

FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
1 December 2020 at 3:00 p.m.
Held via Zoom Conference Application

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book

DOCUMENTS: S-20-12, S-20-13

Dean Lennox called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., and welcomed members to the fourth Faculty of Science meeting of the 2020-2021 academic year.

1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Ms. Mircescu moved , seconded by Prof. Robillard, that the Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

2) MINUTES OF 3 NOVEMBER 2020

S-20-12

Ms. Mircescu moved , seconded by Prof. Robillard, that the Minutes be approved.

The ~~motion~~ TJ [(pi)3.1 (c)-8 ()0.5 (of)-13.1 ()]TJ 0.002 Tw -18.542 -1.157 Td [(f)-1.1 (or)-6.4 (ei)3.2 (g)]TJ

on 17 November 2020.

I. New Course

Computer Science
COMP 654 Graph Rep 11.04 -03 (t)T4- 4 credits

COMP 654 will be a new course in machine learning, previously offered as a topics course.

Associate Dean Hundemer moved , seconded by Ms. Merritt, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

II. Program Changes :

1. Computer Science
- B.Sc. Major in Computer Science - Computer Games

[AC-20-11](#)

Proposed Revisions: (i) COMP 308, a Required course, has been moved to the list of Complementary courses because the course is not offered every year; (ii) clarification regarding the minimum and the maximum number of total program credits for students who have been exempted from taking COMP 202.

Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Prof. Robillard, that the program changes be approved.

The motion carried.

2. Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences
- Honours in Atmospheric Science
- Major in Atmospheric Science
- Major in Atmospheric Science and Physics

[AC-20-12](#)

[AC-20-13](#)

[AC-20-14](#)

Proposed Revisions: PHYS 512 has been added to each stream in the above three programs in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences.

Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Prof. Haggard, that all the above program changes be approved.

The motion carried.

3. Mathematics & Statistics
B.Sc. Program Revisions:
- Honours in Mathematics and Computer Science

[AC-20-15](#)

Program Revisions: The Complementary course list has been revised in order to offer students more choices in Mathematics courses.

Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Prof. Hurtubise, that the program changes be approved.

The motion carried.

- Major in Statistics

[AC-20-16](#)

Program Revisions: Since the creation of the Major Program in Statistics several years ago, several courses in Computer Science and Statistics have been approved and are now being added to the program.

Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Prof. Hurtubise, that the program changes be approved.

The motion carried.

- B.A. Program Revisions (for information only):
- Major Concentration in Statistics

[AC-20-17](#)

A lengthy discussion followed about the disadvantages of the “no review” option and a few members expressed the merits of using the “no review” option as shown in some research studies.

Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Associate Dean Stix, Regulations #3.2, 3.2.1, “No review” option in Document AC-20-8A, be included in the Faculty of Science Assessment Policy for winter 2021 and subsequent remote learning semesters be adopted.

The motion carried.

6) DEAN'S BUSINESS

- Kudos

Dean Lennox presented the following announcements:

- (i) Professor Joe Schwarz from the McGill Office for Science and Society was selected as the inaugural recipient of the new Outreach Award of the Society of Chemical Industry (Canada). This award is given in recognition of sustained efforts in engaging the public in learning about chemical science and its impact on society.
- (ii) Professor Kenneth Ragan, Department of Physics, was awarded the Canadian Association of Physicists Medal for Excellence in Teaching Undergraduate Physics, for his overall accomplishments in teaching, and the promotion of quality teaching at McGill and within the Canadian Association of Physics.
- (iii) Professor Antony Humphries from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics was the recipient of the 2020 Principal's Prize for Excellence in Teaching in the category of Associate Professor.
- (iv) Professor Thomas Fox, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, won the 2020 Principal's Prize for Excellence in Teaching in the Course Lecturer category.
- (v) Professor Jennifer Sunday from the Department of Biology has received a Genome Canada grant to monitor biodiversity in Canada's marine protected areas under Genome Canada's Genomic Applications Partnership Program.

On behalf of the Faculty, Dean Lennox congratulated these awardees for their outstanding accomplishments and achievements.

7) REPORTS OF VICE-DEAN AND ASSOCIATE DEANS

a) Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer

Associate Dean Hundemer informed members that the December 2020 final examination schedule had been posted on the Exams website. Instructors should verify that their examination information on myCourses matches the online examination schedule. If there are any discrepancies, instructors should contact Stanley Whyte (stanley.whyte@mcgill.ca) from the Exam Office.

b) Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson

There was no report for the current meeting.

c) Associate Dean (Research) John Stix

Associate Dean Stix reminded members of the following deadlines:

- (i) An

In terms of social events, this semester's online events have been quite successful! Even with low participation, the students that attended seemed to have a lot of fun! The Science Internal Committee (SIC) is looking at ways in reaching a wider audience.

Planning for the Graduation Ball and the Science Games has begun with both events being held in late April/May 2021. During the first week of classes, the application process will begin for the Graduation Ball, while the planning of the Science Games will start later in the semester. The reason for this is that there is a higher chance that the Graduation Ball can happen than is the Science Games due to the nature of the events. Both events are tentative and are entirely dependent on governmental restrictions at that time.

On behalf of the Faculty of Science, Dean Lennox thanked Ms. Merritt and the SUS for their impressive work during a challenging period.

9) SCIENCE EQUITY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE (SECC)

Associate Dean Nilson reported on the Science Equity and Climate Committee (SECC) which took place on 19 November 2021. She said that in alignment with the Committee's goal to ground its work in data from the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion literature, the November meeting featured two presentations by members: one on two recent published studies on the effectiveness of bias interventions, and another on diversity in hiring. The Committee also launched a new group on Microsoft Teams as a platform for sharing information and a biweekly group newsletter.

10) Provost's Action Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism

Associate Dean Nilson reported that the Office of the Provost has announced that it will grant up to ten tenure-track licenses, issued over a two-year period, to support the commitments made in McGill's Plan to Address Anti-Black racism. The first block of five licenses issued in the current fiscal year are targeted toward recruitment of faculty members (at any rank) whose research advances knowledge about Black communities and issues of particular relevance to those communities. The Provost's office will review proposals from the Faculties to award these licenses. The Faculty of Science has submitted proposals from the Departments of Geography, Psychology, and Computer Science. The positions will be then be posted and interviewing and hiring is anticipated to take place during Winter 2021.

11) The New Vic Project - Update

Dean Lennox gave a brief update on The New Vic Project. A decision on the funding was anticipated by December 2020 or January 2021. Presentations to various groups have been ongoing, and the next presentation was scheduled to take place on 14 January 2021. Dean Lennox said he will continue to provide updates on the progress of The New Vic Project at future Faculty meetings.

12) REPORTS ON ACTIONS OF SENATE

Senate Meeting of 12 November 2020 – Senator Martin Robillard

The November 12th meeting was the annual Joint Senate-Board meeting for the 2020-2021 academic year.

The meeting was chaired by the Chair of the Board of Governors Mr. Ram Panda. Mr. Panda commented on the relevance of the theme of last year's meeting on the present

situation ("How can McGill be a Model of an Open, Connected and Purposeful University?").

The Principal and Vice-Chancellor Prof. Suzanne Fortier introduced the topic of this year's meeting, "Pandemic Planning and Preparedness: Local Impact of Global Health Crises". The Principal observed that the University's response to the Covid-19 crisis has moved from a sprint to a marathon, but that encouraging signs were on the horizon (e.g., vaccine, rapid testing).

Dr. Tim Evans, Director and Associate Dean, School of Population and Global Health (SPGH), Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, and Associate Vice-Principal (Global Policy and Innovation) delivered an update on the Covid-19 situation. In this presentation he emphasized that:

- Covid-19 cnd /P <<

- Interpreting the requirements for credits and contact hours in the on-line environment, so as to properly calibrate the student workload;
- Accommodating the differences in how different groups of students adapt to on-

