FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
5 October 2020 at 3:00 p.m.
Held vi a Zoom Conference Application

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book

DOCUMENTS: S-20-2 (Revised), S -20-3 to S -20-9

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

1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Prof. Chmura moved , seconded by Prof. Western, that the Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

Secretary's Note: Item # 5 of the Agenda should have read Minutes of 8 September 2020 AND RED DEER MUSEUM 2 6 > > C

Prof. Hans Larsson read the following resolution on the death of Prof. Carroll, which

- Aligning with McGill's EDI Strategic Plan (2020-2025), the Action Plan will be oriented along the following five axes

    1. Student Experience
    2. Research & Knowledge
    3. Outreach
    4. Workforce
    5. Physical Space

- In developing the Action Plan, a number of reports and material were developed. There were four Town Halls, two of which were reserved for the Black community at McGill. Additional consultations took place with different groups (Black Students' Network, McGill Black Alumni Association, the Dr. Kenneth Melville McGill Black Faculty Causus etc.),
- For each of the five axes (above), the Action Plan lists the consultations and/or surveys that took place as well as action items that will address different points in each axis and a timeline for achieving them.
- In addition to actions to be taken by the central University, planning at the Faculty and departmental level will contribute to achieving the goals of the plan.

Associate Dean Nilson encouraged members to read the document, which may be found at:
https://www.mcgill.ca/provost/files/provost/action_plan_to_address_anti-black_racism.pdf

Dean Lennox emphasized that this topic was extremely important for everyone. In reply to a question about the Bellairs Research Institute as a site for future research and learning on topics as Barbadian-Canadian relations, slavery, etc., Dean Lennox said that a working group would be organized in future..

12) The New Vic Project - Update

Dean Lennox presented a summary report on The New Vic Project. On 1 September 2020, McGill submitted the feasibility study document to the Government of Québec for approval. The departments involved in the project are Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences, Chemistry, Earth & Planetary Sciences, Geography, and members of the Physics Department who are jointly appointed with the Chemistry Department, as well as some units in the Faculty of Engineering.

Dean Lennox presented with slides the interior and exterior design of the New Vic Project. The new site will include various laboratories (e.g., teaching labs, shared labs used to interact with other lab types), classrooms, reading rooms, large spaces for public lecture events, a large atrium, and much needed space for poster sessions. There will be sustainable walls, as well as Green rooftops for holding classes and social events. Additionally, the new site will house approximately 150 professors and their research groups in the Faculty of Science, and about 50 professors in the Faculty of Arts, and moreover, a large atrium.

The potential released (Science-associated) space includes the Otto Maass and Pulp and Paper Buildings, Frank Dawson Adams, and a great deal of Burnside Hall. A discussion concerning the liberated spaces is forthcoming. However, it is important that the Faculty will be involved in the planning of the released space.

Dean Lennox said that a more in-depth presentation will be held at the Faculty meeting in February 2021, as well as in departments. Construction is projected to begin in 2023 and the New Vic is scheduled to open its doors in 2028. Dean Lennox welcomed any questions, comments, feedback, or concerns from the members of Faculty.

	2019	2020	% Increase	Provost Target	% Target Overshoot
Science Freshmen	1269	1410	11.1	1150	22.6
B.A. & Sc. Freshmen	180	225	25	180	25

There was initial concern that students would be registering for fewer courses in fall 2020, but instead, the numbers have slightly increased and were comparable to fall 2019 in most faculties.

Average number of courses taken by undergraduate students:

	Fall 2019	Fall 2020
Desautels Faculty Management	4.4	4.45
Faculty of Agric Environ Sci	4.59	4.69
Faculty of Arts	4.26	4.34
Faculty of Education	4.57	4.66
Faculty of Engineering	4.71	4.82
Faculty of Science	4.47	4.52

PEMC	473	507	37.3	36
BPC	34	57	2.7	4
BSC-NEUR	32	37	2.5	2.6
PRE-DENT	10	8	0.8	0.6
PRE-MED	72	67	5.7	4.8
Grand Total				

Secretary's Note: On 21 October 2020, McGill confirmed that it has qualified as a Designated Learning Institution and is therefore able to reopen to international students who are currently outside Canada.

d) Associate Dean (Research) John Stix

Associate Dean Stix reported that as part of the COVID-19 economic response plan, the Government of Canada has set up the Canada Emergency Fund for researchers. The program includes several funding stages. The first stage was mainly to cover research-related salary expenses incurred from 15 March 2020 to 29 August 2020. In the current second phase, the expenses are to support: (i) ramping-up of research and (ii) research maintenance costs. Members may reach out to their unit's Chairs/Directors or administrative officers. The deadline for reimbursement requests is 28 October 2020.

Dean Lennox thanked Associate Dean Stix for his report and for the incredible amount of excellent work during these trying times.

14) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD

Although there were no formal questions submitted, Dean Lennox said he would entertain questions.

Responding to a member's question about restarting research activities at the Bellairs Research Institute in Barbados, Dean Lennox said that an official decision had not yet been taken. Due to the travel restrictions and its 14-day self-quarantine requirement, it was unlikely that the Institute would be operational for winter 2021. The Board of Governors will be making a decision at the December 2020 meeting.

15) OTHER BUSINESS

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

The motion carried.