

**Meeting of Faculty  
12 September 2023  
Leacock Council Room - L232**

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

**DOCUMENTS:** **S-22-38, S-22-39, S-23-1, S-23-2**

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

**1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

A Memorial Tribute for Professor Emeritus Douglas Grant Stairs will be added to the Agenda as Item #2.

Prof. Perepichka **moved**, seconded by Prof. Halverson, that the amended Agenda be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**2) MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR PROFESSOR EMERITUS DOUGLAS GRANT STAIRS**

Prof. Sangyong Jeon, Chair of the Department of Physics, read the following:

Douglas Grant Stairs (1933 – 2023)

Professor Douglas Grant Stairs, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Physics, passed away on February 19, 2023, at the age of 89. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Birgit, daughter Ingrid, son John (Lina), and grandchildren Viggo, Kaya, Alexander, Elizabeth, and Axel.

Doug was born in St. Catherines, Ontario and studied at Queen's University, earning a BSc in 1955 and an MSc in 1957, and conducted his PhD work at Harvard University under the supervision of Richard Wilson. Staying on at Harvard as a research associate after his PhD, Doug worked in Frank Pipkin's group at the newly commissioned Cambridge Electron Accelerator (CEA).

Doug returned to Canada in 1964 as an assistant professor at McGill and began building one of the first experimental particle physics groups in Canada which would grow to include 3 more faculty members. Together, they made the group one of the strongest particle physics groups not just in Canada but also in the world. Throughout his illustrious career, Doug participated in a number of major particle physics experiments of his days such as those carried out in the Brookhaven Lab, Fermi Lab, and DESY. Doug was made a full professor at McGill in 1970 and was appointed Macdonald Professor in 1988. After formally retiring in 2001 he continued his association with McGill as an Emeritus Macdonald Professor. Today, the particle physics group at McGill that Doug founded is as strong as ever and continues to carry on the tradition of excellence.

As a scholar and a true gentleman, Doug was valued by his peers for his experience, insights, and judgment. He was soft-spoken yet everyone listened when he spoke. His calm and assuring presence and wisdom made everyone in the Department feel welcomed and it made a great impact on the collegial atmosphere of the Department as well as the direction of the Department. From



- The Associate Dean (Student Affairs)
- The heads of all units within the Faculty of Science, including the MSE and the Redpath Museum.

Dean Lennox introduced and welcomed three new Chairs:

- Prof. Galen Halverson, Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences
- Prof. Rustum Choksi, Department of Mathematics & Statistics
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**The motion carried.**

**b) Scholarships Committee**

**S-22-39**

Associate Dean (Academic) Hundemer, Chair, Science Scholarships Committee, provided a report on undergraduate scholarships awarded to continuing students based on their 2022-2023 academic year grades.

The Scholarships Report consists of named awards provided by donors and the Dean's contribution to supplement







significantly impacts the university community. Dean Lennox, in his role as Academic Design Lead, will continue to provide updates to Faculty Council, a well-informed group over the past four years.

**12) REPORTS OF ASSOCI**



One significant update pertains to GPS (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies), which has introduced functional features to the myThesis platform. These enhancements primarily benefit students working on their thesis submissions. It is advisable for both students and their supervisors to explore these features, particularly in the context of thesis submissions and the completion of the oral defense form for doctoral students. Starting in Summer 2024, students will be able to directly complete the oral defense form within the myThesis platform, streamlining the process considerably.

However, it is crucial to note that this is a relatively new development, and not all the introduced features in these platforms may function flawlessly. She urged everyone not to wait until the last minute to test their functionality. In case any Graduate Program Directors (GPDs) or department Chairs are present at the current meeting, she encouraged them to have individuals check these features to ensure they function smoothly.

d) Associate Dean (Research) John Stix

Associate Dean John Stix, who was unable to attend the current meeting, reported via email to the Secretary of the Faculty that the upcoming Expression of Interest for the next CFI round is due on 1 November 2023.

13) **MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no members' questions.

14) **OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no other business, Prof. Roulet **moved**, seconded by Prof. Perepichka, that the meeting be adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

**The motion carried.**