

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
Meeting of Faculty  
Tuesday, February 12, 2008  
Leacock Council Room - L232**

**ATTENDANCE:** As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book.

**DOCUMENTS:** S-07-20 to S-07-26

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

**Pre-Agenda Research Presentations:**

Prof. Joelle Pineau – School of Computer Science  
Prof. Andrew Hendry - Redpath Museum and Department of Biology

*Prof. Garry Peterson, Department of Geography and McGill School of Environment, was unable to give his research presentation due to a scheduling conflict.*

**(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**The motion carried.**

**(2) CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES**

- a) Bachelor of Arts and Science **S-07-23**

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gyakum, 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-07-24**

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Moore, 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-07-25**

There were no candidates for the Diploma in Environment.

- d) Diploma in Meteorology **S-07-26**

There were no candidates for the Diploma in Meteorology.

Associate Dean Leighton further **moved**, seconded by Prof. Whitesides, 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.**

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

**(3) MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 2007 S-07-20**

- 603.1** It was pointed out that in the Senate Report for the meeting of November 7, 2007, in the first paragraph, "\$325" should read "\$325 million."

Prof. Gyakum **moved**, seconded by Prof. Levine, that the amended Minutes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

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

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

**(5) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

- i) Academic Committee S-07-21**

The Academic Committee approved the following on December 11, 2007 and January 29, 2008:

**SECTION A: NEW PROGRAMS**

- (1) Ad Hoc Joint Honours Program in Physics & Computer Science AC-07-69**

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Buchinger, that the program be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

- (2) Ad Hoc Major Program in Pharmacology AC-07-75**

- 605.1** Associate Dean Hendren said that the Major and Honours Programs in Pharmacology was in the process of being approved by the MELS.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Levine, that the program be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

- (3) School of Computer Science & Department of Biology  
- Joint Major in Computer Science and Biology AC-07-80**

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Levine, that the program be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

- (4) School of Computer Science  
- B.A. & Sc. Major Concentration in Software Engineering AC-07-81**

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Panangaden, that the program be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**- B.Sc. Liberal: Core Science Component in Software Engineering                      AC-07-82**

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Panangaden, that the program be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**SECTION B: MAJOR PROGRAM CHANGES**

**The motion carried.**

COMP 401	Project in Biol. & Comp. Sci. 3 credits	<b>AC-07-78(Rev)</b>
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**605.2** After some discussion, it was agreed that the prerequisite should be "BIOL 495 or permission of instructor."

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

**The motion carried.**

COMP 499	Ugrad Bioinformatics Seminar 1 credit	<b>AC-07-79 (Rev)</b>
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**605.3** Following a discussion, it was decided that BIOL 495 should be a corequisite rather than a prerequisite for COMP 499.

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

**The motion carried.****SECTION D: MAJOR COURSE CHANGES**

None

**SECTION E: MINOR COURSE CHANGES (For Information Only)**

(1)	Report on Minor Course Changes	<b>AC-07-65</b>
(2)	Report on Minor Course Changes	<b>AC-07-73</b>

**SECTION F: MINOR PROGRAM CHANGES (For Information Only)**

- Report on Minor Program Changes	<b>AC-07-P3</b>
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**SECTION G: OTHER (For Approval)**



(4) Report of the Faculty of Science Ad Hoc Committee on Grade Inflation **AC-07-84**

**605.11** Associate Dean Leighton said that as Chair of the Science Scholarships Committee, he had noticed that the GPA cutoff for the Dean's Honour List and for scholarships, had been increasing. A small subcommittee of the Academic Committee had been struck to examine the issue. The members were: Associate Dean Leighton (Chair), Prof. Robert Levine (Biology), Prof. Guy Moore (Physics), Dr. Jose Correa (Statistician), and students Mr. Kyle Howe and Ms. Kathleen Maloney.

**605.12** The Committee recommended that all units look at their own data in detail and where appropriate monitor future trends. The Committee also recommended that a similar study be repeated in two years.

**605.13** Dean Grant thanked the Committee for its hard work, and mentioned that the Committee had not recommended that an A<sup>+</sup> grade be considered at the current time.

ii) **New Award:  
Robert H. Lennox and Elizabeth Graham Lennox Scholarships S-07-22  
in Science and in Nursing**

**605.14** Associate Dean Leighton introduced the award.

**605.15** Dean Grant added that Robert Lennox and Elizabeth Graham Lennox were the parents of Prof. Bruce Lennox, Chair, Department of Chemistry.

(6) **DEAN'S BUSINESS**

***- Gender Imbalance and the Major and Honours Programs. How do we fix it?***

**606.1** Associate Dean (Research & Graduate Education) Burns said that a number of questions could be posed regarding gender imbalance in Science's programs:

- Can we identify the intended role of the Major and Honours Programs?
- Who is our Honours Program for?
- Right now there is not enough female representation in the Honours program, so how do we fix it?
- How do we get more women in the Honours program?
- How do we get more women interested in research?

**606.2** Associate Dean Burns briefly described Associate Dean Hendren's chart showing the gender ratios in the various Science progr

§ That the above approach could be used for any group with minority status in programs or in professorial staff.

**606.4** Dean Grant thanked members for their feedback and said that this was an issue that the university would have to deal with and understand better.

**(6) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no members' questions.

**(7) 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 December 5, 2007 - Prof. K. GowriSankaran**

Prof. GowriSankaran will present his Report at the next Faculty meeting.

**Senate Meeting of January 23, 2008 - Prof. T. Moore**

After a eulogy on librarian Elaine Yarosky by the Director of Libraries, and a comment from Senator Jonsson on the late Bobby Fischer playing chess at McGill in the 1950's, and in the absence of the Principal, Senate turned to Questions.

The first question came from the Professor Butler of the Chemistry Department, concerning the extension of employee and University contributions from 69 to 71 years of age. The former would require a change in the McGill Pension Plan and the University Administration suggested that they would not participate in this extension. Other questions concerned the appropriate release of course grades (deemed a matter of Faculty jurisdiction), student athletics and the bilingual nature of the University (18% of students with French as mother tongue, 30% when based on students from CEGEPs) and that English was the working language of Senate, but there could be interventions in French. One assumes that this applies to the Faculty of Science.

Most of the time of Senate was taken up by discussion of the 16<sup>th</sup> draft of the Course Evaluation Policy, brought back to Senate after criticisms in Senate in the fall and further consultations with the community. There was much debate about the critical threshold for dissemination of results (rising from 25% where > 200 students to 40% for 12-30 students etc.), some duplication in the nature of the core questions asked and the response rate of instructors to agree to or deny permission to disseminate the evaluations. An amendment by Science Senators to raise the threshold to 40% or more in all courses was defeated. Of those instructors that had responded to the request for permission in fall, 2007, the ratio of 'yes' to 'no' was 3:1, but the overall response rate was about 50%, about the same as the average student response rate. An amendment to review the policy in three years was approved and the revised policy was passed with a substantial majority.

The revised policy on Regulations Concerning the Investigation of Research Misconduct was presented and generated some discussion. It was felt, however, that the University Administration, especially Associate Provost Bill Foster, had been able to incorporate many of

