

As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book

Dean Lennox called the meeting to order at 3 p.m., and welcomed members to the fifth Faculty of Science Council meeting of the 2023-2024 academic year.

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Prof. Blanchette , seconded by Prof. Ditto, that the Agenda be adopted.

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Prof. Choksi seconded by Prof. Halverson, that the Minutes be approved.

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There was no business arising from the minutes.

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Prof. Choksi seconded by Prof. Fabry, that the Minutes be approved.

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In response to a member's inquiry about whether the University would permit students and staff to observe the solar eclipse in Montreal on 8 April 2024, Dean Lennox reported that he had raised the question with the Deputy Provost. However, as of the current meeting, there has been no response.

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As part of the ongoing effort to include program descriptions for the new calendar platform, Course Catalogue, Associate Dean Hundemer said that the program description has been revised for the

Associate Dean Hundemer , seconded by Prof. Fabry, that the changes be approved.

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- Announcements

On behalf of the Faculty of Science, Dean Lennox congratulated

pandemic in 2020. The focus is on facilitating interactions, especially for CEGEP students, with individual departments to enhance their understanding of the McGill experience.

Vice-Dean Stephens and Associate Dean Hundemer highlighted the significance of supporting Enrollment Services and leveraging the Faculty's subject-area expertise for recruitment efforts. Associate Dean Hundemer proposed extending opportunities, potentially during study break, for campus visits or virtual interactions to accommodate diverse preferences. The aim is to connect prospective students with academic experts to address their program-related queries comprehensively.

Dean Lennox mentioned that Grace Kiser will contact the SUS to review and refine messaging directed at prospective students. He also highlighted the importance of assistance from the SUS in forming teams to support incoming students and establishing effective communication channels.

Members emphasized the following points:

1. The need for direct engagement with prospective students to convey sincerity and ensure a personalized experience.
2. The importance of personalizing messages to students, especially at large universities like McGill.
3. Encouraging aiming for higher yield rates.
4. Recognizing the effectiveness of personalized interactions, considering both alumni and current students as valuable contacts for prospective students.
5. Advising against overwhelming students with excessive communication.

Dean Lennox expressed optimism



8 p.m. in the Elizabeth Wirth Music Building. The keynote lecture on 8 February 2024 will feature Melanie J. Newton, Associate



Ms. Cristiane Tinmouth presented the annual report on the Financial State of the University for information. She mentioned that the University is currently awaiting the Moody's report and that the University is meeting with S&P in January. Senators Nitu and Pastrana Mankovitz inquired as to the impacts of financial uncertainty on major infrastructure projects. Senator Labeau replied that progress may need to slow in some areas, depending on Québec governmental decisions that affect McGill's finances.

Professor Daniel Béland presented the Staff Grievances and Disciplinary Procedures Report: there were three grievances and two disciplinary actions over the past year.

Professor Celeste Pedri-Spade presented the annual report of the Office of Indigenous Initiatives highlighting key activities and accomplishments over the past year which included helping to craft land acknowledgements and Indigenous representation in convocation ceremonies.

Senator Campbell presented the annual report on the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategic Plan and the annual report on the Action Plan to address Anti-Black Racism. She was pleased to report that between 2020 and 2023, the number of tenured and tenure-track professors at McGill who identify as black increased from 14 to 39.

Senator Weinstein presented the University Advancement Annual Report. Over the past year there were 26,000 donors giving \$209M in gifts and pledges, with \$159M received in cash. The Made by McGill campaign has raised \$1.86B so far. He mentioned that 34% of donations went towards the endowment and the rest went to support specific causes: sustainability and climate, genomics, innovation/entrepreneurship, student wellness, bridge to the world, healthy democracies.

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

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In response to a member's question regarding the New Vic Project, Dean Lennox emphasized the Project's recognition of the importance of incorporating Indigenous context into the Project's communications plan. Dean Lennox highlighted the Project's remarkable story and its alignment with Indigenous communities' aspirations for sustainability. He expressed optimism that merging these aspects positively would foster academic debate rather than legal disputes, underscoring the significance of discussing the Project comprehensively beyond its legal context. Dean Lennox assured that Indigenous perspectives are not just included but prominent in all communications discussions.

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There being no other business, Prof. Perepichka , seconded by Prof. Fabry, that the meeting be adjourned at 4:27 p.m.