

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Tuesday, October 9, 2007
Leacock Council Room - L232**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book.

DOCUMENTS: S-06-45, S-07-1 to S-07-11

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

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Ng **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ronis, that the Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

(2) CAMPAIGN MCGILL

202.1 Honora Shaughnessy, Executive Director, McGill Alumni Association, gave a brief overview of Campaign McGill. She said that Campaign McGill would be launched on October 18, 2007. Priorities of Campaign McGill had been developed by the deans, the provost, and the principal, with Deputy Provost (Student Life And Learning) Morton Mendelson representing students. Campaign McGill would position the university to

Ms. Shaughnessy announced that there would be a number of events on campus

202.7 Homecoming would be one of the events involved in the kick-off of Campaign McGill. Another event would be the undergraduate research conference, which would be held on Friday, October 19, 2007, and which would feature a keynote address by **Dr. Jonathan Foley**.

202.8 Dean Grant emphasized that giving to the current campaign was even more important than in the past, since science stood on the cusp of great discovery.

(3) SEATING OF STUDENT MEMBERS S-07-1

203.1 Dean Grant welcomed student members to the Faculty meeting. He asked students to stand as he read out their names from Document #S-07-1.

(4) NOTICE OF MOTION TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE S-07-2

204.1 Associate Dean Burns gave notice of Motion to amend the Faculty's Constitution. He said that the amendment was to allow students in the B.A. & Sc. Program to serve as members of the Faculty and of Faculty Committees. The actual Motion will be considered at the Faculty meeting of November 6, 2007.

(5) CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

a) Bachelor of Science S-07-3

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ronis, that the above degree list be recommended to the Senate Steering Committee for the Bachelor of Science degree.

The motion carried.

b) Bachelor of Arts and Science S-07-4

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gale, that the above degree list be recommended to the Senate Steering Committee for the Bachelor of Arts and Science degree.

The motion carried.

c) Diploma in Environment S-07-5

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Roulet, that the above candidates be recommended to the Senate Steering Committee for the Diploma in Environment.

The motion carried.

d) Diploma in Meteorology S-07-6

There were no candidates for the Diploma in Meteorology.

Associate Dean Leighton further **moved**, seconded by Prof. GowriSankaran, that the Dean be v

205.1 Associate Dean Leighton thanked unit advisors and advisors and staff in the Student Affairs Office for their diligent work in preparing the degree lists.

(6) MINUTES OF MAY 22, 2007 S-06-45

Prof. Wolfson **moved**, seconded by Prof. Butler, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

(7) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

(8) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

a) Scholarships Committee

(i) Scholarship Report S-06-46

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Franklin, that the Scholarship Report be accepted.

The motion carried.

(ii) New Awards S-07-7

Associate Dean Leighton introduced the two new awards:

- **Loretta Del Bosco Scholarships - Value: 2 X \$2500**
- **Dikran Ohannessian Scholarships in Science - Value: 2 X \$2500**

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. GowriSankaran, that the new awards be adopted.

The motion carried.

b) Nominating Committee S-07-8

1. Science Nominating Committee (for information):

The Nominating Committee consists of the Science Senate Representatives; the Convenor was Prof. David Burns.

2. Science Chairs' Council (for information):

The Science Chairs' Council serves as an advisory committee to the Dean, and consists of the Dean, the three Associate Deans, 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 Associate Dean (Student Affairs).

Prof. Merrett **moved**,

The motion carried.

5. Academic Committee (for approval):

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

Prof. Moore **moved**, seconded by Prof. Roulet that the membership of the Academic Committee be approved.

The motion carried.

6. Scholarships Committee (for approval):

The Associate Dean of Student Affairs serves as the Chair of the Scholarships Committee.

Prof. Moore **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.

Prof. GowriSankaran **moved**, seconded by Prof. Moore, that the membership of the Leo Yaffe & Principal's Prizes Committee be approved.

The motion carried.

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

Prof. Roulet **moved**, seconded by Prof. GowriSankaran, that the change in membership of this Committee be approved.

The motion carried.

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

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

The motion carried.

c) Committee on Student Standing

S-07-9

Associate Dean Leighton highlighted the Report of the Committee on Student Standing.

d) Academic Committee

S-07-10

SECTION A: NEW PROGRAMS

- Ad Hoc Honours Program in Cancer and Cell Biology

AC-7-9

208.3 Associate Dean Hendren said that with the introduction of the B.Sc. Liberal Program, there was no longer a need for B.Sc. Faculty Programs. Students already enrolled in Faculty Programs would still be able to complete them, but beginning in September 2008, Faculty Programs would no longer be available to entering students.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. GowriSankaran, that the B.Sc. Faculty Programs be retired.

The motion carried.

SECTION H: OTHER (For Information Only)

(1) Academic Program Review

208.4 Associate Dean Hendren said that the external reviewer's report would be sent to the various Academic Program Review Groups, and that she would report back to a future Faculty meeting.

(2) Undergraduate Calendar

208.5 Associate Dean Hendren announced that the Undergraduate Calendar would no longer be available as a printed copy. She invited members' comments.

208.6 A member suggested that at least one printed copy of each year's version of the Undergraduate Calendar be retained in the Faculty Office.

(3) Grading Issues

- (i) Grade Inflation
- (ii) Institution of an A⁺ Grade

208.7 Associate Dean Leighton said he had noticed from the SGPA cutoff for the Dean's Honor List, that grade inflation seemed to be occurring. There could be many reasons for this. A subcommittee of the Academic Committee had been struck to examine the issue.

208.8 The subcommittee would also re-examine the possible implementation of an A⁺ grade to distinguish marks above 85%, an issue which had been looked at inconclusively a number of years previously. Associate Dean Leighton said that recommendations would be brought first to the Academic Committee, and then to a Faculty meeting.

208.11 Associate Dean Leighton said that in the future the Faculty advisors would be liaising more closely with unit advisors.

(5) Draft Academic Advising Mission Statement

AC-7-10

208.12 Associate Dean Leighton said the Dean of Students had asked for feedback on the Academic Advising Mission Statement. Associate Dean Leighton said he had contacted unit advisors, and some had already responded.

(9) DEAN'S BUSINESS

(a) Enrolment

S-07-11

209.1 Associate Dean Hendren briefly described the admissions process at McGill. She said that the cutoff for Science students had increased slightly in the current year, reflecting an even higher quality of students than in the previous year. The Science target for total B.Sc. and B.A. & Sc. students (with B.A. & Sc. students each counting as 0.5) was 1150, and the actual number of students was 1121.5. The discrepancy was accounted for by a lower than expected yield of students from Canadian (provinces other than Québec and Ontario) and U.S. high schools. Also of note was the fact that among students who had been accepted into both the Faculties of Science and Engineering, more chose Science than Engineering.

(b) "Green" McGill

209.2 Dean Grant said that in the past there had been no real directed action as a result of Committee of the Whole discussions. For the current year, discussions would focus on issues that would be considered in forthcoming Senate meetings. This would provide a focus for the ideas generated during the Committee of the Whole discussions.

209.3 Faculty moved into the Committee of the Whole, with Associate Dean Burns as Chair.

209.4 Associate Dean Burns said that a joint meeting of Senate and the Board of Governors would be held on October 30, 2007. At the meeting there would be a discussion on "sustainability" at McGill. He mentioned that there is a Subcommittee on Environment at McGill. Information about this subcommittee could be found on McGill's Website. Members of the McGill community could contact the subcommittee concerning environmental issues. As well, McGill has a Rethink Program which encourages members of the McGill community to rethink their use of paper and other office supplies, with the goal of rendering McGill more environmentally friendly. Associate Dean Burns also mentioned that there were a number of environmental research initiatives underway in the various faculties at McGill. He asked members which concerns the Faculty of Science would like to see addressed at the joint Senate-Board meeting.

209.5 Among the issues raised were:

- Ø That the upcoming joint Senate-Board meeting would relate specifically to sustainability, rather than the environment in general.
- Ø That some organizations within McGill were promoting acceptance of the UN resolution on Sustainability and Education.
- Ø That there were a number of academic and operational issues that related to sustainability in, for example, energy and paper.
- Ø That McGill lags behind on a number of simple aspects of sustainability, for instance in the provision of recycling bins and policies for discarding materials.
- Ø That initiatives coming from students carry much weight.

combinations there are, to minimize conflicts, but that there was no way that conflicts would ever be eliminated. The Provost did not answer the question about advising stating the question should be directed to the Deans of Arts and Science.

Senate then moved to the Motions and Reports section of the meeting.

1. Professor Masi presented the 391st Report of the Academic Policy and Planning Committee.

2. Professor Madramootoo, Dean of FAES, presented the report of the Nominating Committee. Several Statutory Committees were approved. The recommendation for the committee for the selection of the Dean of Education was approved, followed by Amendments to the Terms of Reference of Senate Committees: a name change to the Academic Policy Committee (APC) from APPC was approved; and small items in the terms of reference of, or representatives to, the Academic Admissions Committee and Committee on the Coordination of Student Services. A Senator asked if the terms of reference of the Committee on Ancillary Services would be discussed and/or brought back before Senate. The Secretary General said the terms of reference had come before the nominating committee of Senate and she has planned additional meetings with AVP Nicell and Professor Mucci, the Chair of an ad hoc committee that had been setup to examine the Terms of Reference of this committee. Finally, Senate voted to dissolve the University Bookstore Committee and the responsibility for the bookstore would now move under Ancillary Services.

Dean Madramootoo then moved as part of the annual review, the memberships of the Standing Committees and the Joint Committees of Senate.

3. Senate discussed as a Committee of the Whole, the proposed 2007-2008 budget for the university.

4. Vice-Principal Dowsett Johnston presented a report on the Campaign Launch and Support Infrastructure.

5. Vice-Principal Thérien presented the Policy on the Ethical Conduct of Research Involving Human Subjects and Professor Smith provided a brief summary of the proposed changes. The changes are required to satisfy the requirements of the Federal funding agencies.

6. The Provost presented and moved for approval the Safe Disclosure (Whistle-blowing) Policy. There was considerable discussion but the policy was approved.

7. The Provost presented and moved for approval the Employment Equity Policy. It was approved.

8. Senate then received the Annual Reports from the Committee on Information Systems and Technology and the University Admissions Committee.

Senate adjourned far too late for a nice May evening ...

- Senate Meeting of September 19, 2007: Prof. D. Burns

Report to be tabled.

(11) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD

There were no members' questions.

(12) OTHER BUSINESS

Short research presentations were