

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Tuesday, April 7, 2009
Leacock Council Room - L232**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book.

DOCUMENTS: S-08-24, S-08-25, S-08-27, S-08-28

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

Prof. Jeff McKenzie from the Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences gave a three-minute research presentation prior to the meeting.

Dean Grant thanked Prof. McKenzie for his presentation, and said that the breadth of research across the Faculty was astounding.

The research presentation of Prof. Steve Robertson, Department of Physics, was postponed to a future Faculty meeting.

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- a. Two additional items to be added to the Academic Committee Report, Item # 5(a)
- (i) Policy on Transfer Credits for Distance Education Courses (AC-08-96 [Revised])
 - (ii) Course Over-Registration (AC-08-97 [Revised])
- b. The Senate Reports of March 4 and March 25, 2009 to be presented by Prof. R. Sieber and Prof. I. Butler to be postponed to the Faculty of Science Meeting scheduled for May 19, 2009.

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

The motion carried.

(2) RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF PROF. WILLIAM O. MOSER, DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS

702.1 On behalf of Prof. J. Hurtubise, Chair of the Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Professor W.G. Brown read the Resolution on the Death of Prof. Moser.

Faculty of Science Members,

It is with regret I must inform the Faculty that Professor William O. Moser died on January 28, 2009.

William O. J. Moser (1927-2009) was born in Winnipeg, and graduated in 1949 from the University of Manitoba, following which he obtained a Master's degree in Mathematics in 1951 at the University of Minnesota. Moser's Ph.D. Thesis, written at the University of Toronto under H. S. M. Coxeter, evolved into the oft-cited standard Ergebnisse reference on combinatorial group theory (1957) known to generations as "Coxeter and Moser". Before arriving at McGill he held faculty positions at the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Manitoba. Much of his later, seminal, mathematical work was in the area now known as "discrete geometry", where, with Peter Brass and János Pach, he

After introducing the above document, Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Fussmann, that the program be approved for Science students and that BITS be available for the B.Sc. Field Study Minor.

The motion carried.

SECTION B: MAJOR PROGRAM CHANGES

Mathematics & Statistics

- Honours in Applied Mathematics

AC-08-102

Following an explanation of the changes in the above program, Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hundemer, that the program changes be approved.

The motion carried.

SECTION C: NEW COURSES

GEOGRAPHY

GEOG 503

Advanced Topics in Health Geog
3 credits

AC-08-100

After introducing the above new course, Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Moore, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

SECTION D: MAJOR COURSE CHANGES

(1) MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS

MATH 470

Honours Research Project
Changes: title, description, prerequisites
3 credits

AC-08-101

705.2

Associate Dean Hendren said that with the changes to the above Honours course, all the Honours programs in the Faculty of Science would now contain a research component.

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

The motion carried.

(2) PSYCHOLOGY

PSYC 199

FYS: Mind-Body Medicine
Changes: teaching unit, administering faculty, restriction
3 credits

AC-08-105

705.3

Associate Dean Hendren said that PSYC 199 had previously been offered by the Department of Social Studies of Medicine. Since the Department was no longer interested in hosting the course, it would now be offered by the Department of Psychology. PSYC 199 would be another FYS course available to Science students, and would be useful for students interested in a small course.

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

706.1

Ms. Susanna Yim, Director of SUS Peer Tutoring, gave a report on the activities of the SUS Peer Tutoring Program.

The 2008-2009 Executive was:

Director:	Susanna Yim
Tutor Coordinator:	William Carroll
Tutee Coordinator:	Noha Mahdi Fall 2008 And Michael Walsh Winter 2009

707.4

Some of the points raised were:

- That chairs were in the best position to know what local needs were
- That Faculty control would be more transparent and accountable than local control
- That in distributing money there was always the possibility of instituting a reporting mechanism
- That Chairs could report back to the Faculty
- That research cannot be mandated and directed from above
- That often Chairs are not given sufficient time to determine how to dispense money
- That seed money was preferable to money spent in one particular laboratory
- That effort and money spent in bringing people together could be very productive
- That money could be spent both on ongoing projects and on developing wholly new projects

extended period of time through excellence in research, teaching, creative or scholarly activity, academic leadership or any combination thereof'. In response to a comment from Senator Butler, it was noted that conferring these titles did not automatically generate a McGill appointment, which is required to maintain NSERC funding. Senate warmly welcomed and approved the policy.

Senator Smith presented a detailed statistical analysis of salary differentials (by gender) at McGill, based on 2006-7 data. The conclusion was that, taking into account gender, experience, department, rank and external or internal awards, there was no evidence of gender bias in the Faculty of Science, marginal in the Faculty of Arts and probable in the Faculty of Medicine.

Senate concluded with a presentation by the Deputy-Provost, the first 'Report Card' of progress attained to reach the goals established by the Principal's Task Force on Student Life and Learning. Significant items are the creation of a one-stop shopping centre for students in the basement the McLennan Library, amalgamating several student-oriented offices. The Deputy-Provost places great attention on student questionnaire responses and comparison of McGill's performance with other universities in North America. Performance was good in the 'level of academic challenge' but poor on 'active and collaborative learning', 'student-faculty interactions' and a 'supportive campus environment'. The Deputy Provost noted that actions were being taken to address these short-falls, though it seemed to at least one Senator that enhancing the 'online experience' for students (such as WebCT) was counter to collaborative learning and student-faculty interaction.

- **Senate Reports of March 4, 2009 and March 25, 2009**

Prof. R. Sieber will report on the Senate meeting of March 4, 2009 and Prof. I. Butler will 497 TD.00p92 C

- Prof. P. Lasko, Department of Biology - two years
- Prof. R. Sieber, Department of Geography/McGill School of Environment) - two years

710.3

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