

FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Tuesday, 17 November, 2015
Leacock Council Room - L232

Before the start of the meeting, **Prof. Lauren Human** from the Department of Psychology and **Prof. Graham MacDonald** from the Department of Geography, each gave a short research presentation.

commitment from a donor for the School, and a Committee in place to organize this. The second project concerned indigenous studies and aboriginal education, fields where little seemed to be happening east of Manitoba. McGill could be a leader in these areas. A report on the status of indigenous studies and aboriginal education at McGill would be released very soon. The three main conclusions were that McGill is very active in these fields, but unfortunately has not publicized its work, and efforts are not well coordinated. A Provost Task Force on Indigenous Studies and Aboriginal Education would be struck. While the University of British Columbia is probably the leader in these fields in Canada, he hoped McGill would be the leader in eastern Canada.

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

304.6 Regarding plans for the Royal Victoria Hospital, Provost/V.-P. Manfredi said the Principal has a Task Force in operation to see what would be feasible. He himself was on the Task Force, as was Dean Lennox. Strict conditions have been set, including that McGill acquire the site at no cost and that provincial and federal governments make extensive contributions to the cost. McGill could use about two-thirds of the site, and a partner the other third. In the future, the Task Force would be considering academic parameters for use of the site. There were obviously a great many issues to consider. When the Task Force had finished its work, there will be a call for ideas from the community. It was very clear that the site could be multi-use. Research, teaching, Student Life and Learning, and other things. The site must be mixed-use vibrant, and not empty.

McGill.0535.

COMP 303 Software Design **AC-15-16**
Changes: title, description
3 credits

305.5 Associate Dean Western said the changes represent a move from software development, a very large field, to software design.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Devroye, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

COMP 350 Numerical Computing **AC-15-17**
Restriction added
3 credits

305.6 Associate Dean Western said the restriction would prevent students from taking both COMP 350 and MATH 317, Numerical Analysis, since the courses overlapped.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Dudek, that the change be approved.

The motion carried.

(3) MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS
MATH 317 Numerical Analysis **AC-15-17A**
Restriction added
3 credits

305.7 Associate Dean Western said the restriction mirrored that in COMP 350.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Stephens, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

SECTION C: PROGRAM CHANGES:
McGILL SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT

- Major in Environment, Ecological Determinants of Health (Cellular) **AC-15-20**
- Major in Environment, Ecological Determinants of Health (Population) **AC-15-21**

305.8 Associate Dean Western said new courses had been added to the programs, and retired courses removed. As well, some of the course lists had been reorganized for clarity.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Moore, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

SECTION D: OTHER (For Information Only)

(1) McGILL SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT
Program Changes:

- B.A. Faculty Program in Environment, Ecological Determinants of Health in Society
- B.Sc. (AgEnvSc) Major in Environment, Ecological Determinants of Health (Cellular)
- B.Sc. (AgEnvSc) Major in Environment, Ecological Determinants of Health (Population)

305.9 Associate Dean Western said the changes were similar in nature to the B.Sc. Major in Environment, above.

(2) MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS

- B.A. Minor Concentration in Statistics (Deletion of Complementary Course)

305.10 Associate Dean Western said COMP 202 was being deleted in the B.A. Minor Concentration in Statistics, because it was not necessary.

(3) CHEMISTRY MINOR COURSE CHANGES

AC-15-22

305.11 Associate Dean Western said the changes reflected changes in prerequisites and restrictions due to course retirements.

(4) COURSES ON DEAN'S MULTIDISCIPLINARY UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH LIST (DMURL)

AC-15-12

305.12 Associate Dean Western said the courses on the DMURL are reviewed annually. There

- x The Faculty of Science Christmas Party will be held on 15 December 2015 in Thomson House in the Ballroom. Faculty and staff were all invited. Dawson Hall staff have been organizing the party.
- x The Dean will be sending out a personalized note regarding Centraide. Centraide is an extremely important part of the community, and McGill was the single largest per capita contributor in the previous year. The Centraide targets last year were very impressive, and were actually exceeded. However, the Faculty of Science is lagging behind this year. Anna Cerrone will be selling raffle tickets to benefit Centraide at the end of the current meeting.

b) Budget

306.2 Dean Lennox said it was very important in the budget process for the Faculty to define its needs. The budget process in the Faculty is currently ongoing, and the Dean will be asking various people for their input. The budget should be largely completed by 15 December 2015. Negotiations will take place in January, February 2016.

7) REPORTS OF ASSOCIATE DEANS

a) Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson

307.1 Associate Dean Nilson emphasized that people should feel free to contact her should they have any issues regarding graduate education. Associate Dean Nilson also sits on the Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, which is the next level of approval after the Faculty level. After the normal business of the Council's last meeting, two items that were discussed related to supervisor's signing off on the oral defences of their students, and whether there should be a maximum stipend for graduate students. If any Faculty members had any issues they wished to be raised at the Council, they could contact her. She will attempt to send out a reminder when a meeting is due to be held.

307.2 Associate Dean Nilson mentioned several communications from GPS:

- x The deadline for the Canadian Tri-Council Masters Scholarships is coming up in February 2016
- x Some guidelines for transcripts have changed
- x The deadline for admitting new Canadian students wishing to start in January 2016 is 1 December 2015.
- x Students are required to complete a travel registry on Minerva before travelling on a university-related activity.

307.3 Dean Lennox added that the recent terrorist attack in Paris highlighted the importance of the travel registry, and showed that in implementing the travel registry McGill was taking its responsibilities seriously.

b) Associate Dean (Research) Doina Precup

307.4 Dean Lennox, in the absence of Associate Dean Precup, said the Faculty's CFI process was underway.

307.5 Associate Dean Precup is organizing a CIHR workshop. It will be presented by early December 2015.

c) Associate Dean (Academic) Tamara Western

- 307.6** Associate Dean Western said that as well as following enrolment standards, she was following how well students were doing in the Faculty's courses, in order to correlate the two.
- 307.7** A Sub-Committee of the Academic Committee was looking at how grades had changed over the last seven or eight years.
- 307.8** Associate Dean Western showed data for CEGEP students, Ontario High School students, and high school students from the rest of Canada. The data showed that the grades of students actually registered were significantly higher than the cut-offs for admission. This applied to both the BBL and the PEMC Groups.
- 307.8** Reminders will be sent out to students encouraging them to fill out course evaluations. These were extremely important, and a certain percentage of evaluations had to be filled out in order for the results to be made available. Instructors should aid in encouraging students to fill out course evaluations.

d) Director (Advising Services) Nicole Allard

- 307.9** Director Allard said that in view of the terrorist attack in Paris, it was important for any one who knew of an exchange student who needed assistance, to get in touch with her office.

8) REPORTS ON ACTIONS OF SENATE

- Senate Meeting of 21 October 2015 - Senator Gregory Dudek

Abe Fuks gave a report on academic integrity. Hand full of misconduct allegations each year, mostly plagiarism or falsification.

Investigations have been completed in twenty-three cases and research misconduct was established in fifteen. Actions were taken and the sanctions ranged from reprimand to withdrawal.

There was a report on the consultation document regarding McGill's International

Robert Couvrette, Associate Vice-Principal, Facilities Management and Ancillary Services gave a report touching on many upcoming projects.

Many major construction/renovation projects are underway or being planned including the Green Chemistry CERC, Stewart Biology, Arts Building portico (completion Fall 2015) and parts of the book store. Most significant is the Royal Victoria Hospital Redevelopment – Quebec approved funding of a joint feasibility study with the University in September 2015. A call for tender has begun to engage the management/design team.

Report from the Board of Governors:

Dean Bruce Lennox was appointed through 2020!

There was a divest McGill petition that is under consideration regarding cessation of investment (or liquidation) of fossil fuel enterprises.

- 308.1** Dean Lennox added that the Faculty of Science would be intimately involved in the plans for the Royal Victoria Hospital site, and as mentioned previously, he was on the Task Force. Laboratories will definitely be a part of the project. The current plans on the Web will be corrected.

- Joint Senate-Board Meeting of 3 November 2015 - Senator Peter Grütter

Topic: Designing a Smart Campus for the 21st Century

Prior to the meeting, Senators, members of the Board of Governors and guests had an opportunity to view physical exhibits demonstrating initiatives and activities related to the theme of a “smart campus”.

The meeting started with three brief presentations touching on the three themes related to the meeting topic:

- x Professor Christopher Manfredi, Provost and Vice Principal (Academic), spoke about the smart campus in the context of our physical campus and face-to-face learning.
- x Mr. Javeed Singh, a Master's Candidate in the Department of Natural Resource Sciences at the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, spoke about the smart campus in the context of community engagement.
- x Professor Gregory Dudek, James McGill Chair and the Director of the McGill School of Computer Science, spoke about the role of technology as it relates to the smart campus.

Following the speaker presentations, Senators and Governors engaged in roundtable discussions on key questions related to the meeting's theme.

THEME 1: TECHNOLOGY

Key ideas regarding the use of technology include the following:

- x Creating virtual online groups, communities and labs where students can collaborate with each other, with students from other Universities and around the world (resources from multiple universities may be pooled for such a project);
- x Creating an immersive university experience;
- x

- x Professors should be encouraged to learn new practices on how to better engage students and opportunities to gain such skills should be made more accessible;
- x A proper balance between face-to-face and technology in courses is required.

THEME 2: PHYSICAL CAMPUS AND FACE TO FACE LEARNING

Key ideas regarding face-to-face learning include the following:

- x Use of blended and flipped classrooms (this w

- x Have a publically accessible list of initiatives already taken at McGill in this area;
- x Bring back to the community: Sharing information, communication and mentoring are all essential elements in this process. We need to engage our members with success stories, learn from their expertise and make these resources available to our community (example of sustainability-related projects). Also part of that is using our social media more effectively.
- x Identify ways the communities can reach the McGill community to share information, provide feedback; we can have an “Ask McGill” website that allows members of the local and international community to ask members of the McGill community questions regarding numerous subjects (legal, environmental, financial, etc.);
- x Challenges:
 - Resources;
 - Physical and Virtual Infrastructure;
 - Community-building;
 - Cultural mindset shift.