

FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
22 March 2022
Leacock Council Room - L232

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book

DOCUMENTS: S-21-24, S-21-25

Dean Lennox called the meeting to order at 3 p.m., and welcomed members to the seventh Faculty of Science meeting of the 2021-2022 academic year.

1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Prof. Perepichka moved, seconded by Prof. Turner, that the Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

2) MINUTES OF 22 FEBRUARY 2022 S-21-24

Prof. Turner moved, seconded by Prof. Perepichka, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

4) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

a) Academic Committee S-21-25

Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer described the following proposals approved at the Academic Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 15 March 2022.

Section I. New Courses

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|----|------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | Physiology
PHGY 525 | Cortical Plasticity
3 credits | AC-21-98 |
|----|------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|

Associate Dean Hundemer introduced a new course, PHGY 525, in the Department of Physiology, increasing course offerings in neuroscience. PHGY 525 will cover an in-depth examination of cortical plasticity, or the ability of the brain to rearrange itself from a systems, cognitive neuroscience perspective.

Associate Dean Hundemer moved, seconded by Mr. Bhutkar, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

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|----|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2. | Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences
ATOC 517 | Boundary Layer Meteorology
3 credits | AC-21-83 |
|----|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Associate Dean Hundemer described a new course (ATOC 517) concerning the atmospheric boundary, the layer between the free atmosphere and Earth's surface. The course will also illustrate their applications to urban environments, weather and climate forecasting, wind energy, and wind engineering sectors.

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

The motion carried.

3. Computer Science
COMP 370 Introduction to Data Science [AC-21-87](#)
3 credits

Associate Dean Hundemer said that given how vital data science has become in recent years, the School of Computer Science proposed a new introduction to data science techniques course, COMP 370. A similar course was previously offered as a topics course multiple times, and it was well-received. COMP 370 is mainly about data science ideas, avoiding bias, scraping data, managing the data, and visualizing it.

Associate Dean Hundemer moved , seconded by Dr. Dechief, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

4. Pathology
PATH 396 Undergraduate Research Project in Pathology [AC-21-94](#)
3 credits

Associate Dean Hundemer introduced a new undergraduate research project course, PATH 396, proposed by the Department of Pathology for the first time.

Associate Dean Hundemer moved , seconded by Dr. Dechief, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

Section II. Course Revisions

1. Biology
BIOL 331 Ecology/Behaviour Field Course [AC-21-84](#)
Changes: prerequisites, additional fee charges,
Supplementary Calendar information
3 credits

The proposed changes to BIOL 331 were to accurately reflect the course fees in the

Québec government for review and final approval. Dean Lennox said that the Québec budget would be presented by the Minister of Finance, Eric Girard, on 22 March 2022. A

to SOUSA by implementing an advising online appointment booking system which was a huge help during the pandemic. Since then, she has been modernizing and automating some of the more cumbersome administrative tasks in SOUSA for positive change in SOUSA. Marina will be providing administrative support in her new position, mainly focusing on undergraduate students in the B.Sc. and B.A. & Sc. degrees, including students in the Neuroscience and Cognitive Science programs. In addition, she will be providing support with the exchange program and readmission and transfer students. Associate Dean Mittermaier welcomed Marina to this new position. He also thanked Lindsay Wilmot (Manager, SOUSA), Dean Lennox, Maria Babiak (Director, Administration), and Tina Kafantaris (Senior, HR).

11) REPORTS ON ACTIONS OF SENATE

Senator Laura Nilson: Senate Meeting, 19 January 2022

The meeting opened with the Chair's introductory remarks, including a campus update, government relations, external relations, community relations, and selected kudos, followed by a memorial tribute.

As you will recall, the Winter 2022 semester launched remotely, as mandated by the provincial government in response to the arrival of the Omicron wave and the extraordinarily high number of COVID-19 cases. An important focus of these remarks was the resumption of in-person teaching activities scheduled for the following week (on 24 January 2022). The Chair reminded Senators of various supports available during this time, including the ability of instructors to choose to deliver up to 20% of their course remotely and flexible pedagogical accommodations available to students. The Chair then turned to Senator Lebeau for an update on campus preparation for the return of in-person activities.

Senator Lebeau provided a review of the government directives and comprehensive details of McGill's plan to manage the resumption of in-person teaching for the semester. He reiterated that our top priorities are the health and safety of our community and the quality of our education. He reviewed the plan for course delivery in Winter 2022, including the flexibility built into the plan, discussed the safety measures that would remain in place, and reviewed the revisions to the case management protocols for reporting and contact tracing.

The Chair then concluded her remarks. Some highlights were federal government plans to create 1000 new Canada Research Chairs, a \$5M gift to establish a Centre for Business Ethics in the Desautels Faculty of Management, and the great news that the 2021 Centraide campaign raised \$436,000, which exceeded its goal of \$425K goal.

The Chair's remarks were followed by an extensive commentary from Senators on the return to in-person teaching, ranging from concerns about resuming too soon without enough advance notice or sufficient regard for safety, to questions about accommodations and support for remote delivery, lecture recordings etc., to commentary about the risks of covid transmission in our campus environment and its impact on student health as well as the issue of considering transmission risks on campus relative to risks encountered off-campus and to the potential negative impact of the online environment on mental health and social development.

The meeting then continued with the regular order of business.

1. The Provost presented the Report of 509th Report of the Academic Policy Committee (D21-28)

2. The Provost then presented Report I on Budget Planning 2022-2023: Report I (D21-29)

First of three budget reports: this one is how the university is doing on the current FY budget and also how the university is progressing in planning the FY23 budget.

The report noted that their analysis, as of Oct 31, 2021, suggests that the University should expect lower expenses and revenues than initially predicted and will have a lower deficit and contingency than originally forecast.

Plan for FY23: to present a balanced budget, assuming continued support from Québec and less covid uncertainty.

Priorities mentioned for the FY2023 budget include maintaining a safe environment for def.349-6.4 ()-1

