

S-23-11

**Meeting of Faculty
Monday, 16 October 2023**

On behalf of the Faculty of Science, Dean Lennox expressed condolences to the family of Prof. Eu. Dean Lennox acknowledged that Prof. Eu was a fine scholar and former colleague of the Department of Chemistry. He was an exceptional teacher, specializing in challenging subjects within Chemistry, such as statistical mechanics and quantum mechanics. His lectures were always engaging. Prof. Eu was a man of few words, carefully choosing each one, and it was only upon his passing that it was apparent he was an accomplished poet. In fact, he had published five volumes of poetry in both English and Korean. He remained a fascinating and impactful individual throughout his lifetime.

3) **CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES**

- a) Bachelor of Arts and Science
- b) Bachelor of Science

S-23-4

S-23-5

Associate Dean Mittermaier reported that there were 14 students graduating with the B.A. & Sc. degree. In comparison to October 2022, when there were 15 students, and October 2021, which had 10 candidates for the Bachelor of Arts and Science, this year's 14 students align with the historical average of 12 students for October graduations over the past decade.

As for the B.Sc. degree, there were 84 candidates, and this contrasts with 81 students in October 2022, and 58 students in October 2021. It is worth noting that this is the highest number of October graduates since 2013 when there were 96 students.

The honorifics cut-offs (below) were calculated in May 2023 and based on the graduating classes of February and May 2023.

B.Sc.:

Dean's Honours List (top 10%) ≥ 3.97 CGPA

Distinction (next 15%) ≥ 3.92 CGPA

B.A.&Sc.:

Dean's Honours List (top 10%) ≥ 3.92 CGPA

Distinction (next 15%) ≥ 3.85 CGPA

Associate Dean Mittermaier

Associate Dean Mittermaier thanked both departmental and SOUSA advisors for their significant efforts in securing the timely approval of these degrees.

4) **MINUTES OF 12 SEPTEMBER 2023**

S-23-3

Prof. Perepichka **moved**, seconded by Prof. Blanchette, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

5) **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(i) Item 3, Page 2: Seating of Student Representatives (S-23-2 Revised)

Dean Lennox extended a warm welcome to the additional student representatives attending the current Faculty meeting. He emphasized the importance of incorporating students' perspectives. Dean Lennox also asked the new members present to introduce themselves, highlighting the Faculty's anticipation of collaborating with the student representatives.

Alexandre Morin	Neuroscience	U3
Viktor Allais	Statistics	U1
Maeve Holm	Chemistry	U2
Kathleen Brown	Anatomy and Cell Biology	U2

The new course, MATH 245, was proposed in response to the rising enrollment in MATH 235. The key distinction between MATH 235 and MATH 245 lies in the depth at which the topic is covered.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Prof. Choksi, to adopt MATH 245 and approve the changes for MATH 235.

The motion carried.

MATH 357	Honours Statistics Change in Course Description 3 credits	AC-23-5
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The changes in the course description are to bring the content in line with the current curriculum. The changes are to be implemented in the 2018-19 academic year. The changes are to be implemented in the 2018-19 academic year. The changes are to be implemented in the 2018-19 academic year.

the three English universities involved (because of their differing enrollment patterns) and mentioned the potential impact of tuition fees on recruitment. Dean Lennox emphasized the need to await further information and gain a clearer understanding of the Government's motives before formulating a response as an institution. He encouraged members to follow media coverage to stay informed about the situation and recommended that student leaders ensure they receive regular updates. Dean Lennox addressed members' questions.

(i) Service Milestones – 25 plus Years

Dean Lennox extended warm congratulations and sincere appreciation to the following dedicated individuals for their remarkable 25-plus years of unwavering service and commitment to the Faculty of Science.

Last Name	First Name	Years of Service	Position	Department/AEC
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Koestner	Richard	35	Professor	Psychology
Potvin	Catherine	35	Professor	Biology
Richer	Isabelle	35	Chief Research Technician	Earth and Planetary Sciences
Workman	Robert	35	IT Consultant	Science
Ditto	Blaine	40	Professor	Psychology
Langlois	Marc-Andre	40	Property Supervisor	Gault Nature Reserve
Schoen	Daniel J	40	Professor	Biology
Ostry	David J	45	Professor	Psychology
van de Ven	Theo	45	Professor	Chemistry
Jensen	Olivia	50	Professor	Earth and Planetary Sciences

(ii) Kudos

On behalf of the Faculty of Science, Dean Lennox congratulated Prof. Paul Wiseman and Prof. Natalya Gomez for their outstanding accomplishments and achievements.

- x **Professor Paul Wiseman**, from the Departments of Chemistry and Physics, has been named a 2024 Fellow of the Biophysical Society of Canada.
- x **Professor Natalya Gomez**, from the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, was named the recipient of the 2023 James B. Macelwane Medal.

For more in-depth information about the above awards, please visit [Kudos](#)

8) **SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE SOCIETY (SUS) REPORT**

Asma Khamis, President of the Science Undergraduate Society

2. **First Year Undergraduate Science Society (FUSS):** The initiation of bonding opportunities for first-year students is a great way to help them integrate into the academic community and make their transition smoother.
3. **Faculty Presidents' Roundtable:** Collaboration with executives from other faculties is a great way to foster interfaculty relations and work on shared goals and initiatives.
4. **Vice-President Internal:** Planning Science Games and related events like 'Hype Night' is a fun way to engage students and build a sense of community within the department. The planning of the 'Kiki Ball' and the Grad Ball also adds to the social calendar.
5. **Vice-President Academic:** Organizing the Graduate School Fair is a valuable resource for students considering further education. Working on course note accommodation systems shows a commitment to inclusivity and accessibility.
6. **Vice-President External:** Collaborating with other societies, like the Engineering Undergraduate Society, for events like student bar nights is an excellent way to expand the reach of the society and provide students with diverse experiences.
7. **Vice-President Communications:** Creating a 'Master Calendar' is a useful tool for keeping everyone informed about department and club events, fostering engagement, and increasing student awareness.
8. **Vice-President Sustainability:** The development of inclusivity workflows, such as the Bursary System, and organizing events like the 'Resources Crawl' and 'Strength in Empathy' demonstrates a commitment to student well-being and support.
9. **Alumni in Industry Panel:** Collaborating with the Faculty to plan and promote this event helps students gain valuable insights into potential career paths.
10. **McGill Open House:** Tabling at this event allows the SUS to interact with prospective students and showcase the Faculty, potentially attracting new members.

Overall, it seems like the SUS is making great strides in creating a vibrant and inclusive academic community for its members while also engaging with the wider University community and prospective students. These activities and initiatives are crucial for enhancing the overall student experience within the Faculty of Science.

Dean Lennox thanked President Khamis for the report and anticipated ongoing collaboration with the SUS.

9) SCIENCE EQUITY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE

Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson provided an overview of the Science Equity and Climate Committee (SECC). She began by explaining the committee's purpose, emphasizing that it focuses on both equity, diversity and inclusion, as well as more generally on the climate within the Faculty.

Associate Dean Nilson highlighted the importance of considering the climate in which everyone within the Faculty works and learns, as part of a "universal design" approach to ensure all individuals feel supported and included within the Faculty.

Another report came from Prof. Rosalie Bélanger-Rioux in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, who discussed her efforts to provide workshops about representation in science. She aimed to expand these workshops beyond her department, so that students throughout the entire Faculty can participate.

Associate Dean Nilson also noted that the Science Undergraduate Society Sustainability representative sits on the SECC, contributing to the committee's work.

The committee allows for open discussions where members can raise issues they have identified and request the committee's support in addressing these concerns. These discussions often lead to the development of new projects.

Dean Lennox acknowledged the importance of these initiatives.

10) **PROVOST'S ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS ANTI-BLACK RACISM**

Associate Dean Nilson reminded members about the Provost's Action Plan to Address Anti-black Racism, and that Action Item #1 under the "Workforce" pillar of the plan is to increase the university's complement of Black tenure-track and tenured professors. She stressed that achieving this goal requires that each search generate a diverse pool of candidates, and it is therefore important to ensure that job ads receive broad distribution. We must avoid biases in the candidate pool by diversifying where ads are placed and expanding professional networks to make sure to reach as broad a pool of outstanding candidates as possible.

Associate Dean Nilson pointed out there is support available to help with this advertising process. This support is provided by the Equity office, particularly by Andrea Clegg, the Senior Employment Equity A

There was no report for the current meeting.

c) Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson

Associate Dean Laura Nia

Principal Saini discussed the University's response to the report on asbestos at the Mac campus, which has relevance for many in our community, including faculty from Biology and Psychology, and noted the two town halls for McGill community members about asbestos that took place on September 22.

Principal Saini talked about a new long-term strategic plan for the University: McGill 2050, for which he will start consulting this fall.

He also talked about his more immediate strategic plans, and this included trying to accelerate major infrastructure projects such as the New Vic.

There were several reports that were approved, including of the Senate Steering, the Senate Nominating, and the EDI committee.

Then there was a report from Associate Provost Celeste Pedri-Spade, who gave an update on the Indigenous Advisory council, which is part of McGill's approach to fulfil its responsibilities from the Truth & Reconciliation calls to action. There was some discussion centred on this.

Then we had a report to Senate from the Board of Governors. This had one specific item to be discussed at Senate: Discussion of change of title from Principal to President.

At International level, At the international level, "President" is more universally understood than the term "Principal," making it easier for administrators when traveling internationally. Principal has Scottish roots and is rare within Canada. This would reflect on vice-Principals, Assoc, and Assistants too – everything would be altered.

The French translation of President is Recteur, which would align more with the other Universities in Quebec. There was some discussion, although most did not seem to have strong opinions on it.

Finally, there were reports on the Committee on enrolment and student affairs and the Committee on Student Services. The last one was interesting for members of Faculty of Science. They described that there have been changes in their services as they adapt to post-pandemic student needs. More students access student services virtually than in person (60-40 split) which has some advantages and some disadvantages. They are dealing with increased student isolation & loss of life's skills among students. Question of food insecurity among students was raised & is something that there is work underway to address.

14) **MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no members' questions.

15) **OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no other business, Prof. Roulet **moved**, seconded by Prof. Perepichka, that the meeting be adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

The motion carried.