

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Thursday, May 22, 2014
Leacock Council Room – L232**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book.

902.5

The Committee provided the following quotes from letters of support to highlight Ms. Domingues's contributions:

A PhD student noted that, "Paula is often the first person a student goes to whenever a problem arises. She not only does excellent work, but she does so with a smile and a type of concern that makes a student feel like she is truly looking out for you."

A faculty member noted that, "she juggles countless essential daily administrative tasks with grace and efficiency, all the while maintaining a human touch that puts the department at ease."

The committee agreed with the referee who wrote: "There would be no better way for the university to recognize administrative excellence than to award Paula Domingues this honor."

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902.6

On behalf of the Faculty of Science, Dean Grant congratulated Ms. Domingues and presented her with a framed certificate commemorating her receipt of the Faculty of Science Excellence Award (C)

902.7

Ms. Domingues said she appreciated the award very much, and thanked Prof. Gyakum, Chair of the Department, Prof. Jaime Palter, Mr. Kevin Bowley, Ph.D. candidate, and Ms. Raffaella Bruno, Administrative Officer.

b) Leo Yaffe Teaching Award

902.8

Prof. Edith Zorychta, Chair, Leo Yaffe Award/Principal's Prizes Committee, thanked Josie D'Amico and the Committee for all their work in enabling the award.

The members of the Committee were:
Prof. Eyal Goren, Mathematics & Statistics
Prof. Richard Koestner, Psychology
Prof. Martin Lechowicz, Biology
Prof. Bernhard Lehner, Geography
Prof. Alvin Shrier, Physiology
Prof. Denis Thérien, Computer Science
Prof. Man K. Yau, Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences

902.9

The nominees for 2013-2014 were:
Prof. Karine Auclair, Chemistry
Prof. Yogita Chudasama, Psychology
Prof. David Green, Redpath Museum
Prof. Carlos Morales, Anatomy & Cell Biology
Prof. Joelle Pineau, Computer Science
Prof. Sarah Turner, Geography
Prof. Tamara Western, Biology

902.10

Despite the excellent quality of all the candidates, there had been a clear winner for the current year.



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902.12 Unfortunately, Prof. Auclair was unable to attend the meeting.

902.13 Dean Grant thanked Prof. Zorychta for her excellent work over the years on the Leo Yaffe Award/Principal's Prizes Committee. In her absence, he congratulated Prof. Auclair to thunderous applause.

(3) **CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES**

903.1 Director (Advising Services) Nicole Allard thanked everyone involved in preparing the degree lists.

- a) **Bachelor of Arts and Science** **S-13-24**
- b) **Bachelor of Science** **S-13-25**

903.2 Director Allard said that there were 86 graduands for the B.A. & Sc. degree, and 817 for the B.Sc. degree. The corresponding figures for 2013 were 94, and 782.

Director Allard **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, that the above degree lists be recommended to the Senate Steering Committee for their respective degrees.

The motion carried.

- c) **Diploma in Environment** **S-13-26**
- d) **Diploma in Meteorology** **S-13-27**

903.3 Director Allard said that there were two candidates for Diploma in Environment and one candidate for the Diploma in Meteorology.

Director Allard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Crepeau, that the above diploma lists be recommended to the Senate Steering Committee for their respective diplomas.

Director Allard further **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, that the Dean be given discretionary power to make such changes in the degree list as would be necessary to prevent injustice.

(4) **MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2014**

Prof. Moore **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gyakum, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

(5) **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There was no business arising from the Minutes

(6) **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES (continued)**

- c) **Committee on Student Standing** **S-13-28**

There being no meeting of the Committee on Student Standing, there was no report.

- d) **Scholarships Committee** **S-13-29**

906.1

On behalf of Associate Dean Victoria Kaspi, Prof. Tamara Western announced that the Moyse Travelling Scholarship was awarded to **Mr. Aryeh Isaac Feinberg**, First Class Honours in Chemistry with a Minor in Mathematics. She also announced that **Mr. Tristan Labelle**, First Class Honours in Computer Science, had been awarded one of the two Governor General's Silver Medals allocated to McGill. In the past 26 years, Science has received 25 of these medals. The medal will be presented at the Faculty of Science Convocation ceremony on June 4, 2014. Prof. Western drew members' attention to the Scholarships Report.

- Honours in Atmospheric Science
- Major in Atmospheric Science

AC-13-91
AC-13-92

906.4 Associate Dean Hendren said that the changes divided the two programs into core required courses and four different streams. She said that this would be a good idea for other departments as well.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gyakum, that the above changes be approved.

The motion carried.

(4) COMPUTER SCIENCE
Program Changes:

- B.Sc. Major in Computer Science

AC-13-84

906.5 Associate Dean Hendren said that the change would now explicitly require students to take at least six credits at the 400-level or above.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Crepeau, that the change be approved.

The motion carried.

(5) PHYSIOLOGY AND PHYSICS
Program Changes:

- Joint Major in Physiology and Physics

AC-13-86

906.6 Associate Dean Hendren said that these were housekeeping changes. However, she mentioned that at 80 credits, the credit count was too high.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Grütter, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

(6) MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS
Program Changes:

- Ph.D. in Mathematics & Statistics (Thesis)

AC-13-85

906.7 Associate Dean Hendren said that the above changes simply formalized what was already the practice in the program.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hurtubise, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

(7) GEOGRAPHY

- (i)** Proposal to Allow B.A. & Sc. Students to Take Geography Major Concentrations in BOTH Arts and Science

AC-13-95

906.8 Associate Dean Hendren said that currently B.A. & Sc. students could select either their Arts component or their Science component from Geography, but not both. However, the Major Concentration in Geography (Urban Studies) (Arts component), and the Major Concentration in Geography (Physical Geography) (Science component) actually contain very little overlap. The proposal would allow students to take both Major Concentrations as their Arts and Science components of the B.A. & Sc. She added that the proposal had originally come from the students.

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

The motion carried.

(ii) GEOG 205 Proposal to Include on List of Approved Freshman Science Courses

AC-13-96

906.9 Associate Dean Hendren explained that in the Freshman program, students had the option of doing a course from a list of Complementary courses. The proposal would add GEOG 205 to that list. Since GEOG 205 was not a required course for any Geography program, there would be no issue of "double-counting."

906.10 Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Moore, that GEOG 205 be included on the list of Approved Freshman Science courses.

906.11 Prof. Mucci said he objected to the proposal because it went against the idea of having ESYS 104 in the list of Approved Freshman Science courses, namely, that ESYS 104 would provide an introduction to material from the Departments of Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences, Earth & Planetary Sciences, and Geography. He said that there was overlap between ESYS 104 and GEOG 205, and that there had been insufficient consultation on the proposal. He said he would like to table the proposal pending further consultation.

906.12 In response, Prof. Moore said that there had been consultation, and that Associate Dean Hendren had visited the three Departments concerned, and invited them to individually submit courses for inclusion on the list of Approved Freshman Science courses. Only Geography had taken up that initiative. Earth System Science was not reflective of all of geography, which has a prominent human component. Inclusion of GEOG 205 in the Freshman Program would allow exposure of students to multiple aspects of geography.

906.13 Prof. Gyakum pointed out that neither he nor Prof. Mucci had been Chair when the Departments had been invited to submit courses for the Freshman program, and hence were unaware of the issue. He agreed that the inclusion of GEOG 205 went against the spirit of ESYS 104.

906.14 Prof. Mucci **moved**, seconded by Prof. Paquette, that the proposal be tabled to a future meeting.

906.15 **The vote to table the above item was:**

10 In favour
4 Against

906.16 **The motion to table the above item carried.**

Grütter's multitasking ability that had been on prominent display during his tenure as Associate Dean.

907.9 Prof. Grütter had been replaced as Associate Dean (RAGE) by Prof. Victoria Kaspi.

907.10 Dean Grant said that one of the points of pride of being Dean of the Faculty of Science was the large number of extremely able academic administrators in the Faculty. Prominent among these is Associate Dean (Academic) Laurie Hendren, who has been in the job since September 2005. During her tenure, Associate Dean Hendren presided over some memorable accomplishments including revamping the Freshman Program, and the introduction of the B.Sc. (Liberal) and the B.Sc./M.Sc. Programs, as well as the

Finally, and appropriately, Senator Wolfson reported briefly on the actions of the Committee to Enhance Senate. Food, booze and toga wearing during Senate would certainly enhance things, though just wishful thinking, and a fuller report will be presented at the next Senate.

- Senate Meeting of April 23, 2014 - Prof. David Zuroff

1. Principal Fortier's remarks

a. Commenting very shortly after the provincial election - implications of the Liberal victory are unknown yet presumably favorable. Several prominent liberals, including the new Premier, have ties of some kind to McGill.

2. Next, during question period, there was a question about research ethics and policies when a McGill researcher collaborates with external partners, e.g., industrial partners

a. Vice Principal Goldstein says that a working group has been formed, that it will report before end of 2015 academic year, and there will be a policy document about collaborations and partnerships with entities outside McGill.

3. University staffing report from Provost Masi & VP Di Grappa.

a. Tenure track staff essentially constant over last year, slight increase over 5 years.

b. Admin and support staff increased by 8% over last 5 years, although the increase have markedly slowed over last 2 years. Administrative units have grown by 13%, but that has now been slowed or reversed.

c. Ratio of support staff to faculty has declined slightly, and will continue to do so because of voluntary retirements.

4. McGill Budget for 2015 - Masi's presentation.

a. Many uncertainties, but we are on track to meet the proposed deficit target of 10.4 million this year.

b. Very frank recognition that academic staff are in bottom 3 or 4 of comparator universities for pay - addressing this gap is the main priority for next year's budget

c. Other priorities include: providing matching funds as needed for grants; also increased student assistance

d. Proposing a 7 million deficit for next year. That may qualify us for some additional funding from the government.

e. Rate of tenure track recruitment will be slow - may be close to replacement

f. Modest growth in enrolment, capacity permitting.

g. Tricouncil research dollars are increasing, but indirect costs paid to the university are completely flat.

h. With the recovery of the stock market, the endowment is back over a billion.

5. Comments and questions about budget

a. McGill would get 70 million a year more in tuition if in Ontario.

b. Excellent comment by Senator Dudek defending seeking top people for faculty positions- not just a chase for prestige or a weighting of research over teaching.

c. RVH? Fortier & Di Grappa underline that taking over the RVH and converting it for McGill's use would be very, very expensive requiring multiple partners. Current planning is extremely preliminary and if there is a real possibility of going ahead, it will be brought to Senate. Financial, legal, zoning, renovation, on-going operating expenses would have to be agreed to. They promise that expansion into the RVH will not be allowed to create a problem for the university long-term.

d. Looking at professional masters and 1-year programs as ways to make more money. New masters programs may be brought in.

6. Report of Academic Policy Committee

a. Revised course evaluation policy. Faculty members can opt out rather than having to opt in. Evaluations to be kept on file for 5 years rather than 3 years. Each department can opt out of allowing students to extend evaluation until after final exams, and that opt out is permanent.

b. There is no evidence of gender bias in grading at McGill, at UG or grad level.

7. Report of Senate Nominating Committee.

a. Search committee for new Provost has been formed. Senate representatives will include Bruce Lennox from Science

b. There will be public consultations about the role of the Provost. The committee will also seek written contributions.

c. Masi stated that he is NOT seeking another term in office.

8. Report on Vision 2020 - sustainability strategy for McGill

a. Very well received by the Senate

b. Money for research and projects will be available - jointly contributed to by students and administration. 840K/year

c. Some discussion of "holistic" sustainability in which equity and social justice issues are linked to traditional environmental issues. Some criticism that there wasn't more of that in the report.

9. Progress report on Quartier de L'Innovation by VP Goldstein

a. Over 20 concrete initiatives with active involvement of eight McGill Faculties, over 34 professors, approximately 30 students, as well as over 700 participants in its varied projects, initiatives and events.

909.1 Dean Grant mentioned that he would like to encourage members of the Faculty to express their opinions in writing to the Committee charged with searching for a new Provost.

- Senate Meeting of May 14, 2014 - Prof. Graham Bell

There will be no written Report on the Senate Meeting of May 14, 2014.

909.1 In reply to Prof. Dudek, Director, School of Computer Science, who had expressed concern that the recent name change from Library and Information Studies to School of Information Studies, and mandate modification, risked confusion with the School of Computer Science, Dean Grant said that the Academic Committee should pay attention to issues such as these.

909.2 Dean Grant said that the Board of Governors was finalizing the Senate representation on the Committee to select a new Dean of Science. When that was accomplished, Josie D'Amico would send out a Call for Nominations for members of the Faculty to serve on the Committee. He asked members to think about people who would make a good Dean of Science, and about good people to serve on the Committee.

909.3 Dean Grant said that as soon as he received notice on tenure decisions, he would inform chairs/directors who would then inform members of their department.

(10) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD

There were no members' questions.

(11) OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.