

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
Meeting of Faculty  
4 June 2020 at 3:00 p.m.  
Held Via Zoom**

**ATTENDANCE:** As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book

**DOCUMENTS:** S-19-27 to S-19-36

Dean Lennox called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., and welcomed members to the last Faculty of Science meeting of the 2019-2020 academic year.

**1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The motion carried.

**2) McCALL MacBAIN FOUNDATION**

Natasha Sawh, Director, Grants and Fellowships, gave an overview of the McCall MacBain Scholarships - leadership-driven scholarships for students seeking admission to a master's program for fall 2021. The McCall MacBain Scholarships are designed for academically strong students who can make a difference in the world. Applications for scholarships will be available as of 15 June 2020. Director Sawh encouraged members to reach out to prospective master's students, as well as colleagues at other universities. More details about the scholarships are described [here](#)

Dean Bruce thanked Director Sawh for attending the current meeting and for describing the McCall MacBain Scholarships. Members are encouraged to contact Director Sawh ([natasha@mccallmacbainscholars.org](mailto:natasha@mccallmacbainscholars.org)) for additional information.

**3) RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF ARTHUR SAUL PERLIN, EMERITUS PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY**

<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Professor Perlin was born in Sydney, Nova Scotia in 1924 and spent all of his early years in the Maritimes, many of them working on the family farm, *The Sanitary Dairy* who performed on stage in operas and, often, as a Cantor at his local synagogue. He loved travelling with his family and undertaking all kinds of outdoor activities, but especially hiking, skiing, cycling and ice hockey.**

Professor Perlin completed his Ph.D. degree in carbohydrate chemistry in 1949, under the supervision of Professor Clifford Purves. The title of his dissertation was "Studies on the Carbonyl Groups of Oxidized Celluloses". He next postdoctoral research at the National Research Council of Canada laboratory in Ottawa, where he met his wife Ruth Freedman, and at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland with Sir Edmund Hirst. Following these two research stages, he joined the NRC laboratory in Saskatoon as a research scientist and remained there for about 15 years. He quickly established a highly

successful career there and was eventually recruited in 1967 by Leo Yaffe, Chair of the Department of Chemistry at McGill, as the E. B. Eddy Professor of Industrial and Cellulose Chemistry, a position he held until his retirement and subsequent appointment as Professor Emeritus in 1991.

Throughout his long academic career, Professor Perlin mentored numerous graduate and postdoctoral students who went on to successful careers in academia and industry. He published extensively in several areas of synthetic organic chemistry and was considered to be a pioneer in the use of  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectroscopy in carbohydrate and cellulose chemistry leading to what is now known as "The Perlin Effect". This term was coined jointly in 1990 by Professor Saul Wolfe at Queen's University and Professor Mario Pinto's group at Simon Fraser University. Professor Perlin's considerable research efforts were recognized both nationally and internationally; for instance, was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in the Academy of Science in 1969 and he received the Claude S. Hudson Award from the American Chemical Society for his outstanding work in carbohydrate chemistry in 1979. He published his research widely and was a particularly strong supporter of the *Canadian Journal of Chemistry*, in which had over 100 papers throughout his career.

Several times a year, Professor Perlin and his wife Ruth would invite his whole research group to their house for a party. Their five children were often present at these gatherings. There would be much singing and joy at these times. Professor Perlin was always regarded by the students in his undergraduate organic chemistry course and the members of his research group as a "true gentleman", who was always ready to give someone support and, if necessary, the benefit of doubt.

We extend heartfelt condolences to his wife, Ruth; his children Ana (Patrick), Louise (Jan), Deborah (Robert), Myra-Elizabeth (Douglas) and David (Mary); and his seven grandchildren. He will be sorely missed by many friends and scientific colleagues throughout the world.

**The resolution was adopted unanimously.**

While at McGill, Dr. Trischuk was involved in many of the world's leading experiments at Brookhaven National Laboratory, CERN, Fermilab, Berkeley and the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory. His main research focus was the study of heavy quarks. The physics of heavy quarks has played a pivotal role in the elucidation of the properties and interactions of hadrons and in establishing the validity of the Standard Model. In his long career, Dr. Trischuk made many important contributions to experiments studying heavy quarks, ranging from their interactions with neutrinos and to CP-violations.

After 33 years of teaching at McGill, Dr. Trischuk retired in late 2001 but he continued to teach undergraduate courses after his retirement, and to participate in seminars, taking a special interest in Cosmology.

Dr. Trischuk left an important legacy in Canadian high energy physics as one of the founding members of the Institute of Particle Physics. The IPP started in the 1970s as a consortium of researchers at McGill, Toronto, and Carleton. Dr. Trischuk helped to build this important Canadian institution that makes it possible for Canadian researchers to play leading roles in major international experiments such as BaBar – which was his last experiment – and ATLAS at CERN's Large Hadron Collider.

His legacy also includes many graduate students as Dr. J. Va'vra at the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, and Professor D. Bailey at the University of Toronto, to name just a few. He also passed his love of both high energy physics and cycling to his nephew William Trischuk (Honours Physics McGill, Ph.D. Harvard 1990), a Professor of Physics at the University of Toronto.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Dr. Trischuk's wife, Miriam, to his children David, Bonnie, Sean, Heather, to his grandchildren, as well as to his extended family members, his many friends and colleagues, and to all those whose lives he touched. He will be missed.

Student evaluations of Laura's teaching are uniformly outstanding, and their comments

- Her approach can be summed up as to “put students first” (as one professor attested), which leads her to be proactive and innovative so that students have the best possible trajectory in their studies.
  - One example: she has quantified student profiles of students encountering hurdles in their studies, allowing her to pinpoint gaps in knowledge and address them.
  - Another example: she has developed curriculum flowcharts for new interdepartmental programs, which helps students navigate them successfully, while avoiding scheduling conflicts.
  - She has a wealth of knowledge which has been instrumental for the revision of the Biology Undergraduate curriculum. Her participation in the Curriculum Task Force Committee has been key to its success.
  - Nancy Nelson is in regular communication with ~700 UG Biology students; the sheer volume of e-mails she sends and receives to students is phenomenal. Yet individual students attest to feeling that she is available, reachable, and dedicated to their success.
  - One professor describes Nancy as someone who makes the University a better, more rewarding place because “her dedication is contagious.”

Nancy Nelson said that she enjoys working with students, and she thanked the Department of Biology for their support.

**Rosario (“Ross”) Commodari, Administrative Coordinator, Chemistry**

“C” class recipient (Clerical)

- “Ross Commodari has worked at McGill since 2017 as an Administrative coordinator and briefly in Geography as graduate program coordinator. As an Administrative coordinator in Chemistry, he supports faculty members on finances, visiting student and staff hiring, immigration, HR, and graduate affairs.
- Faculty praise Ross Commodari’s professionalism, and collegiality, and describe him as “outstanding”, “respected and admired”, “dedicated”. His role leads him to interact extensively with new international students and postdocs, and he is a wonderful ambassador, welcoming them to McGill and to Chemistry. Postdoctorals and students often come to him before their own PI, as they know that he will have the answers.
- Ross Commodari works extremely hard and excels in the quality of his work. Part of his work focuses on international hiring, and he has streamlined and simplified this process.



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

**The motion carried.**

- c) Diploma in Environment
- d) Diploma in Meteorology

**S-19-30**

**S-19-31**

There were no candidates for the Diploma in Meteorology, and no candidates for the Diploma in Environment.

Director Allard thanked both departmental advisors and Faculty advisors (SOUSA) for their diligence and hard work in preparing the graduation lists.

b) Academic Committee

S-19-33

The Academic Committee approved the following proposals on 28 April 2020:

1.

**PSYCHOLOGY**

**Course Revision:**

PSYC 562

Measurement of Psychology Processes

AC-19-88

Changes: description, prerequisites, supplementary

Calendar information

3 credits

Associate Dean Hundemer said that the changes in description and prerequisites were due to a new faculty member teaching PSYC 562.

Associate Dean Hundemer ~~mov2 Tw A-28-55-20(00)TJAC(00)TRB(0)PSYCH(0)AS(0)26 HQ(0)2~~

Associate Dean Hundemer said that the changes in restrictions were necessary to specify the intended audience, and thereby, the instructor's permission was no longer required in the prerequisites.

ANAT 542	Transmission Electron Microscopy of Biological Samples	<b>AC-19-120</b>
	Changes: course activities; title, description, supplementary Calendar information	
	3 credits	

Associate Dean Hundemer explained that the focus of the content and structure of the course was modified, hence the changes in title and course activities.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Prof. Roulet, that the above changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

#### **4. PHYSIOLOGY**

BIOL 216

Biology of Behaviour  
3 credits

**AC-19-92**

BIOL 205	Biology of Organisms Change in title 3 credits	<b>AC-19-91</b>
BIOL 206	Methods in Biology Changes title, description, supplementary Calendar information 3 credits	<b>AC-19-95</b>
BIOL 300	Molecular Biology of the Gene Change in prerequisites 3 credits	<b>AC-19-96</b>
BIOL 301	Cell and Molecular Laboratory Changes in description; prerequisites 4 credits	<b>AC-19-97</b>
BIOL 303	Developmental Biology Changes in prerequisites; corequisites 3 credits	<b>AC-19-98</b>
BIOL 306	Neural Basis of Behaviour -1.11 (t)-1.1 (es)-8 (;)-1.2 ( c)-20.1 (or)-6.4 (e(or)-6.4 (equ)-12.3 (i)3.2 (s)-e11.4 -e11.4 -e BIOL 306 e687 -0.002 Tc 0.001 Tw 3.566 0 57MC /Span44.072> BI3 crediL 3 [(3 c)-AC- BIOL 306 BIOL 306	<b>AC-19-99</b>

3 credits

Associate Dean **moved**, seconded by Professor Western that the above changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**B.Sc. Program Changes:**

- Honours in Biology
- Major in Biology
- Liberal: Core Science Component in Biology

**AC-19-108**

**AC-19-109**

**AC-19-110**

Associate Dean Hundemer described the above program changes. The revisions included the addition of the three new courses discussed above, the removal of various

Ass

Prof. Adrian Liu (Physics)  
Prof.

**(iii) Distinguished James McGill Professors**

Prof. Peter Grütter (Physics)  
Prof. Victoria Kaspi (Physics)

**(iv) James McGill Professor**

Prof. Daniel Wise (Mathematics & Statistics)

**(v) Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS)**

Prof. Louigi Addario-Berry (Department of Mathematics and Statistics)

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GPS has been doing a lot of work to engage with graduate students who have been offered admission.

1. GPS held seven webinars at the end of April 2020 for new potential graduate students and are in the process of doing webinars for incoming students.
2. Comprehensive FAQs on the GPS website to give students general information but also to give guidance about starting in the current environment: <https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/covid-19-updates/faqs-graduate-admissions>
3. GPS has been working with funding agencies and the government to ensure that new students who would not be in Montréal for the start of the Fall semester could still start their programs remotely, and begin to receive the financial support that students would have received if on campus.

d) Associate Dean (Research) John Stix

Associate Dean Stix informed members that research was increasing and was proceeding as expected, and that all staff were taking every precaution. wo32eediPIhat

underrepresentation in the workforce will not adversely affect any particular individual, certain groups working on initiatives related to the plan can continue to do so, and there was also a budget for the plan.

A motion for the Senate to endorse the EDI Plan, and recommend it to the Board of Governors for endorsement was then put to a vote and adopted.

Senate adjourned at 3:35 pm.

- Senator Peter Grütter will report on the Senate Meeting of 13 May 2020 at a future Faculty meeting.

**17) RESULTS OF SCIENCE ELECTION FOR SENATE**

**S-19-36**

Dean Lennox announced the new Science Senators. He said the terms would begin 1 September 2020, and would end on 31 August 2023.

- Professor Sébastien Breau (Geography)
- Professor Jeffrey McKenzie (Earth & Planetary Sciences)
- Professor Dima Perepichka (Chemistry)
- Professor Martin Robillard (Computer Science)
- Professor Tracy Webb (Physics)

Continuing representatives on Senate, and the number of years they have yet to serve are:

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| • Professor Jacques Hurtubise (Mathematics & Statistics) | - two years |
| • Professor David Stephens (Mathematics & Statistics)    | - one year  |
| • Professor Bettina Kemme (Computer Science)             | - two years |
| • Professor Laura Nilson (Biology)                       | - two years |

Dean Lennox congratulated the new Senators, and thanked the continuing Senators.

**18) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no members' questions.

**20) OTHER BUSINESS**

Dean Lennox thanked everyone for joining the current meeting, and wished everyone a good and healthy summer!

There being no further business, the meeting be adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

**The motion carried.**