

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Tuesday, 24 May, 2016
Leacock Council Room - L232**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book

DOCUMENTS: S-15-29 to S-15-38

1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Prof. Lydon **moved**, seconded by Prof. Damha, that the Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

2) Faculty of Science Excellence Award

10.2.1 Dean Lennox, on behalf of the Chair of the Committee, Prof. Hans Larsson, said it had been a great pleasure to serve on the Faculty of Science Excellence Award Committee for the last two years. The Excellence Award had been set up to acknowledge outstanding performance on the part of the administrative and support staff in the Faculty of Science. The Award rotates among the three categories of Clerical, Technical, and Managerial staff. In the 2015-2016 (M) competition, there were four outstanding nominations. They were:

- Ms. Nancy Nelson, Department of Biology
- Ms. Sheryl Morrissey, School of Computer Science
- Ms. Sonia Vieira, Department of Physics
- Ms. Antonia Di Paola, Department of Psychology

10.2.2 The winner of the 2015-2016 Faculty of Science Excellence Award is **Ms. Antonia Di Paola** from the **Department of Psychology**.

10.2.3 Dean Lennox read the following citation:

"The incredible Antonia (Toni) Di Paola" has been recommended to receive the 2016 Faculty of Science Excellence Award. This unanimous decision by the selection committee was based on a "stellar" dossier and supporting letters, from which all adjectives in this announcement are taken. Although the award is merited from recent service, the committee was equally impressed with the forty years of excellent service Toni has given to McGill. Toni moved into the administrative officer position for the Department of Psychology in early 2014, and "Instantly, it was like a breath of fresh air" and "unprecedented in the history of the department's history". Support for Toni was overwhelming, one letter was even signed by the entire Psychology support staff team. She has created a "family-like atmosphere", with "respect, integrity, fairness and professionalism." "Her day somehow has more than 24 hours" and Toni uses this extra time to "completely and enthusiastically" guide staff and students and navigate the "minefields" of departmental budget and space. "We are very lucky to have her!" and she is completely deserving of this award."

10.2.4 Dean Lennox congratulated Ms. Di Paola and presented her with a framed certificate.

10.2.5 Ms. Di Paola said she had previously served on the Committee, and she was well aware of how difficult it was to come to a decision, given the quality of the nominees. She said

the managers in the Faculty of Science were *la crème de la crème*. Ms. Di Paola said that there were too many people to name who have had a huge impact on her during her many years at McGill. She thanked the administrative and academic staff and the Chair of the Department of Psychology, Prof. John Lydon, and the Faculty of Science Excellence Committee for the great honour.

3) Candidates for Degrees

- a) Bachelor of Arts and Science **S-15-30**
- b) Bachelor of Science **S-15-31**

10.3.1 Director Allard said there were 76 graduands for the B.A. & Sc. degree, and 743 for the B.Sc. degree. The corresponding figures for 2015 were 96 and 808.

10.3.2 Director Allard said that the honorifics cut-offs for the B.A. & Sc. and B.Sc. degrees were:

B.A. & Sc.:

- Dean's Honour List - 3.79 CGPA
- Distinction – 3.70 CGPA

B.Sc.:

- Dean's Honour List - 3.92 CGPA
- Distinction – 3.78 CGPA

Director Allard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gyakum, that the candidates for the B.A. & Sc. and the B.Sc. be approved for their respective degrees.

The motion carried.

- c) Diploma in Environment **S-15-32**
- d) Diploma in Meteorology **S-15-33**

10.3.3 Director Allard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Lydon, that the candidates for the Diploma in Environment and the Diploma in Meteorology be approved.

The motion carried.

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

The motion carried.

10.3.4 Director Allard thanked both departmental advisors and SOUSA advisors for their diligence and hard work in preparing the graduation lists.

10.3.5 Dean Lennox added that the very tight deadlines meant there was a special intensity to the work of SOUSA staff, including Director Allard and Mr. Peter Barry, Chief Academic Advisor, during the run-up to the June convocation, to ensure that loose ends are tidied up and that eligible students are included on the graduating lists.

4) MINUTES OF 19 APRIL, 2016 **S-15-29**

Prof. Damha **moved**, seconded by Prof. Paquette, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

5) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

6) **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

a) Academic Committee

S-15-34

The Academic Committee approved the following on 26 April 2016.

Section A: New Course

Psychology

PSYC 475

Neuroscience of Social Psych
3 credits

AC-15-80

10.6.1 Associate Dean Western said that the new course represented the formalization of a currently existing seminar course, and would enable an increase in enrolment.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Lydon, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

10.6.2 Associate Dean Western introduced and briefly outlined the following course changes.

Section B: Course Revisions

(1) Biochemistry

BIOC 220

Lab Meth in Biochem&Mol Biol 1
Changes: corequisite, prerequisites
3 credits

AC-15-71

10.6.3 CHEM 222 will now be a corequisite to BIOC 220.

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

The motion carried.

BIOC 320

Lab Meth in Biochem&Mol Biol 2
Change in prerequisite
3 credits

AC-15-72

10.6.4 Making CHEM 222 a corequisite to BIOC 220 removes the need for it to be a prerequisite for BIOC 320.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Damha, that the change be approved.

The motion carried.

BIOC 462

Research Lab in Biochemistry
Change in prerequisite
3 credits

AC-15-73

10.6.5 BIOC 320 will now be a prerequisite to BIOC 462. BIOC 300D1/D2 will remain as a prerequisite as long as there are students in the system who have taken it.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Lydon, that the change be approved.

The motion carried.

(2)	Chemistry		
	CHEM 332	Biological Chemistry Change in description 3 credits	AC-15-74

10.6.6 The course description was being updated.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Damha, that the change be approved.

The motion carried.

	CHEM 434	Advanced Materials Changes: number [from -334], prerequisites, restrictions 3 credits	AC-15-75
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10.6.7 The change in course number was to better reflect the level, and the prerequisite change reflects that; the restriction reflects the course number change.

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

The motion carried.

	CHEM 503	Drug Discovery Changes: title, description, prerequisites 3 credits	AC-15-76
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10.6.8 The title and description better fit the course. The prerequisite changes are simply housekeeping.

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

The motion carried.

	CHEM 504	Drug Design Change in title 3 credits	AC-15-77
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10.6.9 The change in title better reflects the separation of CHEM 503 and CHEM 504.

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

The motion carried.

	CHEM 555	NMR Spectroscopy Change in description 3 credits	AC-15-78
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10.6.10 The change in course description better reflects the content of the course.

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

The motion carried.

(3) Computer Science

COMP 535

Computer Networks

AC-15-81

Changes: credits [from 3 to 4], title, description, prerequisites, restrictions

10.6.11 Credits reflect the course load; description reflects the current content; title, prerequisites, restrictions are housekeeping changes.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Dudek, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

COMP 540

Matrix Computations

AC-15-82

Change in credits [from 3 to 4]

10.6.12 Credits reflect the workload.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Dudek, that the change be approved.

The motion carried.

(4) Earth & Planetary Sciences

EPSC 210

Introductory Mineralogy

AC-15-79

Changes in prerequisites, corequisites

10.6.13 Corequisite is no longer required. New prerequisite is more appropriate to types of students taking the course.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Paquette, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

b) Scholarships Committee

S-15-35

10.6.14 Associate Dean Nilson, Chair, Science Scholarships Committee, gave the following Report:

(1) Mr. Alexander Jacob **KROLIK**, First Class Honours in Computer Science, has been awarded one of the two Governor General's Silver Medals for 2016. There are only two medals given each year for the entire university. In the past 26 years, Science has received 25 medals. The medal will be presented by the Principal at the Science Convocation ceremony on 6 June 2016.

(2) Mr. Henry **SUN**, First Class Honours in Chemistry, has been awarded the 2016 Moyse Travelling Scholarship. Mr. Sun was one of three candidates interviewed.

(3) The Scholarships Report, Document S-15-35, included Faculty and departmental awards and medals.

(4) The CGPA cut-off for Faculty awards was 3.99. There were 17 students within this category.

c) Committee on Student Standing (CSS) **S-15-36**

10.6.15 Director Allard described the role of the Committee on Student Standing. Two appeals were submitted to the CSS. One appeal to write a special supplemental exam was not approved, and the second appeal to graduate without completing a freshman course was approved.

7) Dean's Business

a) Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List **S-15-37**

10.7.1 Director Allard said 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. She said that there were 43 B.Sc. students and three B.A. & Sc. students listed in Document S-15-37 who would be graduating with this honour. February and June graduates were also included in this document.

b) B.Sc. Global Designation **S-15-38**

10.7.2 Director Allard 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. She said there were four candidates who would graduate with the B.Sc. Global designation in Document S-15-38.

c) Announcements

10.7.3 Dean Lennox made the following announcements:

(i) The 4th Annual Anthony Kiang Recognition Event is to be held at noon on 26 May 2016 at the Royal Victoria College inner garden. The event will feature a B.B.Q. in this very pleasant setting. The Anthony Kiang Recognition Event is a very important function in the Faculty, since it recognizes the contributions of administrative and support staff to the teaching and research missions of the university.

(ii) Another important date in the Faculty's calendar is the Faculty of Science Convocation, to be held in the morning and afternoon of 6 June 2016 on the Downtown Campus. **Dr. Vinton Gray Cerf**, one of the founders of the Internet, is to receive an Honorary Degree and will give the morning Convocation address. **Dr. Paul T. Anastas**, founder of Green Chemistry, will give the afternoon Convocation address and will also receive an Honorary Degree.

10.7.4 Additionally, a number of very important awards will be presented to the following Faculty members during Convocation:

- **Prof. Henri Darmon**, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, is to receive the Faculty's Leo Yaffe Award for Excellence in Teaching. Also on 25 May 2016 at the University of Oslo, Norway, Prof. Darmon will be giving an Abel Lecture

entitled "Andrew Wiles' marvelous proof," celebrating the receipt by Sir Andrew Wiles of the 2016 Abel Prize for his work in solving Fermat's Last Theorem

- **Prof. Joelle Pineau**, School of Computer Science, is to receive the David Thomson Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching
- **Prof. Tomislav Friščić**, Department of Chemistry, is to receive a Principal's Prize for Outstanding Emerging Researchers
- **Prof. Donald Taylor**, Department of Psychology, is to receive a McGill University Medal for Exceptional Academic Achievement

10.7.5 Dean Lennox encouraged members to attend Convocation, to congratulate the Faculty of Science's graduates, and to meet their families.

(iii) Two of the Faculty of Science's Chairs will end their terms on 31 May 2016.

- **Prof. Graham Bell**, Department of Biology, will be replaced by **Prof. Gregor Fussmann**
- **Prof. Alfonso Mucci**, Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences, will be replaced by **Prof. Jeffrey McKenzie**
- Additionally, **Prof. John Gyakum**, Department of Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences, has been reappointed for a further three-year term

10.7.6 Dean Lennox thanked all the Chairs for their dedication and stewardship of outstanding Departments.

(iv) Dean Lennox said that **Ms. Anna Campana**, Director of Administration of the Faculty of Science, will be retiring on 31 May 2016. Anna has been an integral part of Dawson Hall for a number of years, and has been working at McGill for almost 40 years in total, principally in HR capacities. Dean Lennox said he would like to congratulate Anna on her well-earned retirement, and wish her well in taking care of her mountaintop villa in Italy. The Faculty is stronger because of her efforts in the last years.

8) REPORTS OF DIRECTOR AND ASSOCIATE DEANS

a) Director (Advising Services) Nicole Allard

Director Allard said that since she had been working on the graduation lists, there was no report for this meeting.

b) Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson

There was no report from Associate Dean Nilson.

c) Associate Dean (Research) Doina Precup

10.8.1 Dean Lennox said that Associate Dean Precup was unable to attend the current meeting. He said that regarding CFI 9, all Science large proposals were going forward at the LOI stages. One proposal was being diverted into a different category because it is a much smaller project. He thanked those involved in the CFI 9 proposals, and said the hardest work had already been done. He and Associate Dean Precup were confident that Science would be successful.

d) Associate Dean (Academic) Tamara Western

10.8.2 Associate Dean Western said that the Canada-Wide Science Festival (CWSF), held at McGill the week previously, had been a huge success, with very high quality of both projects and posters. She said she appreciated very much the efforts of all the

volunteers — undergraduate and graduate students, academic and support staff — in all their varied capacities, including the people who had responded to a last-minute call for volunteers. In particular, she wanted to thank the following people for their participation in Science activities:

- ATMOSPHERIC & OCEANIC SCIENCES
Prof. John Gyakum and Prof. Gregor Kos, Booth: Weather in a Tank
- BIOLOGY
Prof. Michael Hendricks, Optogenetic Control of Neurons
- CHEMISTRY
Dr. Alexander Wahba and Chemistry Outreach, Fun Chemistry
- COMPUTER SCIENCE
Prof. Brigitte Pientka, Computational Thinking: What is the Science in Computer Science
- DEAN'S OFFICE
Mr. Victor Chisholm, Snappy Science
- EARTH & PLANETARY SCIENCES
Prof. William Minarik, Field Instruments in Earth System Science
- GEOGRAPHY
Prof. Raja Sengupta and team, Booth and Activity: Geographic Information Systems (GIS) & Remote Sensing
- PHYSICS
Prof. Nikolas Provatas, Physics for Everyone

10.8.3 Associate Dean Western said she would like to add a special thanks to Ms. Anna Campana for her organizational efforts, and to thank too Associate Dean Laura Nilson and Mr. Victor Chisholm for their contributions to the success of the CWSF.

10.8.4 Dean Lennox said that he had attended part of the CWSF, and that people had been overwhelmed by the superb job McGill had done at organizing the event. It had been the Rolls Royce of CWSFs. The CWSF is the 500-participant end-point of more than 250,000 Science fair projects Canada-wide, and the quality of the projects was amazing. He had attended a "press conference" of the three gold medal winners (all women) and had been very impressed by their poise, knowledge, and the fluidity of their answers.

10.8.5 Dean Lennox said that he would like to express his appreciation to the members of the Faculty of Science who had played numerous roles in ensuring the success of the CWSF at McGill, and he asked Faculty members to convey his thanks to their units and students.

10.8.6 Additionally, Dean Lennox offered a special and heartfelt "thank you" to the "center point" of the event, **Associate Dean Tamara Western**, for all her efforts in making the Faculty's contributions to the CWSF such a resounding achievement.

9) REPORTS ON ACTIONS OF SENATE

- a) Prof. Nigel Roulet: Senate Meeting of 23 March, 2016

Senate opened, as usual, with the report from Senate Steering, adoption of the agenda and reminder of no electronic recording. There were no messages of condolence. There was no business arising from the minutes of the previous.

The Principal's remarks began with the announcement that Ms. Edyta Rogowski will replace Stephen Strople as Secretary General on Strople's retirement this summer. This was then followed by the announcement that the Board of Governors' committee of Social Responsible Investment did not support the recommendation for McGill University to divest in fossil fuel companies. Instead it recommended that McGill University should concentrate its efforts on actions to make McGill more sustainable. As was obviously anticipated by the Administration by the presence of additional security this were not well received, especially by the student Senators. The timing and how the announcement was made was very clumsy and gave every appearance that it was designed to limit discussion and debate, and predictably a vigorous discussion followed. The Chair of the Board took the responsibility for the timing stating the BOG wanted to meet the agreed on deadline for reporting back and he was about to leave on an extended trip to Europe. After the extended discussion on the divest issue the Principal moved to two good news stories – the Provincial and Federal budgets. It is a sign of the times that no cuts and very limited strategic and indirect investment in education is thought of as good news but it clearly is. The Quebec budget contained a very modest re-investment in universities over the next three years beginning in 2017. In the federal budget there was no new direct funding coming to universities but the Principal stated universities would benefit from the infrastructure spending, the additional funds for the Tri-Councils, the creation of a new research chairs program (a total of 22 new Chairs), and funding for an innovation agenda. The Chair said that the committee looking at the future of the RVH received a lot of good ideas and it would be meeting to go through the proposals. In addition, she reported on the impressive results of the one day funding drive called McGill 24 – over \$800,000 had been pledged; the new initiatives with the United Arab Emirates, the New York concert by the McGill Symphony Orchestra and finished to remind Senators to look at the Kudos notice she distributed prior to Senate.

The Senate then moved to the Questions by Senators and there was only one dealing with the issue of ethical procurement. The VP provided a written response explaining that McGill does have guidelines and would look into the particular case referred to in the question.

Senate then moved into Part B of the agenda with the presentation of the 471st Report of APC. This report generated several motions for program approvals, but the main focus of Senate was on a series of changes in graduate supervision guidelines, graduate progress reports, and the duration for degrees. Most were approved as proposed except for the changes to determination of students who were in over time. This part of the changes was tabled to be brought back at the next Senate meeting.

Senate was then was presented with a motion on a statement of academic freedom that was prepared by MAUT and the Provost. There was considerable debate over the wording of parts of the statement of principles, particularly over what the words "involved in scholarly activity" actually mean. In the end it was passed by Senate with no amendments.

The Provost then reported on the recommendations of the Senate Nominating Committee and moved a series of block motions. All passed without discussion. This was followed by a motion concerning changes in the University's Student Assessment Policy that was passed.

Annual report from various committees were then received: committees on Enrolment and Student Enrolment Management; Scholarships and Student Aid; Graduate and Post-

doctoral Studies; the McGill Staffing Report for 2014-2015; and two reports on the last two Board of Governors meetings.

Senate then moved into confidential session to consider recommendations for honorary degrees committee.

Senate adjourned at 17:15.

b) Prof. David Stephens: Senate Meeting of 20 April, 2016

In the Principal's absence (Principal Fortier was attending a HE forum in Toronto), the meeting was chaired by Senator Nicell. The following items were discussed before the main agenda.

1. Business arising from Steering Report
 - Provost C. Manfredi responded to a question concerning the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences and its location past present and future. He stated that he will continue discussions about possible alternative homes.
2. Business arising from minutes: several matters arising from the minutes of the past meetings, in particular the issue of early availability of course outlines and methods of evaluation. Deputy Provost O. Dyens vowed to present more detailed answers at the next Senate meeting, however, he questioned the feasibility of certain aspects due to timelines, instructor consent etc.
3. Principal's Remarks: The Principal's remarks and kudos were presented electronically only. The achievements of Faculty of Science members were prominent in the kudos, in particular the award of a Killam Research Fellowship to Professor C. Gale (Physics).

Main Agenda:

Part A:

- Formal Questions
 - Grievances: a question on the resolution of grievances was submitted, and written response given by the Secretary-General.
 - Universal Design: a question on universal design for learning, its relation to mental health and neurodiversity, and the importance of such a design to the University, was tabled. Deputy Provost O. Dyens responded saying that the University was committed to support efforts in this direction. Some discussion of the term neurodiversity ensued, although the conclusion of this discussion remained somewhat unclear.
 - Postdoctoral Fellows: a question on teaching opportunities for postdoctoral fellows at McGill was submitted. Provost C. Manfredi responded outlining the training opportunities available to postdocs at McGill.

Part B:

• Budget 2016-17

Provost C. Manfredi Presented the McGill budget for 2016-17. The University remains financially sound, with small deficits envisaged for the next two years, although there may be a need to increase contingencies for the following two years. Several highlights of the budget presentation concerning initiatives included:

- The prospect of tenure stream staff growth in 2017 (in particular in relation to a provostial complement for strategic hiring, multi-faculty)
- Spousal hiring to be handled from the central academic salary pool
- Initiatives on Indigenous Studies and Aboriginal Education
- An initiative on Sustainability

Minor questions and responses followed.

• Report of Academic Policy Committee (Provost C. Manfredi)

- A motion clarifying issues concerning time limitation was approved.

- Report of Senate Nominating Committee (Provost C. Manfredi)
 - The report in part related to the terms of reference of the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity (JBSCE) which were proposed to be amended to remove the reference to specific equity groups mentioned in the original terms of reference. In relation this very important issue, an amendment to the motion to adopt was proposed – the amendment suggested the retention of the original terms of reference with only minor alterations (thereby undoing the work of the JBSCE over the past year). After some debate, the amendment was withdrawn and the JBSCE agreed to reconsider the matter further after a related motion was passed.
- Appointment of Assessors on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination (Deputy Provost A. Campbell)
 - Three assessors were approved.
- Student Assessment Policy (Deputy Provost O. Dyens)
 - Further amendments (minor wording) to the previously amended policy on Student Assessment were approved
 - A task force on student assessment policies is to be set up during 2016.
- Conflict of Interest (Deputy Provost A. Campbell)
 - An amended version of the annual declarations form was presented.
- Report on Joint Senate Steering/Board Executive (Secretary-General)
 - The principal issue arising was the topic for the next joint meeting 2016-17 which is “McGill’s Sustainability Plans and Initiatives”

The meeting adjourned at 4.31pm.

c) Prof. Masad Damha: Senate Meeting of 11 May, 2016

The Senate meeting started with some Kudo remarks from our Principal, congratulating Professor Graham Bell for being elected Fellow of the Royal Society (UK’s national science academy). She noted that the Society has a Fellowship of some of the world’s most eminent scientists. Past Fellows and Foreign Members have included Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking. Congratulations Graham!!

Principal Fortier provided an update on the \$2B in funding which the federal government has announced for strategic infrastructure investments in the post-secondary education sector (the Strategic Infrastructure Fund, SIF, previously the KIP under the previous government). She indicated that projects receiving this funding must be “shovel-ready” and must be completed by April 2018. Federal government contributes up to 50% of the funding, with additional moneys coming from the province and McGill.

McGill and its affiliated hospitals submitted to Ottawa 13 potential projects adding up to \$100M in federal funding; many of these projects relate to sustainability. The Principal indicated that it was a ‘race’ to get these proposals submitted in early May, given that the SIF program was only announced April 24th, and project proposals had to be reviewed by the provincial government before being sent to Ottawa. Among these are renovations of the Nanotools Research Facility (Rutherford Bldg.), and the West wing of the Stewart Biology Bldg.

Principal Fortier announced that her website has been updated to show the state of progress on the Principal's Five Priorities (<https://www.mcgill.ca/principal/five-priorities>); these focus on

- a) Providing all students with a stimulating, innovative, and inquiry-based educational experience;
- b) Ensuring McGill remains one of the world's top research-intensive universities;
- c) Enhancing mutually beneficial relationships between McGill and its global community at large;
- d) Enhancing our Workplace to make McGill a more agile and effective organization; and,
- e) Transforming our campuses by providing with the resources necessary to continue our missions in a sustainable, safe and welcoming environment.

Principal Fortier added that feedback and advice on these priorities are welcome. In addition, she stated that three open forums on sustainability would take place in the fall (two on the downtown campus and one at the Macdonald campus). She also reminded Senators that sustainability would be the theme of the Joint Board-Senate Meeting which is scheduled for November 2016.

The Principal noted that advisory committees have been set up for the positions of Vice-Principal (Administration and Finance) and of Vice-Principal (Research and International Relations); the latter position is to be renamed Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation). Members of the University community will be able to provide input either in person or in writing to the Secretary General or the advisory committees which have been set up. In fact, our Principal (Chair of the Advisory Committee for the Selection of the VP (Research and Innovation)) has organized an Open Forum this afternoon to hear our views regarding the challenges, issues, and priorities facing the next Vice-Principal over the next 5-10 years, as well as the qualifications, leadership skills, experience and attributes that the candidate should possess (this forum takes place at the Macdonald Engineering Building (MD267) today at 4:15 pm).

Under the agenda point for formal questions, the topic of preferred name and non-binary gender disclosure policies came up. The questions related to a) practical limitations to the application of the preferred name policy; b) whether the preferred first name policy may be available to faculty and staff, and if so, when they expect this policy to be implemented; and c) how has the University reacted to data collected from a Student Diversity Survey.

In their response, Deputy-Provost Dyens and University Registrar Massey indicated that further implementation phase of these policies is planned to ensure that the Preferred First Name will appear systematically and reliably in more systems (MyCourses, Yammer, MyFuture). Their response also indicated that not all issues identified may be resolved, as there are external organizations and legal obligations that limit the overall implementation. For example, currently the legal first name cannot be replaced with a preferred name on some McGill official documents such as, e.g., official university transcripts; reports to government; letters of attestation; diplomas and certificates; and tuition fee e-bills.

The response also stated that Faculty and Staff may have their preferred name reflected in MyCourses, but this is affected by the same technical limitation that students currently experience and that will be addressed in the next phase of implementation. The full response can be accessed online (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/question_and_response_re_preferred_name_and_non-binary_gender_disclosure_policies.pdf).

With regards to the results obtained from the Student Diversity and Discrimination survey, Deputy-Provost Dyens indicated that they should be seen as more of “a barometer” of the situation than a perfect, precise picture reported given that only 17% of our students participated. While the data seem to indicate that overall the situation is relatively good, one must also take into account that some groups disagree with the statement that “McGill provides a welcoming environment for individuals with identities similar to [theirs]”. The report concluded that the next step is to Strike a working group charged with developing a plan for implementing actions that reflect needs signalled by the survey. The complete report is available on the McGill website: (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/11_d15-62_understanding_diversity_and_discrimination.pdf)

Senate next approved the Calendar of Academic Dates for 2018-19 and 2019-20 (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/8_d15-59_academic_dates.pdf). A major change is that Fall Examination period has been increased to 11 days to alleviate pressure (and exam conflicts) experienced during final exams. The issue of whether to include a reading week in the fall term is being reviewed and will be brought up to Senate for discussion in the new academic year.

Senate also approved the appointment of an assessor under the Policy on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/9_d15-60_harassment_assessors.pdf), which was presented by Associate Provost Campbell.

A progress report was also provided by Associate Dean of Students Zabowski on the work of the Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Charter of Students' Rights; it is hoped that a revised Charter of Students' Rights will be ready for Senate's consideration by the end of 2016.

Finally, the Board of Governors has approved *the Statement of Academic Freedom* recently recommended by Senate;

(http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/13_d15-64_report_bog_to_senate_may_2016.pdf).

The Statement is now available on the McGill website (<http://www.mcgill.ca/secretariat/statement-academic-freedom>), and provided here for convenience:

Statement of Academic Freedom:

Academic freedom is central to McGill University's mission of advancing learning through teaching, scholarship and service to society.

The scholarly members of the university have the freedom to pursue research and artistic creation and to disseminate their results, without being constrained by political or disciplinary orthodoxies, monetary incentives or punitive measures as a result of their academic pursuits. They may exercise this freedom in the service of both the university and the wider society. When scholarly members of the university participate in public forums and debates, they should represent their views as their own.

The exercise of academic freedom requires collegial governance with the full participation of scholarly members. They retain the right of free expression, including the freedom to criticize one another, university policies and administration.

The university and its officers have a duty to protect the academic freedom of its scholarly community, both individually and collectively, from infringement and undue external influence as well as to maintain the university's institutional autonomy.

As the final agenda item, Senate moved into confidential session to discuss the report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee.

- 10.9.1** Dean Lennox thanked the above three Senators, and also all the Senators for their Reports throughout the year. It was very important to know what the university was doing at its various levels, to keep up to date.

10) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

11) OTHER BUSINESS

- 10.11.1** Prof. Dudek announced that Dr. Vinton Gray Cerf, one of the Convocation speakers, will be giving a pre-Convocation talk about the future of the internet at 4 p.m. on Sunday, 5 June 2016. Further information will be made available to members when it is available.

- 10.11.2** Dean Lennox said he would look into the possibility of introducing topics for discussion at next year's Faculty meetings.

- 10.11.3** Regarding the search for a new Vice-Principal (Research), Dean Lennox strongly encouraged members to send a one-two page description of any relevant expectations, requirements, etc., to the search committee. It was extremely important for the Faculty to express its views as to the type of person who should be chosen. Chairs could coordinate this within their units, and with other Science units.

- 10.11.4** Dean Lennox said he hoped to see Faculty members at Convocation on 6 June 2016, and he wished members of the Faculty a great summer!

Prof. Damha **moved**, seconded by Prof. Roulet, that the meeting be adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

The motion carried.