

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Tuesday, 15 November, 2016
Leacock Council Room - L232**

Before the start of the meeting, **Prof. Simon Caron-Huot** from the Department of Physics, **Prof. Stephanie C. Weber** from the Department of Biology and **Prof. Anthony Ross Otto** from the Department of Psychology each gave a short research presentation.

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book

DOCUMENTS: S-16-13, S-16-14

Dean Lennox called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., and welcomed both members and the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic) Christopher Manfredi to the meeting.

1) PROVOST AND VICE-PRINCIPAL (Academic) CHRISTOPHER MANFREDI

Dean Lennox welcomed Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic) Christopher Manfredi to the Faculty of Science meeting. Provost/V.-P. Manfredi said that he appreciated the opportunity to speak to the Faculty Council and also to hear what Faculty members have to say. He further said his dual title represented his dual role in McGill's budget/allocation of resources and McGill's academic mission and explained that he would give brief remarks on each.

Regarding the budget, Provost/V.-P. Manfredi said that McGill was in good shape and that he was generally optimistic. He said McGill is entering a period of stability and major reinvestment. He explained that, because Quebec is on track to a general surplus, no major cuts from the provincial government are expected. To the contrary, reinvestment in education generally is anticipated though it is not clear where specifically such reinvestments would be made. Another reason Provost/V.-P. Manfredi cited for optimism is that recent events suggest that Canada could become the destination of choice for international students and Faculty.

Provost/V.-P. Manfredi went on to say that there remain important challenges such as a number of deferred maintenance projects. He said McGill is still waiting on an announcement from the Quebec government regarding project funding. Finally, Provost/V.-P. Manfredi said that the five-year budget projects small deficits followed by small surpluses that will help McGill pay down our \$90 million debt.

Concerning academic priorities, Provost/V.-P. Manfredi explained that rather than undertake major strategic planning, his aim is to develop a plan within the Provost's mandate around the Principal's core priorities. These priorities include the RVH site, comprehensive fundraising and the Provost Task Force on Indigenous Studies and Aboriginal Education. Provost/V.-P. Manfredi cited three main objectives for McGill – these are that we be global leaders, setting the example for a 21st century university, that we pursue openness with regards to diversity and innovation and that we be connected across disciplines and sectors as well as with the broader community.

Provost/V.-P. Manfredi then took questions from members.

Regarding austerity, Provost/V.-P. Manfredi said it is important to be precise in what we mean by austerity. He explained that he considered austerity to be not spending money that one has and that, by that measure, we have not been in an era of austerity but of constrained revenue due to cuts in provincial funding.

Associate Dean Western said that a

6) **DEAN'S BUSINESS**

a) Announcements

Dean Lennox said he had two updates on major projects with which the Faculty of Science is involved.

First, he spoke about the Royal Victoria Hospital project. Dean Lennox said the Faculty of Science is very involved in discussions about creating an academic plan for the RVH site. He said two over-arching themes had been chosen by the task force for the development of the RVH: Sustainability Science and Public Policy. Dean Lennox explained that, since making t7(n)-r8]TJETabout cricb pl27uwo9 (31(P)4(u)-9(bl)-4(i)5(c)-ET(P)4(u20

Provost Manfredi and AP Campbell then presented for discussion documents related to the Draft Policy Against Sexual Violence that was circulated for comment on September 12, 2016. The Provost stated that McGill will seek Senate's approval for this policy by the end of this academic year. There were questions on implementation, and whether other university's policies had been consulted. The answers were "the Provost" and "yes". There was a question on what the term "sexual violence" meant and AP Campbell said it meant a range of things but the policy was not about investigating and adjudication of cases but to make sure that complainants get the support through social and health services they need. AP Campbell then presented the Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Systemic Discrimination and said more mentoring was needed.

Senate then received the annual reports on advancement, physical development, and the most recent meeting of the Board.

Joint Senate-Board Meeting of November 10, 2016 - Senator Alfonso Mucci

It started with a one-hour presentation, from 3 to 4PM of posters on Sustainability Initiatives at McGill.

The formal meeting started at 4PM with Mr. Stuart (Kip) Cobbett, Chair of the Board of Governors, welcoming the participants to the meeting and inviting Professor Suzanne Fortier, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, to introduce the topic of discussion for the meeting: McGill's Sustainability Plans and Initiatives. She noted how last year's topic of discussion "Designing a smart campus for the 21st century" linked well with this year's topic and reminded the attendees/F1 9.96 Tf1 0

Each table was assigned a discussion leader and a student rapporteur and proceeded to put together a list of three ideas in response to the question within assigned timeframes: **immediate, medium-term, or long-term**. After 55 minutes, the rapporteurs presented, to the general group, the three major ideas/recommendations raised at their respective tables.

Among the ideas/recommendations that emerged:

For immediate implementation:

- Food for thoughts lunches
- Searchable website with an inventory of sustainability-related courses and research projects
- Inventory of re-usable laboratory equipment
- Banning bottled water on campus, but install filtered-water dispensers

For mid-term implementation:

- Interfaculty studies in sustainability, create elective but obligatory courses in sustainability
- Sustainable design of the RVH
- Engage our students, alumni and local communities to provide sustainable solutions to McGill problems
- Communicate McGill's great initiatives on both campuses

For long-term implementation:

- Investments in older buildings
- Focus on rural vs urban dynamics in contrast to the Panama/Barbados/Africa programs.
- Better communication between laboratories and departmental offices
- McGill operations becoming carbon-neutral
- Creation of an interdisciplinary research center on sustainability
- Increasing McGill's presence internationally

At 6:20PM, Professor Fortier and Mr. Cobbett had closing remarks before informal discussions proceeded with a cocktail reception.

9) **MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no members' questions.

10) **OTHER BUSINESS**

Prof. Mucci updated the Faculty Council on the state of negotiations with the Association of McGill University Research Employees (AMURE). He said the implementation of the thirty-percent salary increase to research assistant may happen before the new collective agreement is signed. He said progress is being made but has been slowed by the AMUSE strike because the chief negotiator for AMURE is often called away to other meetings.

Dean Lennox said the AMUSE dispute puts the McGill community in a difficult position because these are, in many cases, not only our colleagues but also our students. He said it is necessary that we all be alert to changes as they arise and must be more agile than usual until this matter is finally settled.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.