

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
14 April 2020 at 3:00 p.m.
Held Via Zoom**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book

DOCUMENTS: S-19-25, S-19-26

Dean Lennox called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., and welcomed members to an unusual (virtual) Faculty of Science meeting.

1) **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

FSCI 451 Research in Barbados **AC-19-58**
6 credits

Program Revisions:

Barbados Field Study Semester **AC-19-59**

2. **Chemistry**

BIOT 505 Selected Topics in Biotechnology **AC-19-60**
Change in teaching unit
3 credits

Associate Dean Hundemer said that the Department of Chemistry will be taking over the teaching responsibilities of BIOT 505 from the Department of Biology because there is no arar

Associate Dean Hundemer described the course content of PSYC 319 focussing on computational cognitive modelling. The course will be taught by a new instructor in the Department of Psychology.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Prof. Lydon, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

5. **Computer Science**

New Course

COMP 451	Fundamentals of Machine Learning 3 credits	AC-19-65
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COMP 551	Applied Machine Learning Changes in restrictions 4 credits	AC-19-67
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Associate Dean Hundemer explained that the current course COMP 551 is heavily populated and is taken by Computer Science undergraduates and graduate students, as well as by students in different majors. The intent is to introduce a new course, COMP 451, for undergraduate students only, with a focus more on theories rather than applications.

New Course

COMP 579	Reinforcement Learning 4 credits	AC-19-66
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Associate Dean Hundemer said that COMP 579 has been offered as a topics course for several years, and has been successful. The School of Computer Science would now like to make it an official course.

New Course

COMP 602	Computer Science Seminar 1 1 credit	AC-19-70
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New Course

COMP 603	Computer Science Seminar 2 1 credit	AC-19-71
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Program Revisions

- M.Sc. in Computer Science (Thesis)	AC-19-68
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- M.Sc. in Computer Science (Non-Thesis)	AC-19-69
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6)

Associate Dean Nilson said that most of the SECC activities are on hold due to the Covid-19 situation. However, a sub-committee on graduate student wellness has been

SECTION I

1. The meeting opened with welcoming remarks from the Chair, memorial tributes to Professor Kenneth Morgan (Faculty of Medicine) and Prof Ronald Melzack (Psychology, Faculty of Science), and the approval of the Report of the Steering Committee.

2 This was followed by the Chair's Opening Remarks which included

a. a mention of the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak, and comments that the university was monitoring the situation as well as being proactive in planning and preparation.

b. Government Relations

The Québec budget will be tabled on March 10; the Bureau de coopération interuniversitaire (BCI) have been making a case for more resources (additional professors, more IT, more support to move research findings to innovation to benefit society. The Federal budget was not expected before April 2020. The Ministère de l'Immigration, de la Francisation et de l'Intégration announced that consultations would be held on the amendments to the Programme de l'expérience québécoise(PEQ) and that McGill would work with other universities to present a common position. The Québec government was creating "innovation zones" to foster innovation, attract foreign investment and enhance Quebec's international reach, noting that McGill has been working with partners from the business and academic sectors to develop an innovation zone in clean tech.

c. External Relations

Regarding external relations, the Chair spoke about her participation in the 50th anniversary edition of the World Economic Forum Annual meeting in Davos, noting that this year's theme was "Stakeholders for a Cohesive and Sustainable World." She also mentioned that she is serving as chair of the Global University Leaders Forum (GULF), an advisory community comprised of 29 of the world's top universities.

d. Fundraising

The Montreal Neurological Institute Hospital Neurological Institute-Hospital launched a new campaign, Brains Need Open Minds – patient-centered, open science institution. McGill's annual day of giving, McGill 24, will take place on March 11, 2020. McGill is a top fundraising institution for the Centraide campaign.

e. Senior Administration

Dean Nalbantoglu was reappointed as Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies for a five-year term beginning on July 1, 2020.

Dean Cook was reappointed for a two-year term as Trenholme Dean of Libraries beginning September 1, 2020.

f. Senate Kudos

Super Bowl champion Dr. Laurent Duvernay-Tardif (McGill M.D., C.M. 2018) on his achievements.

Professors Simon Caron-Huot (Department of Physics), Adrian Liu (Department of Physics and the McGill Space Institute) and Jennifer Sunday (Department of Biology) on being among the recipients of the 2020 Sloan Research Fellowship

SECTION II

Part "A" – Senate then considered Questions and Motions by Members

1. Question Regarding the University Student Assessment Policy

Answer was provided; student senator followed up to ask that a requirement be added for professors

Part "B" – Motions and Reports from Organs of University Government - Open Session

1. Report of the Provost's Working Group on Salary Equity (D19-32)

Senator Campbell presented the report. Gender-based salary differences have been noted for a long time but explanatory variables have always been noted; still, people have been concerned so a more detailed report by a task force was done. This is the report from that task force.

Results: once key variables were taken into account, no significant differences between men and women, except in the top 5% of salaries. No systemic inequities for other groups either.

However, it was noted that the University could take measures to try to mitigate the impact of some variables that can exert an inequitable impact on women's salaries – three recommendations. The Working Group's recommendations included undertaking concerted efforts to mentor and encourage women Associate Professors to apply for promotion to the rank of Full Professor in a timely manner as well as rigorously following employment equity principles and practices to advance the equitable representation of women across all academic units and in the lateral recruitment of senior professors to the rank of Full Professor.

Comments from senators: similar analysis should be done on faculty lecturers and other CAS.

2. 497th Report of the Academic Policy Committee (D19-33)

Senator Campbell presented the report.

A. The first item was a proposal from the Faculty of Medicine to

- x create the School of Biomedical Sciences,
- x create a School of Medicine
- x rename the Faculty of Medicine to the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences

The mandate of the committee and its approaches to consultation with stakeholder groups was discussed, as well as their goal of defining the qualities of a suitable name rather than just a popular vote.

The committee's mandate is to solicit input from community about the new name for men's varsity team and also for input on criteria. Also to obtain input from the athletes. To do this, they have been doing consultations through an online web form and also with interviews and meetings with stakeholder groups, e.g. athletes, alumni, etc. An important goal is to help define the qualities of a suitable name (as opposed to just a popular vote).

5. Annual Reports

5.1 Enrolment and Strategic Enrolment Management (2019-20) (D19-36)

Senator Labeau presented this report on Enrolment and Strategic Enrolment Management for 2019/2020 to Senate, as reflected in McGill's Strategic Academic Plan (2017-2022).

5.2 Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (2019) (D19-37)

Senator Nalbantoglu presented this report.

5.3 Ombudsperson for Students (2018-19) (D19-38)

Professor Dimitrios Berk, Ombudsperson for Students Information, presented this report for Senate's information.

5.4 Advisory Council on the Charter of Students' Rights (2018-19) (D19-30)

Senator Sinacore presented this report.

6. Senate Calendar of Dates 2020

Presented by the Secretary-General for information.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25pm.

11) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD

There were no members' questions.

12) OTHER BUSINESS

- Communication during Covid-19 Pandemic

Dean Lennox asked members for their comments about the Faculty's method of communication during this challenging time. Some of the comments expressed by members were: that communication from the Faculty was generally very helpful, that perhaps a collection of announcements (from the Faculty and the administration) could be made, and that updates for students are very much appreciated. Mr. Fergus Grieve added that messages from the Dean, Vice-Dean, and Associate Deans could be collated, and that it was important not to duplicate announcements.

There being no further business, Prof. Lydon **moved**, seconded by Prof. Harpp, that the meeting be adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

The motion carried.