

FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Tuesday, 13 September, 2016
Leacock Council Room - L232

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book

DOCUMENTS: S-15-39, S-16-1 to S-16-3

Dean Lennox called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. He warmly welcomed and congratulated new Assistant Professors, recently tenured Professors, new Full Professors, and new Professors Emeriti, and read out their names.

New Assistant Professors	
Biology	Stephanie Weber
Chemistry	Christopher Thibodeaux
Earth & Planetary Sciences	Peter M.J. Douglas
Geography/Institute for Health & Social Policy	Mylène Riva
Mathematics and Statistics	Tim Hoheisel
Mathematics and Statistics	Maksym Radziwill
Physics	Simon Caron-Huot
Psychology	Rosemary C. Bagot
Psychology	A. Ross Otto

New Associate Professors	
Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences	Daniel Kirshbaum
Biology	Jonathan Davies
Biology	Jon Sakata
Chemistry	Tomislav Friščić
Computer Science	Hamed Hatami
Mathematics & Statistics	Mikael Pichot
Mathematics & Statistics	Sergey Norin
Physics	William Coish
Physics	Paul François
Physics	Walter Reisner
Psychology	Jennifer Bartz

New Full Professors	
Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences/	
Mathematics & Statistics	Peter Bartello
Biology	Gregor Fussmann
Biology	Frédéric Guichard
Chemistry	Karine Auclair
Chemistry	Gonzalo Cosa
Mathematics & Statistics	Masoud Asgharian
Psychology	Barbel Knauper

New Professors Emeritus	
Biology	Gregory Brown
Mathematics & Statistics	William Anderson

Dean Lennox also welcomed and congratulated two new members of the Faculty of Science:

- Ms. Maria Babiak, Director of Administration
- Mr. Robert Davis, Director of Advancement

1) **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

The motion carried.

2) **RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR JAN LUNDGREN, DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY,**

Presented by Prof. Nigel Roulet, Chair, Department of Geography.

Prof. Roulet read out the resolution on the death of Professor Jan Lundgren.

Jan Lundgren passed away peacefully in his sleep on June 29, 2016 at the age of 83 years. He was educated in Sweden, with a graduate degree from the University of Stockholm and came to McGill as an Assistant Professor of Geography in 1964. Jan observed that his initial accommodation in Montreal was on Aylmer Street, opposite the Yellow Door Café, and his upstairs neighbour was Leonard Cohen.

At McGill, his teaching and research focused on economic geography, especially tourism, with field work conducted in Canada and the United States, the Caribbean (Barbados, Guyana and Jamaica) and Scandinavia. His first publication in 1965 was on *Tourism in Quebec* and his last one (published in 2006) was on *The History and Geography of Baltic Sea Cruising*. Jan retired from McGill in 1996.

Jan served as the long-term secretary of the Canadian-Scandinavian Foundation, which supports Canadians researching in Denmark, Iceland, Faroe Islands, Finland, Norway or Sweden.

He had great enthusiasm for life and an insatiable curiosity about the world around us. At a more personal level, it is important to recognize the contribution he made to others. Over the years, he taught thousands of undergraduate students and, it being McGill, some of his teachings will be spread across the world. He was the supervisor of a number of graduate students and several went on to become Geography professors themselves: Brian Slack at Concordia University, Maurice Blenman at University of Windsor, Wolfgang Haider at Simon Fraser University and T.C. Chang at the National University of Singapore.

He was always an affable, friendly and energetic colleague at McGill, with a very diverse range of interests and curiosities. He was happy to be talking about anything, comparing European and North American perspectives, and asking questions that had no answer. He was not afraid to tell Montreal officials about the challenges and bridges and pollution, which still remain..... We shall miss him.

The Department of Geography and McGill University offer their condolences to his wife Margareta and their children.

The resolution was unanimously approved.

Dean Lennox said that, on behalf of the Faculty of Science, he would pass on the Faculty's condolences to Prof. Lundgren's family.

3) **STUDENT MEMBERS**

S-16-1

103.1 Dean Lennox read the list of student members, and welcomed them to the Faculty of Science.

103.2 Dean Lennox said he appreciated that many students had conflicts with Faculty of Science meetings. He said he would like to set up a caucus between the SUS Executives, and the Dean, Director of Advising and the Associate Dean (Academic) in order to discuss ongoing issues of concern to SUS students.

4) **MINUTES OF 24 MAY, 2016**

S-15-39

Prof. Roulet **moved**, seconded by Prof. Damha, 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) Nominating Committee

S-16-2

Committees Not Requiring Approval:

- 1) **Nominating Committee**
- 2) **Science Chairs' Council**
- 3) **Tenure Committee**

Committees Requiring Approval:

- 4) **Committee on Student Standing**
The Committee on Student Standing reviews student appeals of decisions made by the Director of Advising Services.
- 5) **Academic Committee**
The Academic Committee reviews and approves all academic content taught in the Faculty of Science. The Dean serves as Chair, and Associate Dean Tamara Western serves as Vice-Chair.
- 6) **Scholarships Committee**
The Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson serves as the Chair of the Science Scholarships Committee.
- 7) **Leo Yaffe & Principal's Prizes Committee**
The Leo Yaffe and Principal's Prizes Committee recommends candidates for these awards for excellence in teaching. Prof. Edith Zorychta serves as the Chair of this Committee. Also, a member from the Department of Psychology will be announced at the next Faculty meeting.
- 8) **Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies**
Faculty representatives sit on the Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS). Dean Lennox said Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson will no longer sit on CGPS, since she will be on the Committee that CGPS reports to.
- 9) **B.A. & Sc. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (PAC)**
The B.A. & Sc. PAC reviews changes and coordinates the administration of the B.A. & Sc. degree programs. Only the Science membership is for approval by the Faculty of Science.

Prof. Grütter **moved**, seconded by Prof. Lydon, that the membership of the above Committees, #4 to #9, be approved.

The motion carried.

- b) Committee on Student Standing (CSS) **S-16-3**

106.1 Director Nicole Allard said that the CSS hears appeals from students in the B.A. & Sc. and the B.Sc. Degrees. She said that one student's appeal for readmission was denied by the CSS.

7) **DEAN'S BUSINESS**

107.1 Announcements

(1) Students

(a) The Dean was delighted to report that B.A. & Sc. student **Sarah Mehain**, who majors in sustainability science and sociology, is also a swimmer who this very day was competing in 6 events at the **Paralympic Games** in Rio. She also competed in the 2012 Paralympic Games in London, and has won medals at many international competitions. In 2013 she set a Canadian record in the 100-m breaststroke.

<https://www.rio2016.com/en/paralympics/athlete/sarah-mehain>

<http://publications.mcgill.ca/reporter/2016/09/swimmer-mehain-in-rio-for-paralympic-games/>

(b) UO B.Sc. student **Mana Moshkforoush** is a recipient of the prestigious **Schulich Leader Scholarship**, valued at \$60,000. These Schulich Scholarships are Canada's largest STEM scholarships. She has started the Biological, Biomedical & Life Sciences program. Ms. Moshkforoush was selected for her excellence in academic achievement as well as her diverse accomplishments including a fundraising initiative to support global health, and a month-long stint as a volunteer English teacher in a remote village in the Middle East.

(2) Faculty members

(a) Prof. **Nancy Ross** of the Department of Geography has been appointed as **Associate Vice-Principal, Research and Innovation**, with a three-year mandate that began on September 1. Prof. Ross has previously served as the Director of the MSE, and holds the Canada Research Chair (Tier 1) in the Geo-Social Determinants of Health.

(b) The **Royal Society of Canada** recently announced the induction of 89 **new Fellows**, 10 from McGill, and **2 from the Faculty of Science**. Congratulations to **Paul Lasko** from Biology and **Hanadi Sleiman** from Chemistry! The new cohort of Fellows will be formally inducted into the RSC on November 18, in Kingston, Ontario.

(c) In addition, there are three Faculty of Science members who have been newly-elected to the College of New Scholars: **Prof. Ehab Abouheif** and **Prof. Irene Gregory-Eaves**, both from the Department of Biology, and **Prof. Joelle Pineau**, from the School of Computer Science.

(d) Earlier this month, Prof. **Andrew Gonzalez** inaugurated **LEAP**, the Large Experimental Array of Ponds, located at the Gault Nature Reserve. LEAP is designed to study how complex aquatic communities respond to environmental stressors; for example, can complex communities adapt to a mix of pesticides, like glyphosate and neonicotinoid insecticides? This ribbon-cutting was attended by Principal Foriter and V.-P. Marcil, plus the MP And MNA for the Ste-Hillaire region.

Research

Last week, the federal government announced the results of the **Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF)**, Competition # 2. McGill's submission (**Healthy Brains for Healthy Lives**) will be funded for \$84M over seven years, and involves neuroscience, neuropsychology, and computer science. There will be significant Faculty of Science participation.

Alumni

(a) In June 2016, **Ned Goodman** (BSc'60) was appointed a **Member of the Order of Canada** for his contributions to Canada's investment industry and for his philanthropic support for higher education, culture and health care.

(b) Also in June 2016, Yves Sirois (B.Ed., Ph.D. 1988) was named a **Knight of the Order of Québec** in recognition of his contributions to the field of physics, particularly involving the Higgs boson particle.

107.2 Dean Lennox congratulated everyone and wished them continuing success.

107.3 Dean Lennox said that the use of the Leacock Building is problematic due to the noise of the City of Montréal's major construction work. Teaching and holding meetings is very difficult. Dean Lennox said that he is in discussion with Facilities and TLS in the University about the situation.

Renovations

(a) Dean Lennox announced that in May 2016, the Federal Strategic Infrastructure Fund (SIF) was launched; this involves \$2B for universities. For McGill matching funds should come from the provincial government. The project is stalled in Ottawa but Dean Lennox is confident of its outcome. Renovations to existing buildings will be targeted. Buildings include Rutherford and Stewart. Ongoing discussions are taking place with the Departments of Biology and of Psychology about the implications of the renovations.

(b) Royal Victoria Hospital – Dean Lennox said that it had been decided that the primary foci for the RVH will be Sustainability Sciences, Policy, and Innovation. Science would be the lead faculty in aspects of this programming. The major Faculty of Science presence would be centred around Earth Systems, Molecular/Materials Systems, and Biosystems. The focus will be on systems-based integrative research and the facilities associated with them. This would be getting out of the mold that faculties control buildings. Dean Lennox will distribute to faculty an Academic Plan associated with the RVH, which is currently being drafted and should be ready in the next month. In about 18 months this will be submitted for approval to the Québec government.

Government Relations

Dean Lennox said that he will bring to Faculty a Report on Government Relations. There had been a huge change with the implementation of the present Federal Government. Dean Lennox said he had met with Deputy Ministers/Ministers of Science, Transport, Environment and Climate Canada, Industry, and Natural Resources. Many consultations have been ongoing, including research funding. There will be a great deal of new money in the system, and there will be many new opportunities.

8) REPORTS OF DIRECTOR & ASSOCIATE DEANS

a) Director (Advising Services) Nicole Allard

108.1 Director Allard said that with the start of a new semester, the deadline for Add/Drop period will be 20 September 2016. After that, review of graduation records will begin.

b) Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson

There was no report from Associate Dean Nilson.

c) Associate Dean (Research) Doina Precup

108.2 Dean Lennox, on behalf of Associate Dean Precup, gave the following report:

(a) The FRQ team grants are due in the Office of Sponsored Research (OSR) for vetting on Wednesday, 14 September 2016, and then will move to FRQ on September 28, 2016.

(b) The RTI proposals are due in the Faculty office on Friday, 16 September 2016 (by email) for pre-selection. The McGill quota is 43, Science is allowed to submit 15 proposals (although Science may be able to ask for more if other faculties do not use their quota). The program has received an increase in budget this year. Grants must make sure that they justify the need for funds. The budget is up to \$150K.

(c) In conjunction with the RTI, this year there is a one-year pilot program offering up to \$150K for operations and maintenance support for research facilities (see NSERC web site). Deadline to submit to NSERC is October 25, as for the RTI. If interested in applying, please contact Associate Dean Precup.

(d) CFI9 - all science proposals are going forward for final submission, and there is a final push for revisions. All CFI proposals (IF and JELF) have been experiencing problems with inflated quotes from Facilities. The university is very aware of this problem, and it will work on remediation in the future (right now, it is up to individual units).

(e) The Sustainability Sciences Initiative, which Dr. Heather McShane has been coordinating and leading, has several events planned for this coming Fall and Winter. The purpose of these events is to catalyse the McGill research community around major Grand Challenges in this area that McGill would be especially well positioned to address. The first event will be a cocktail meet-and-greet on September 27, 2016 in the Faculty Club. Invitations to all McGill professors will be extended shortly. Following this, there will be a series of short talks (aka "lightning talks") in early November. More details will follow.

d) Associate Dean (Academic) Tamara Western

108.3 Associate Dean Western gave the following report.

(a) Associate Dean Western gave a preliminary report on enrolment. She said that she would present the final numbers at the October Faculty of Science meeting. The Faculty took in about 1180 B.Sc. students and 144 B.A. & Sc. students. There was an increase in the PEMC group, and biological sciences now make up about 65% of enrolment and physical sciences, 35%. The increase in applications suggests an increased interest in PEMC amongst the CEGEP and high school students.

(b) Associate Dean Western also gave an update on the Minor in Entrepreneurship (approved in 2015-2016). Out of a total of 110 students now enrolled in the various different faculties' versions, across the University, there were 28 B.Sc. Students: 11 were biomedical (including 6 pharmacology), 7 computer science or joint-computer science, 5 chemistry, 4 psychology, and 1 physics. Associate Dean Western also asked Faculty members to let their students know about the entrepreneurship program.

9) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD

There were no members' questions.

10) OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other business, Prof. Lydon **moved**, seconded by Prof. Damha, that the meeting be adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

The motion carried.

