

FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Tuesday, October 19, 2010
Leacock Council Room - L232

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book.

DOCUMENTS: S-09-35, S-09-36, S-10-1 to S-10-10

Dean Grant called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m., and welcomed members to the first Faculty of Science meeting of the year.

The following new professors were acknowledged, and if present at the meeting were introduced by their Chairs or by Chair's Delegate:

New Professors

Biology	Assistant Professor Jonathan DAVIES
School of Computer Science	Assistant Professor Mohit SINGH
School of Computer Science	Assistant Professor Hamed HATAMI
Earth & Planetary Sciences	Assistant Professor Galen HALVERSON
Mathematics & Statistics	Faculty Lecturer Heekyoung HAHN
Mathematics & Statistics	Associate Professor Rustum CHOKSI
Mathematics & Statistics	Professor Christian GENEST
Mathematics & Statistics	Assistant Professor Jayce GETZ
Mathematics & Statistics	Assistant Professor Jean-Christophe NAVE
Mathematics & Statistics	Associate Professor Robert SEIRINGER
Physics	Assistant Professor William COISH
Physics	Assistant Professor Paul FRANÇOIS

The following recently tenured professors and recently promoted full professors were acknowledged, and introduced if present at the meeting.

Tenured June 1, 2010

Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences	Associate Professor Bruno TREMBLAY
Biology	Associate Professor Ehab ABOUHEIF
Biology	Associate Professor Paul HARRISON
Biology	Associate Professor Rudiger KRAHE
Biology / Redpath / MSE	Associate Professor Brian LEUNG
School of Computer Science	Associate Professor Joelle PINEAU
Psychology	Associate Professor Kristine ONISHI
Chemistry	Associate Professor Dmitrii PEREPICHKA
Geography	Associate Professor Jon UNRUH
Physics	Associate Professor Gilbert HOLDER
Physics	Associate Professor Guillaume GERVAIS

Physics
Physics

Associate Professor Keshav DASGUPTA
Associate Professor Robert RUTLEDGE

Promoted to Full Professor in 2010

Psychology
Psychology

Professor Professor Daniel LEVITIN
Professor Professor Karim NADER

Dean Grant welcomed all the new professors, and congr

Dean Grant welcomed the new student members and asked them to stand up by way of introduction.

(4) **CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES**

a) **Bachelor of Arts and Science** **S-10-2**

204.1 Ms. Allard said that there were 15 students graduating, while one candidate had not been approved for graduation.

Ms. Allard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Levine, 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-10-3**

204.2 There were 82 students approved for graduation, with 8 candidates not having been approved.

Ms. Allard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Fabry, 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-10-4**

204.3 There was one student approved for the Diploma.

Ms. Allard **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, that the above degree list be recommended to the Senate Steering Committee for the Diploma in Environment.

d) **Diploma in Meteorology** **S-10-5**

204.4 There were no candidates for the Diploma in Meteorology.

Ms. Allard further **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hurtubise, 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.

204.5 Ms. Allard thanked the departmental advisors, SOUSA, and special thanks to Mr. Peter Barry, Chief Academic Advisor.

(5) **MINUTES OF MAY 25, 2010** **S-09-35**

Prof. Zuroff **moved**, seconded by Mr. Lyu, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

(6) **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

(7) **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

a) **Nominating Committee**

S-10-6

1. Science Nominating Committee (for information):

The Nominating Committee consists of the Science Senate Representatives; the Convenor was Prof. Peter Grütter.

2. Science Chairs' Council (for information):

The Science Chairs' Council serves as an advisory committee to the Dean, and consists of the Dean, the Associate Dean, the Special Advisor to the Dean, the Director of Advising Services, and the heads of all units in the Faculty of Science, including the MSE and the Redpath Museum.

3. Tenure Committee (for information):

4. Committee on Student Standing (for approval):

The Committee on Student Standing reviews student appeals of decisions made by the Director of Student Advising.

Mr. Djafarian **moved**, seconded by Prof. Brown, that the membership of the Committee on Student Standing be approved.

The motion carried.

5. Academic Committee (for approval):

The Academic Committee reviews and approves all academic content taught in the Faculty of Science.

Ms. Ma **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hurtubise, that the membership of the Academic Committee be approved.

The motion carried.

6. Scholarships Committee (for approval):

The Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Education serves as the Chair of the Scholarships Committee.

Prof. Grütter **moved**, seconded by Prof. Levine, that the membership of the Scholarships Committee be approved.

The motion carried.

7. Leo Yaffe & Principal's Prizes Committee (for approval):

The Leo Yaffe and Principal's Prizes Committee recommends candidates for these awards for excellence in teaching.

Mr. Jacobson **moved**, seconded by Prof. Zuroff, that the membership of the Leo Yaffe and Principal's Prizes Committee be approved.

The motion carried.

8. Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (for approval):

Representatives of all faculties sit on the Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

Prof. Green **moved**, seconded by Prof. Zuroff, that the membership of the Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies be approved.

The motion carried.

9. B.A. & Sc. Program Administration Committee (for approval):

The B.A. & Sc. PAC reviews changes and coordinates the administration of the B.A. & Sc. degree programs.

Mr. Lyu **moved**, seconded by Mr. Djafarian, that the Science membership of the B.A. & Sc. Program Administration Committee be approved.

The motion carried.

(b) Scholarships Committee

(i) In-course Scholarships Report

S-08-40

207.1

Associate Dean Grütter said that the Scholarships Report listed the awards given to non-graduating students for the 2009-2010 academic year. He said that in order to be eligible for a monetary award, an SGPA of 3.97 or higher was required, which in practice resulted in the top 5% of students in the Faculty of Science receiving monetary awards. He said that thanks to Dean Grant the awards had been 'topped up' with money from the Faculty of Science, thus providing students with more money than would have otherwise been available. Associate Dean Grütter also mentioned that the cut-off for the Dean's Honour List was 3.91.

Associate Dean Grütter **moved**, seconded by Ms. Ma, that the Scholarships Report be approved.

The motion carried.

(ii) New Award for In-course Students:

**GowriSankaran Prize in Mathematics and Statistics
Value: \$1000**

S-10-7

207.2

Associate Dean Grütter introduced the above new award for continuing students. He thanked Prof. GowriSankaran and his family and friends for their generous donation.

(c) Academic Committee

S-10-8

The Academic Committee approved the following on Tuesday, September 28, 2010:

207.3

In the absence of Prof. de Takacsy, Ms. Nicole Allard, Director of Advising Services, introduced items in the Academic Committee Report.

SECTION A: MODERATE PROGRAM CHANGES

207.4

Ms. Allard briefly described the following two program changes, and the reasons for them.

(1) Minor in Cognitive Science (AC-10-2)

Ms. Allard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Zuroff, that the above program changes be approved.

The motion carried.

(2) B.Sc. Major Program in Neuroscience (AC-10-3)

Ms. Allard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Levine, that the above program changes be approved.

The motion carried.

SECTION B: MODERATE COURSE CHANGES

- McGill School of Environment
ENVR 630 Civilization and Environment (**AC-10-4**)
Changes: title, description, prerequisites, restrictions
3 credits

Ms. Allard **moved**, seconded by Ms. Talmi, that the above changes be approved.

The motion carried.

SECTION C: MINOR COURSE CHANGES (For Information Only)

- Minor Course Change Report (**AC-10-1**)

207.5 Ms. Allard pointed out the changes in the Minor Course Change Report.

d) Committee on Student Standing S-10-9

207.6 Ms. Allard said that the CSS had met twice. Of the two requests, one was denied, and the other approved.

(8) DEAN'S BUSINESS

a) Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List (DMURL) S-09-32

208.1 Ms. Allard described the conditions of eligibility for the DMURL - undergraduate students undertaking multidisciplinary research outside their principal area of study. She read out the names on the DMURL, and congratulated the students

b) MyResearch for McGill Graduate Students

208.2 Mr. Louis Houle, Associate Director, Client Services, Sciences, Health and Engineering, McGill Library, gave a presentation on MyResearch, which is a workshop series for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows given by McGill Library in partnership with the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, and Teaching and Learning Services. The series was begun in Fall 2009.

208.3 Mr. Houle said that MyResearch consist

- 208.17** For 2010-2011, total registration (U0-U3) increased by 17% compared with 2004. The increase in the U0 load from 2004 was 37.6%. This increase in the U0 load was mostly due to U0 Engineering students.
- 208.18** Ms. Allard briefly described the current situation regarding interfaculty transfers (transfers into and out of the B.Sc. and the B.A. & Sc.)
- 208.19** January admissions were only for CEGEP students and McGill graduates, and only into the PEMC pool.
- 208.20** In conclusion: For the high school pool, the historical yield was not a very good predictor, and the admission process should be made more agile. Ways to increase high school student interest in the PEMC pool should be examined. Regarding CEGEPs, McGill's market share should be increased, and McGill should work to increase interest in science in Québec high schools and CEGEPs. Since in the long term, enrolments are likely to continue to increase the U0 proportion of admissions, the Faculty should be prepared for further enrolment pressure on U0 courses.
- 208.21** It was pointed out that there had been a 25% increase in an introductory chemistry course. Continuation of this level of increase would be extremely difficult to accommodate.
- 208.22** Dean Grant thanked Ms. Allard for the presentation.

(9) REPORT ON ACTIONS OF SENATE

Please note that the entire Minutes of Senate are available on the Web at <http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/minutes/>.

Senate Meeting of September 22, 2010 - Prof. David N. Harpp

The Principal recounting recent progress since May on the Green McGill Project, noting the University street bike path, the "James Square" sculpture garden, the establishment of a "car free" campus, the renovation of the terraces, the closure of McTavish Street to vehicular traffic and parking, and the creation of a park to replace the concrete terrace above the Stewart Biology Building. She noted that the University has \$413 million in projects currently underway. Of that, \$170 million in projects is currently under construction, and the balance is substantially complete. In addition, the University has an excess of \$100 million in projects valued at \$1 million or more under development.

She spoke about Bill 100, noting that it treats universities in the same light as crown corporations.

The Chair gave highlights of McGill's recent presentation to the *Commission parlementaire de la culture et de l'éducation*.

Then there were the questions. This section lasted for what seemed like hours.

1. What steps are being taken by McGill to foster business? The V.-P. (Research) responded by indicating it will establish priorities in these directions.
2. There were 6 sub-questions on rates for international students taking French courses where McGill is now charging tuition when before it was free.
3. The next question had to do with what was perceived as an inconsistent policy about putting an emphasis on student-centered activities when graduate work was emphasized

in the Commission presentation. There was a coherent 500 word answer basically saying that we have always put an emphasis on the undergraduate experience. Eventually the Deputy Provost (Life and Learning) Morton Mendelson indicated that we need to reduce courses with very small enrolments.

4. A question was raised about the new Athletics Board that did not meet all of last year. It was commented by The Deputy Provost (Life and Learning) Morton Mendelson that this board is not accountable to Senate.

5. The closure of the Architecture Café was challenged but the Deputy Provost (Life and Learning) Morton Mendelson indicated the question would not be reconsidered.

The Principal gave her Annual Report. Comments were given about the nearly 1 billion dollars of deferred maintenance along with the estimate of \$5.2 billion in economic contributions made to the Province by our ~40,000 students/staff.

The V.-P. (Research) Rima Rozen gave a detailed summary of our research performance based mainly on grants obtained indicating that we need to pull up our socks compared with UBC, Alberta and Toronto.

Various reports were given for the APC, Senate Nominating and the appointment of sexual harassment assessors.

A generous grant was obtained permitting the naming of the School of Nursing as the Richard Ingram School.

The meeting concluded on a confusing note whereby it was posed to reconsider the closure of the Architecture Café.

The meeting concluded at nearly 6:00 p.m.

(10) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD

There were no members' questions.

(11) OTHER BUSINESS

211.1 Dean Grant said that the 6th Trottier Symposium had been held on October 18 and 19, 2010. He said that at 6:00 p.m. on the day of the current meeting, there would be a talk in Leacock 132 given by James Randi, concerning the investigation of pseudoscientific and paranormal claims.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.