

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Tuesday, September 12, 2006
Leacock Council Room - L232**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book.

DOCUMENTS: S-05-46, S-05-47 S-06-1 to S-06-5

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

This being the first meeting of the year, Dean Grant introduced a new feature for Faculty of Science meetings: the celebration of changes in standing of academic staff in the Faculty.

Dean Grant asked heads of units to introduce new professors in their units, and asked that the professors give a very brief summary of their research interests. New professors in the Faculty of Science were:

Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences: Bruno Tremblay

The following people were recently promoted to the rank of Full Professor:

Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences:	John Gyakum
Biology:	Gerald Pollack
Chemistry:	David Burns
Earth & Planetary Sciences:	Don Baker
Mathematics & Statistics:	Vojkan Jaksic
Physics:	James M. Cline

After describing their research interests, the new Full Professors were each presented with a silk McGill tie embroidered with their initials.

On behalf of the Faculty of Science, Dean Grant congratulated all the professors on their achievements, and asked members for a round of applause.

(1) **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

The motion carried.

(2)

The motion carried.

(ii) New Awards

S-06-2

- **Robert W. Wilson Scholarships in Science**
Estimated value: \$2,500.00 each
- **The Racey Prize**
Estimated Value: \$1,000
- **Jack Blumer Prize in Science**
Estimated value: \$775
- **Anna and Robert Skomoroski Prizes in Science**
Estimated value: \$500 each

Associate Dean Leighton introduced the new awards.

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Zuroff, that the above new awards be approved.

The motion carried.

b) Nominating Committee

S-06-3

- 1. Science Nominating Committee (for information):**
The Nominating Committee consists of

6. Scholarships Committee (for approval):

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

Prof. Zuroff **m02 143.99931 710.46016s9**

107.1 Associate Dean Hendren described the process by which enrolment targets were set for faculties, and the means by which faculties attempted to achieve the targets. In the recent past, the target for the number of B.Sc. students plus Science's share of B.A. & Sc. students had been 1150. However, for the current year the target was 1200. The target was very nearly reached, the number being 1197.

107.2 Associate Dean Hendren answered members' questions about the enrolment figures.

(b) Role of Research Papers versus Patents

107.3 Associate Dean Burns chaired the Committee of the Whole. He introduced the topic by saying that there had been discussions over the last few years as to the role of intellectual property in the Faculty of Science, and how to handle that role. Granting agencies were showing a great deal of interest in increasing funding for applied research, and much research already had tie-ins to industry.

107.4 Associate Dean Burns said that the Research Innovation Office had been established in the Faculty of Science, and he introduced Ms. Erica Besso, the Research Innovation Officer.

107.5 A very important question was whether the Faculty of Science should actively pursue education in innovation. If so, at what level? Faculty members? Postdoctoral fellows? Graduate and/or undergraduate students? How should innovation be weighted in tenure dossiers and in similar situations?

107.6 Associate Dean Burns said that he would welcome suggestions for promoting innovation in research in the Faculty of Science.

107.7 It was suggested that the Faculty provide courses or formal workshops to teach graduate students and postdoctoral fellows of their role in innovation; this should be part of the education of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.

107.8 It was mentioned that it would be very useful to be able to use some industry money to fund the stipends of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows past the end date of contracts or grants.

107.9 A member pointed out that to focus on innovation is to take away from the sharing of results and information, and thus is to take away from what science and universities should be. If a researcher is being funded by industry, would that mean that results would be confidential? It was pointed out that the issue of possible publication should be resolved before funding occurred. Sometimes publication would have to be delayed until patent, contract, etc. issues had been cleared.

107.10

number of patents granted) on a tenure dossier, and that some granting agencies were requiring a patent application before considering funding for certain projects.

- 107.13** Associate Dean Burns said if members had any further comments, they should feel free to contact him or Ms. Besso. He added that he was serving on the Research Policy Committee, and that he would be interested in members' input.

(8) 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 May 24, 2006 - Prof. K. GowriSankaran

1. The meeting of Senate held May 24 last Spring was the last meeting of the year and ended up as a pretty long meeting.

The meeting started with the usual Report from the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee had directed the Provost to address a question that had been posed at an earlier meeting regarding the possibility of making full time the position of Ombudsperson. Basically the Provost's stand on this issue was <it is not called for now, however, we will keep an open mind>. The rest of the Report of the Steering Committee addressed routine matters.

2. This was followed by Chair's remarks. The Principal Heather Munroe-Blum started by thanking all departing members of Senate. She conveyed special thanks to Professor Malcolm Baines for all his contributions and especially as a member of the Steering Committee for the last four years.

I would like to remind members of the Faculty that Malcolm, is the last of the members of the Faculty of Medicine who represented our Faculty on Senate.

The Principal announced the departure of Janyne Hodder, vice Principal Governmental relations. She pointed out that Ms. Hodder was taking up the position of the President of the College of the Bahamas and thanked for her valuable service to McGill during the last couple of years. She thanked Vice-Principal Denis Thérien, Deputy Provost Jacques Hurtubise and Ms. Jennifer Towell for organizing a very successful ACFAS meeting at McGill earlier in the month.

3. The Chair's remarks were followed by questions from individual Senators. Deputy Provost (Hurtubise) was directed to answer a question from Ms. Krajewska (a graduate student Senator) regarding the state of affairs regarding the recruiting and retaining of women faculty members. The Deputy Provost pointed out that if anything the situation was improving and definitely our University has not lost ground in this regard.

A second question by the same Senator requested information on the apparently tremendous disparity in the level of wages paid students (both graduate and undergraduate) employed as research assistants in different faculties. Vice Principal Thérien responded that indeed there was quite lot of variation in the salaries paid by different faculties and often departments in the same faculty. He pointed out that efforts are being made to normalize the situation but cannot guarantee immediate success.

Senator Elbourne raised the question whether it will not be environmentally friendly if Senators (numbering over one hundred) are sent pre-Senate documents electronically avoiding the use of papers. Johanne Pelletier, the Secretary General, responded that it is not absolutely clear that the simple process of sending documents electronically will be more environmentally friendly since individual Senators will tend to print such documents etc.

- 110.2** Mr. Ng introduced the Science student representatives on Senate. They were Mr. Christopher Newlove (Physiology) and Ms. Lauren McGruthers (Biology).
- 110.3** Prof. GowriSankaran mentioned that sometimes the Science Senators meet for lunch to discuss various issues, and he invited the student senators to these lunches.