

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Tuesday, October 13, 2009
Leacock Council Room - L232**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book.

DOCUMENTS: S-08-39, S-08-40, S-09-1 to S-09-10, S-09-10A

Dean Grant called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

The following **new professors** were acknowledged, and if present at the meeting were introduced by their chairs/delegates:

Biology	DANKORT	David
Computer Science	WALDISPUHL	Jerome
Computer Science	RUTHS	Derek
Earth & Planetary Sciences	GALBRAITH	Eric
Earth & Planetary Sciences	HALL	Sarah
Geography	FORD	James
Geography/MSE	RHEMTULLA	Jeanine

All professors present at the meeting gave a very brief description of their research.

Dean Grant welcomed the new professors to the Faculty of Science, and congratulated the recently tenured professors and recently promoted full professors. He gave each of the professors a small gift as a token of the Faculty's appreciation.

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

(3) **SEATING OF STUDENT MEMBERS**

S-09-1

- 203.1 Dean Grant welcomed the student members to the first Faculty meeting, and asked them to stand by way of introduction.

(4) **CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES**

- a) Bachelor of Arts and Science

S-09-2

- 204.1 Ms. Allard said that there were 17 students, and that the cut-off for the Dean's Honour List was 3.91 for the B.A. & Sc.

Ms. Allard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Franklin, 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-09-3

- 204.2 There were 85 students, and the cut-off for the Dean's Honour List was 3.90 for the B.Sc.

Ms. Allard **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, 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-09-4

- 204.3 There were no candidates for the Diploma in Environment.

- d) Diploma in Meteorology

S-09-5

- 204.4 There were no candidates for the Diploma in Meteorology.

- 204.5 Ms. Allard further **moved**, seconded by Prof. Franklin, 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.

(5) **MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2009**

S-08-39

Mr. Barry **moved**, seconded by Prof. Lasko, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

(a) Nominating Committee**S-09-6****1. Science Nominating Committee (for information):**

The Nominating Committee consists of the Science Senate Representatives; the Convenor was Prof. Laurie Hendren.

2. Science Chairs' Council (for information):

The Science Chairs' Council serves as an advisory committee to the Dean, and consists of the Dean, the two Associate Deans, the Director of Student Advising, 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.

Prof. Hurtubise **moved**, seconded by Prof. Moore, 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.

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.

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

The motion carried.

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| 207.1 | <p>(b) Scholarships Report S-08-40</p> <p>Associate Dean Grütter said that the Scholarships Report lists the awards given to non-graduating students for the 2009-2010 academic year. He said the Faculty had not been given any University money for this year's scholarships, but thanks to Dean Grant the awards had been 'topped up' with money from the Faculty of Science. This meant that the top 5% of students in the Faculty of Science had received monetary awards. The SGPA cut-off for the awards was 3.97, and the cut-off for the Dean's Honour List was 3.89.</p> <p>Associate Dean Grütter moved, seconded by Prof. Franklin, that the Scholarships Report be approved.</p> |
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The motion carried.

- New Awards **S-09-7**

COMP 696	Thesis Research 2 3 credits	AC-09-7
COMP 697	Thesis Research 3 4 credits	AC-09-8

207.3 Associate Dean Hendren briefly described the above M.Sc. program changes, as well as the four new courses.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Panangaden, that the above program changes and new courses be approved.

The motion carried.

(2) Geography

- M.Sc. in Geography (Thesis)	AC-09-17
- M.Sc. in Geography (Thesis); Environment Option/Concentration	AC-09-18
- M.Sc. in Geography (Thesis); Neotropical Environmental Option/Conc.	AC-09-19

Ph.D. Programs

- Ph.D. in Geography	AC-09-20
- Ph.D. in Geography; Environment Option/Concentration	AC-09-

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- Ph.D. in Geography; Gender and Women's Studies Option/Conc.	AC-09-22
- Ph.D. in Geography; Neotropical Environment Option/Concentration	AC-09-23

Associated Courses:

GEOG 631	Meth of Geographical Research Change in credit weight [from 6 to 3 credits]	AC-09-15
GEOG 696 (<u>New</u>)	Accelerated Thesis Preparation 3 credits	AC-09-16

207.4 Associate Dean Hendren introduced the above course and program changes along with the new course and the revised course, and explained the reason for the changes.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Panangaden, that the above items be approved.

The motion carried.

SECTION B: NEW COURSE

Biochemistry

- BIOC 570	Biochemistry of Lipoproteins 3 credits	AC-09-3
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207.5 Associate Dean Hendren said that BIOC 570 was a new Biochemistry course for senior undergraduate and graduate students.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Lasko, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

SECTION C: MINOR COURSE CHANGES (For Information Only)

- Report on Minor Course Changes	AC-09-2
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(iii) Education pool — students planning to take the concurrent B.Sc./B.Ed. (Science for teachers) program.

- 208.4** At the end of the freshman year, students would be able to freely choose their program from within their pool, apply for an intrafaculty transfer to change pools, or apply to Microbiology & Immunology or Neuroscience.
- 208.5** Incoming CEGEP students were able to choose from pools (i) – (iii) or apply to the Microbiology & Immunology or Neuroscience pools. Students would be able to freely change majors within a pool or apply for an intrafaculty transfer to change pools.
- 208.6** Associate Dean Hendren listed the admissions cutoffs for Science, and said they remained high. However, the number of students admitted to the B.Sc. and the Science portion of the B.A. & Sc. had increased by about 10%.
- 208.7** Associate Dean Hendren said it was desirable for the Faculty to increase registration in the PEMC pool. She said this could be done in several ways: by increasing high school (particularly Ontario high school) PEMC registrations by way of active recruitment; by encouraging intrafaculty transfers to the PEMC pool; by increasing interest in eventually applying to medicine among PEMC majors and joint majors.
- 208.8** Associate Dean Hendren said there were a number of points to consider concerning both high schools and CEGEPs:
- x the historical yield was not a good predictor for the high school pools
 - x the institution of earlier decisions for Canadian high school students may have increased the yield
 - x the poor economy and increases in foreign student tuition may have decreased the number of overseas high school students
 - x a problem occurred when Enrolment Services predicted a decrease from U.S. high schools but an increase occurred
 - x thought should be put into ways to interest more high school applicants in the PEMC pool
 - x there was a need to increase the number of CEGEP students and to increase interest in Science at both high schools and CEGEPs within Québec
 - x advantage should be taken of the expected increase in the number of CEGEP graduates over the next few years
 - x however, in the long term the proportion of freshman admissions was expected to increase, so the University should prepare for further pressure on UO courses
- 208.9** Dean Grant mentioned that the Faculty had received an increase in funding as a result of the increase in admissions. Some of the money had already been disbursed, and the remainder would be forthcoming.
- 208.10** Dean Grant thanked Associate Dean Hendren for her presentation. He said that he expected that in the future, the tools she had developed would be useful in working closely with Enrolment Services.
- (b) Priorities for budgets in tough times**
- 208.11** Faculty moved into the Committee of the Whole, with Associate Dean Grütter as Chair.
- 208.12** Associate Dean Grütter said that budgets had already been cut, and that the question was that in the event of further cuts, which priorities should be protected and which should be let go?

208.13 Among the points raised were:

- x that the issue could be looked at from two angles: how to increase income? and how to reduce expenditures?
- x the possibility of admitting more international and non-Québec Canadian students relative to Québec students, to take advantage of the higher fees
- x that the University receives funding from Québec to educate Québec students
- x that there would soon be a change in the proportion of money that McGill receives from international students
- x whether some of the money the University received from research grants could be transferred to the Faculty
- x the possibility of charging fees for U0 laboratory courses for non-Science students
- x that it was difficult to discuss budgets in the abstract, without visible numbers
- x that the University was expecting a budget shortfall of possibly \$20M, or 4%; the Faculty's budget was about \$40M of which about 75% was salaries; the Faculty's budget would presumably be reduced by 4%

(9) REPORT ON ACTIONS OF SENATting a budget

I'd like to point out that Article 14 of the Charter of Students' Rights affords students the right to discuss any written submission with the examiner, which means, in effect, that students are actually entitled to feedback.

One of the goals of the (Re)Design Project on Enhancing Student Engagement involving the use of a student response system (i.e., Slickers) has been to help instructors provide ungraded feedback to their students, often in large classes, where providing individualized feedback can be most difficult.

However, there are many other ways that instructors can and should provide feedback to their students. TLS has already begun a project, which will extend over the next year, to develop a new stream of support for professors that will concentrate on formative and summative assessment of student learning.

In response to the last question, I will ensure that the issue of assessing student learning and providing timely feedback are put on the fall agenda of APC's Subcommittee on Teaching and Learning. The Subcommittee has student members, but we would very much welcome input from student groups to help us make progress in this important area.

2. Questionre April 2009EconomicStatement[Ms. Labban]

Background:

In February and April 2009, Principal and Vice-Chancellor Munroe-Blum released Economic Statements to the McGill community outlining the challenges facing the institution with respect to global, national, and regional economic realities, and putting forward a series of measures that the University is taking to face these challenges. Among the suggestions received were:

Implementingtime limited salaryfreezesandstrategicattrition "numerousmeansof increasingandfurther diversifyingour revenues."

Full document at http://www.mcgill.ca/principal/speeches/economic/econstat_043009/

Questions:

Q1: What precisely is meant by the phrase "strategic attrition"?

Answer:(givenby Principal)

Thestepswe take to balanceour budgetover the next two yearswill be taken in the contextof our missionandour commitmentto core goals(increasequality; continueto retain andrecruit the bestacademicalent (students,profs);increaselevel of service; remainone of Canada'stop employers).

Everyyear, there is a turnoverof approximately300peoplein administrativeand supportpositionsat McGill. Goingforward, we willintroduce

support to enhance success in applications for

Committee on Ancillary Services, Committee on Technology Transfer [Vice-Principal Thérien replied that the dissolution of the Committee did not mean that the issues were any less important; he stressed that the issues form an integral part of the research portfolio, and accordingly there was no logic in maintaining the Committee. Technology transfer was not being removed from Senate oversight, but was being repositioned within the Research Policy Subcommittee that will be reporting to the Academic Policy Committee.]

2. Regulation on Conflict of Interest:

The Provost presented the Regulation on Conflict of Interest (D08-69), noting that it had first been brought to Senate as a policy in September 2008 and was now being presented in a more streamlined version dealing only with conflict of interest, with provisions relating to duty of loyalty and conflict of commitment having been excised. He added that the University was behind the times in having a policy in this area, and although it was being presented for information, the Regulation could now be submitted for approval if during the course of discussion, Senate was amenable to that.

Senate approved to recommending to the Board of Governors that they approve the Regulation on Conflict of Interest, as amended, be adopted and be substituted for existing policies or sections thereof that address conflict of interest, was approved.

3.

