

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
Meeting of Faculty  
Tuesday, February 18, 2014  
Leacock Council Room – L232**

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

**DOCUMENTS:** S-13-14to S-13-20

In the temporary absence of Dean Grant, Associate Dean Hendren called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

**(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Prof. Mucci **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hurtubise, that the Agenda be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**(2) CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES**

- |           |                                     |                |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>a)</b> | <b>Bachelor of Arts and Science</b> | <b>S-13-15</b> |
| <b>b)</b> | <b>Bachelor of Science</b>          | <b>S-12-16</b> |

**602.1** Director (Advising Services) Nicole Allard said there were 20 students graduating with the B.A. & Sc. degree, and 154 students graduating with the B.Sc. degree, compared to 21 and 155 the previous year.

**602.2** Director Allard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Bell, 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.**

- |           |                               |                |
|-----------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>c)</b> | <b>Diploma in Environment</b> | <b>S-12-17</b> |
| <b>d)</b> | <b>Diploma in Meteorology</b> | <b>S-12-18</b> |

There were no students for the above Diplomas.

**602.3** Director Allard further **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, 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 thanked everyone involved with the graduation lists.

**(3) MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 2013** **S-13-14**

Prof. Gyakum **moved**, seconded by Prof. Damha, 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-13-19**

**The Academic Committee approved the following on Tuesday, January 28, 2014:**

**COURSE CHANGES**

1. Chemistry  
CHEM 493                      Adv Phys Chem Lab                      **AC-13-52**  
Renumbered from [-393]; title, description,  
pre/co-requisite, restriction  
3 credits

**605.1**                      Associate Dean Hendren explained that the changes were a consequence of ongoing updates to the course. These required renumbering and pre/co-requisite changes.

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

**The motion carried.**

2. Computer Science  
COMP 691                      Thesis Research 1                      **AC-13-53**  
Credit weight change from 2 credits  
3 credits

**605.2**                      Associate Dean Hendren said that the change was necessary to fulfill the requirement of 24 credits of thesis courses.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof Panangaden, that the change be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**PROGRAM CHANGES**

1. Computer Science  
- M.Sc. in Computer Science                      **AC-13-54**  
- M.Sc. in Computer Science - Bioinformatics Option                      **AC-13-55**  
- M. Sc. in Computer Science - Computational Science & Engineering Option                      **AC-13-56**

**605.3**                      Associate Dean Hendren said that COMP 601, Thesis Literature Review, was being reinstated, and the credit weight of courses readjusted to fulfill the 45-credit requirement for M.Sc. programs.

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

**The motion carried.**

2. Biology  
- Honours in Biology

**AC-13-57**

- 605.4** Associate Dean Hendren explained that the major changes were clarification of the minimum and maximum number of credits for the degree, and the addition of requirements for 1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours. As well, the program course lists have been reformatted.

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

**The motion carried.**

**Program Retirement**

- Ph.D. in Biology - Developmental Biology

**AC-13-58**

- 605.5** Associate Dean Hendren reminded members that programs or options with low or zero enrolment should be retired.

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

**The motion carried.**

**OTHER (For Information)**

- Proposed Revisions on Policy on Course Evaluations

**AC-13-59**

- 605.6** Associate Dean Hendren said that the proposed revisions had been reviewed and had received feedback from Academic Committee members and from chairs/directors.

- 605.7** She said the highlights of the revisions were:

- the default period for course evaluations would now be the end of the examination period, but departments could change this
- provided an adequate response rate had been achieved, the default would be for course evaluations to be made available to students and staff, but instructors could opt out
- of the four core questions, two would refer to TAs rather than the instructor if the course had TAs. (Some of the feedback thought that all four questions should refer to the instructor, and that there should be a separate TA section.)

**(6) DEAN'S BUSINESS**

- **Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List**

**S-13-20**

- 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 B.Sc. students in the above degree list would be graduating with this honour. For the first time, a B.A. & Sc. student would be listed on the DMURL.

- 606.2** Dean Grant said that half of B.Sc. graduates had completed one significant research course.

(7) **REPORT ON ACTIONS OF SENATE**

Please note that the entire Minutes of Senate are available on the Web at <https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/senate-2013-2014/senate-meeting-documents-2013-2014>

**- Senate Meeting of December 4, 2013 - Prof. Jacques Hurtubise**

**Principal's remarks.** The principal gave a summary of her presentation to the Quebec parliamentary commission on higher education. In her visit to Quebec, she emphasized how McGill contributes to Quebec society. She then discussed the upcoming revision of the funding formula, requesting fairness, openness and transparency. She expressed our pleasure with Quebec's new research and innovation plan. She was questioned about the charter; she reiterated the University's commitment to diversity, and raised the question of the risk of reducing the attractiveness of Quebec to international talent. She also made representations about the uptick in the language proficiency requirement for faculty moving here from abroad, pointing out that it was a rather steep requirement.

**Question period:** There followed questions about the high level of tuition fees for international students, and its impact on diversity. The Provost's detailed response emphasized the increased level of student aid arising from the high fees, as well as recalling the fact that McGill's fees were lower than Toronto's.

**Reports:** Vice-principal De Grappa gave a report on the financial state of the University. Some highlights: Enrolment has risen by 2.5 to 3.5% yearly in the past three years, rising to 38000 students in the fall of 2012; science is about 15% of the total. Current tenure track complement is 1642, with about 3500 support staff as well. The total income of the university is about 1.18Bn, of which 739M is operating revenue. 39% of the revenue comes from Quebec; its operating grant went down by 26M last year.

The Provost gave a report on budget planning: the anticipated deficit for 2013 was 29M, the actual deficit will be closer to 13.1M; the deficit for 2014 seems lined up to be 10.4M. The government has promised a reinvestment of 1.76Bn in the university system over the next five years. The general consensus seems to be that holding one's breath would be foolish. One point of emphasis for the new budget seemed to be a closer look at the various unit budgets.

The presentation by Martin Kreiswirth, on graduate studies at McGill, discussed various initiatives: Graphos, (writing initiative), PhD tracking, the Uapply application system, the Supervision initiative (improving supervision, with its own website, which has been up for the last 4 months.)

Associate Provost White presented the new Harassment and Discrimination Policy, which was approved by Senate. She then presented a proposal to add a Subcommittee on Family Care to the Joint Board Senate committee on Equity, which passed.

The Provost presented for information the annual report by the Academic Policy Committee, as well as a report on the last meeting. He also presented the report of the Nominating committee. The annual report of the Library committee was then presented. Finally, Senate went into confidential session to vote on Honorary Degrees.

**- Senate Meeting of January 22, 2014 - Prof. Gregory Dudek**

There were minor changes to the tenure & promotion regulations. They included some changes to the dates (during the calendar year) when various documents need to be filed (e.g. list of externals required by May 1st instead of June 15), and a change to the rules for promotion to Full Professor that increases the list of names to 8 and the number of letters required to 4.

See: [http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/5\\_d13-38\\_proposed\\_changes\\_to\\_regulations\\_employment\\_tenure\\_track\\_and\\_tenured\\_academic\\_staff\\_regs\\_employment\\_librarian\\_staff\\_with\\_appendices.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/5_d13-38_proposed_changes_to_regulations_employment_tenure_track_and_tenured_academic_staff_regs_employment_librarian_staff_with_appendices.pdf)

McGill is currently running it's first official MOOC. It's a course offered via EdX, does not include formal McGill credit, and is being run by David Harpp et al. and it has about 21,000 students.

<https://www.edx.org/course/mcgillx/mcgillx-chem181x-food-thought-1213>

Description: <http://publications.mcgill.ca/reporter/2013/10/mcgill-moves-into-the-brave-new-world-of-moocs/>

**Annual Enrolment Report:**

- Proportion of graduate students relative to undergraduates has increased a bit (intentionally).
- Top countries our non-Canadians come from are the USA, France and China (in that order). Undergraduate body count is up 1.4%.
- In 2013 we had students from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe (so we spanned alphabet, although I think we had nobody from Burundi, Cuba or Kyrghyzstan, so we didn't quite hit every single country).
- During the admissions process, the yield rates (and thresholds) are dynamically recomputed (to some extent).

Full statistics here: <http://www.mcgill.ca/es/registration-statistics/>

**(8) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no members' questions.

**(9) OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m.