

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Tuesday, May 21, 2013
Redpath Museum Auditorium**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book.

DOCUMENTS: S-12-23 to S-12-32

Dean Grant called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Prof. Bell **moved**, seconded by Prof. Mucci, that the Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

(2) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

a) Faculty of Science Excellence Award

902.1 Prof. Richard Koestner, Chair, said that for the 2012-2013 academic year, the Faculty of Science Excellence Award was given in

The members of the Science Excellence Award Committee were:

Prof. Richard Koestner, Department of Psychology (Chair)
Ms. Ann Jack, School of Computer Science (C)

Ms. Anna McNicoll, Department of Biology (T)
Mr. Richard Talbot, Department of Physics (T)
Ms. Raffaella Bruno, Dept. of Mathematics & Statistics (M)
Mr. Mark Romer, Department of Biology (M)

s were:

Mr. Saveiro Biunno, Department of Physics
Ms. Ornella Cavaliere, Dept. of Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences
Ms. Anne Kosowski, Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences
Ms. Nancy Nelson, Department of Biology

The Faculty of Science wishes to recognize Mr. Saveiro Biunno, Systems Administrator in the Department of Physics, with the Excellence Award for Management. Mr. Biunno was hired in 1971 and he has supervised the undergraduate labs since 1978.

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The committee believes that Mr. Biunno richly deserves this award because of his invaluable contributions to McGill and the Physics department over the last 42 years. He has played a vital role in training generations of students.

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902.2 Dean Grant congratulated Mr. Biunno and presented him with a certificate commemorating his receipt of the Faculty of Science Excellence Award (M).

902.3 Mr. Biunno said he appreciated the award very much, and he thanked the Department of Physics and the Faculty of Science.

b) Leo Yaffe Award

902.4 Prof. Edith Zorychta, Chair, said the Leo Yaffe Award is given each year to recognize a faculty member for superior teaching at the undergraduate level in the Faculty of Science.

Most of the members of the Leo Yaffe Award Committee were former Leo Yaffe Award winners. The members of the Committee were:

Prof. Edith Zorychta, Chair, Department of Pathology

Prof. Christopi.9utcTm[(3tp)4(arf)-6(t t)4h, DTartment ofC(i.9u(m)-21(i)5(s)-5((r)-15(y)) TJETBT1 0 0 1 469

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(2)

Associate Dean Hendren went over the changes to the BIOL 319/PHYS 319 double-prefix course.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Jeon, that the course be approved.

The motion carried.

(4) B.A. & Sc.

(4) Pharmacology & Therapeutics

- Major in Pharmacology
- Honours in Pharmacology

AC-12-75
AC-12-76

906.3

Associate Dean Hendren described the changes and the rationale for them. She added that while consultation reports did not object to the addition of courses to the programs, it had been pointed out that many of the courses were already full.

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

The motion carried.

(5)

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Prof. Bruce Lennox was stepping down after 12 years, to be replaced by Prof. Masad Damha.

Earth & Planetary Sciences

Prof. Andrew Hynes was leaving the post after 3 years, and would be replaced by Prof. Alfonso Mucci.

Physics

Prof. Charles Gale, after 8 years, would be replaced by Prof. Peter Grütter.

Dean Grant also announced that Prof. Peter Grütter would be replaced as **Associate Dean (Research and Graduate Education)** by Prof. Vicky Kaspi from the Department of Physics.

On behalf of the Faculty, Dean Grant thanked the outgoing people, and wished a warm welcome to their replacements.

d) Programme for the Tomlinson Project

907.3 Prof. David N. Harpp, Chair of the Tomlinson Project in Science Undergraduate Education, said that after a period of dormancy, he would like to revive the Tomlinson Project. The Tomlinson Project was originally started around 2001, and its first Chair had been Prof. Brian Alters, who has since left the University. There had been problems in finding a replacement, but now Prof. Harpp himself had been named Chair.

907.4 Prof. Harpp said that he had spent the last several months devising directions the Project could take. Unfortunately, due to the economic downturn, less money was now available than previously.

907.5 He said that a principal focus would be on undergraduate peer teaching, which he believed had great potential. He had become involved in undergraduate peer teaching about four years earlier, regarding the World of Chemistry courses. A number of undergraduates who had achieved high marks in the courses and who were outgoing and motivated, had been recruited to lead discussion groups with students currently taking the World of Chemistry courses. The groups met in various rooms during the late afternoon.

907.6 Prof. Harpp said he would like to introduce Tomlinson Teaching Awards, which would provide undergraduates a stipend (\$100 - \$300) for their work in peer teaching. Such students would be able to record their experience on their C.V.s. Although he did not wish to commit to hard numbers, probably more than 100 students could be involved in this in the first year.

907.7 There were in the Faculty of Science around 50 courses with enrolments of more than 300 students, and a1 04()-94(i)5(n)-9(5587 36.32T5(ng)-7(.)-10()-131()-131(S).69 Tm[5(esn)4(c)-5(eTB

907.9 Another Tomlinson Project possibility would be to provide money (of the order of \$1000) to allow professors to engage students in small projects.

907.10

The Senate meeting of March 20th opened as does every other Senate meeting with the Report of the Steering Committee, Adoption of the Agenda, and the Ch

The Principal announced that Dr. Suzanne Fortier, the outgoing President of NSERC, was going to be the next Principal and Vice Chancellor of McGill University. This was not a surprise to any of the Senators. She reviewed the cuts to Quebec universities as of remarks with kudos.

question dealt with the serious and important issue of Student Mental Health. The Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning) answered the question outlining the services that are available for students, recognizing there is a problem with counseling wait times and talked about a number of initiatives such as creating more groups for depression and anxiety disorders and the de-stress sessions for the examinations. He is convening a Mental Health Review Work Group to look at access to services and enhancing student mental well-being.

Senator Lu asked a question about how McGill University decided to join massive open online courses or MOOCs, given she did not think Senate approved the idea. This was an interesting set of exchanges that debated the role of Senate and the role of the Administration in decisions affecting the University. It boiled down to Senate provides endorsement for initiatives in the broad sense that affect the academic nature of the institution and specific approvals to the academic means by approving providing courses and programs, while the Administration administers the University. Any specific MOOC will have to go through the regular academic approval process, of which Senate is the final body of approval. I think this was a healthy debate. There was a second related question on the spec very clear that it is the Administration responsibility to negotiate partnerships, not Senate, and that the Administration was in discussion with edX before the discussion at Senate. There were issues of confidentiality and announcement embargos that prohibited the Provost from speaking about speaking specifically about the discussion with edX at the time. He pointed out that this is often the case with operating the University.

The questions concluded with a question on the composition and qualification of Senate which was answered by Secretary General Strople with his normal elocution, and in typical Senate fashion has been referred to the Senate Nominating committee to propose terms of reference and membership for a review committee on the composition and qualifications of Senate. This does not mean the review committee will be struck it means it will be discussed at Nominating.

Part B of Senate started with an open discussion on professorial/student interactions facilitated by Senators Mendelson, Mooney and our very own Professor Harp. Mendelson presented the results of student surveys that showed McGill was average. There appears to be little interaction in large classes and progressively greater levels of interaction in later years. A startling finding! Various Senators spoke on ways to increase interactions such as getting undergraduates involved in research activities, mentoring, and breaking large classes down into smaller study groups. The discussion then shifted to supervisor graduate student relationships. After some discussion a Dean familiar to us all offered that this requires coordination among Chairs, Graduate Directors and GPS.

Professor Lydia White, Associate Provost (Policies, Procedures and Equity), presented a detailed description on the Revisions to the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary

Senate then heard the reports of APC and the Nominating Committee and approved all items brought forward.

There was then a motion on the Statement of Principles Concerning Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Peaceful Assembly that was, after considerable discussion, again lively and somewhat animated, approved in its original form. The precise text of the Statement is in document D12-51 for the March 20th Senate meeting. This was followed by a related presentation for information by Mr. Michael Di Grappa, Vice Principal (Administration and Finance) on the Operating Procedures Regarding Demonstrations, Protests and Occupations on McGill University Campuses.

Senate concluded with a brief report from the Advisory Council on the Charter of Student Rights and much to the disappointment of all, the information update on ASAP 2012 implementation was tabled until the next Senate meeting.

Senate was adjourned at around quarter to six it seemed much longer than that!

- Senate Meeting of April 17, 2013: Prof. Graham Bell

There will be no Report on the Senate Meeting of April 17, 2013.

- Senate Meeting of May 15, 2013: Prof. Gregory Dudek

There will be no written Report on the Senate Meeting of April 17, 2013.

(10)

There were no members' questions.

(11) OTHER BUSINESS

911.1

Dean Grant invited members to attend the first annual Faculty of Science Anthony Kiang Recognition Event in Thomson House. He said that it was the only endowed celebratory event for support staff that he knew of in any university.

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