphasized that McGill was doing well with what it had, but that the University’s financial status was fragile. He noted that the University’s responsible financial stewardship was reflected in its credit rating being higher than that of the Quebec government.

Vice-Principal Di Grappa explained that following a surplus in FY2011 and a balanced budget in FY2012, this year’s budget had forecast a \$6M deficit. He added that the recent government announcement would make it much higher.

5. The Provost then provided an update on planning for the FY2014 budget, telling Senate that many factors contribute to uncertainty: uncertainties from revenues (coming from tuition fees) and expenses (related to compensation pressures and one-time-only costs) and the November provincial budget are all significant. The Provost explained that the University’s preliminary budget assumptions included expenditures necessary to sustain McGill’s standards of excellence as well as cost savings arising from SRI projects.

6. These reports were followed by Question Period. Of interest was one question regarding the MUHC.

A student senator posed a number of questions prompted by press stories about Arthur Porter.

The focus of the question was the nature of the relationship between the McGill Faculty of Medicine and the MUHC, including the criteria for cross appointments between the Faculty of Medicine and the MUHC.

Senator Eidelman, Dean of Medicine and Vice-Principal (Health Affairs), answered that the MUHC and McGill have a contract of affiliation, which is required for all hospitals that are recognized as university health centres. This contract lays out the responsibilities of both parties with regard to educational and research activities within the hospital and its associated research centres. In the case of physicians based at the MUHC, besides a few remaining legacy cases, all must be full-time, contract academic staff or tenure-track faculty. Most physicians are Contract Academic Staff appointees. There are also tenure-track scientists in the MUHC who belong to a variety of departments in the Faculty of Medicine.

Questions about low-interest loans etc., held by Dr. Porter could not be answered in detail because these issues are before the courts.

7. The Annual Reports were received from Prof. Mendelson from the Academic Policy Committee. APC has approved the renaming of the Centre for Research on Language, Mind, and Brain to Centre for Research on Brain, Language, and Music.

Senate also received Annual Reports from the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity and the Committee on Libraries.

8. Dr. Rima Rozen, Associate Vice-Principal (Research & International Relations) presented the revisions to the Policy on the Ethical Conduct of Research Involving Human Subjects for approval. She explained that the revisions aimed to maintain compliance with the recently updated Tri-Council policy statement.

9. Finally, the Secretary-General presented a report on the November joint Senate-Board meeting on Universal Design in teaching and learning, and acknowledged the important role played by the Office of Students with Disabilities in organizing many aspects of this meeting.

Senate Meeting of January 23, 2013 – Prof. Peter Grütter

The meeting opened with Dean Grant presenting a resolution on the death of James Hogan.

In her remarks from the Chair, Principal Munroe-Blum discussed the \$19.1 million retroactive cut to McGill's operating grant for the current year which was announced in December by the Quebec government. The Board of Governors has passed a motion deploring the situation, observing that McGill is not in a position to accept retroactive cuts.

Note - this has changed in the meantime, as a huge penalty (31M\$) would be levied against us if we did not cut at least half of this sum.

With respect to budget cuts a question was asked about faculty salaries, which have already suffered from two increase deferrals. The Principal responded that she is on the record with MAUT as saying that we have to work hard to preserve and raise academic salaries at McGill on a multi-year basis.

On the subject of the Summit on Higher Education which will be held on February 25 and 26, the Principal cited an updated CREPUQ study which confirms the clear underfunding of Quebec universities.

An update on the Protocol Regarding Demonstrations, Protests and Occupations was presented. Essentially one is expanding consultation, and developing a new process to come up with a protocol as part of the future Statement of Values and Principles Concerning Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Peaceful Assembly.

A formal question regarding potential academic uses of the Royal Victoria Hospital was asked.

V.-P. Di Grappa responded that the RVH site is not owned by McGill University. The government will decide who its future owner will be, but as yet it is unclear what the current Quebec government will do in this regard. McGill is short of space, and the RVH has been part of the Administration's reflections on this subject. Conversion and renovation costs would be significant, as would the long-term operating costs. A business plan is being developed to examine the feasibility of the concept of using the RVH.

The next agenda item was on open discussion on the subject of massive open online courses (MOOCs). The topic was introduced by Provost Masi and by Senators Diné and Bell. Provost Masi outlined four areas in which McGill needs to transform teaching and learning on campus at McGill:

1. teaching innovations;
2. reimagining the Library (replacing physical volumes with digital resources; renovation of physical spaces);
3. wide-scale teaching upgrades;
4. and innovative partnerships (such as MOOC consortia).

Senator Diné offered a student perspective on the subject revolving around three questions: How is technology to be integrated into pedagogy? How does it benefit students? Who is defined as a McGill student, particularly in a MOOC context?

Senator Bell described the background document as an aspirational document which holds out the prospect of teaching undergrads in entirely new ways, saying that it raises sharp questions about the benefits, drawbacks and relative costs of online courses. Two of these questions are: Would MOOCs change the balance between teaching and research? Should McGill be at the leading edge of the MOOC initiative, in view of both the potential advantages and risks that this would entail?

Senators engaged in a lengthy and wide-ranging exchange of views on the subject. At the conclusion of the discussion, Provost Masi and Senators Diné and Bell offered some closing remarks. Senator Diné indicated that the student Senate caucus will be discussing the topic and preparing recommendations. Senator Bell commented that he was struck by the diversity of the views which had been expressed. More thought and work need to be devoted to this topic in order to consider its implications and to develop answers.

Provost Masi remarked that the timing of McGill's involvement is an important factor, and noted that no statements had been made in Senate in favour of McGill getting involved with MOOCs on a for-profit basis. The University has to move deliberately and involve itself with groups which share our set of values.

Senate approved the 443rd report of the Academic Policy Committee including revisions to the Regulations on Challenge of a Thesis Examination Failure.

Senate also approved two proposed amendments to the University Student Assessment Policy.

The changes are:

1. If a student, who has been granted permission to write a deferred midterm examination, cannot write it for documented reasons, the instructor may accommodate the student in any manner deemed pedagogically appropriate by the instructor, including, but not limited to, increasing the weight of the final examination beyond 75%, notwithstanding article 6.1.3 of this policy. (which states that the final can count for a max of 75%)

2. Several versions of each multiple-choice examination shall be created by scrambling the questions so that no one is seated next to, in front of, or behind a student writing the same version. A minimum of two (2) versions is to be used. Where enrolment exceeds 200 and where it is not possible to seat students in alternate rows, four (4) versions are required. With everyone in the room writing the same examination, four (4) versions are also required.

As the last three agenda items, Senate received for information the annual report on Student Life and Learning, the annual Enrolment Report, and the annual report of the Ombudsperson for Students.

607.2 Dean Grant reminded members how effective the leadership in the Faculty had been throughout the MUNACA strike, and he said that whatever occurs with the budget, the same effective leadership will take place.

(8) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD

608.1 In reply to a member, Dean Grant said that the announcement of the new principal would be coming soon.

(9) OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.