

FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Tuesday, October 18, 2011
Leacock Council Room – L232

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book.

DOCUMENTS: S-10-37, S-10-38 S-11-1 to S-11-11

Dean Grant called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., and welcomed members to the first Faculty of

The following recently tenured professors and recently promoted full professors were acknowledged, and introduced if present at the meeting

Chemistry	Associate Professor Gonzalo COSA
Chemistry	Associate Professor Anthony MITTERMAIER
Geography	Associate Professor Benjamin FOREST
Geography	Associate Professor Navin RAMANKUTTY
Physics	Associate Professor Matt DOBBS
Psychology	Associate Professor Heungsun HWANG

Chemistry	Professor Youla TSANTRIZOS
Chemistry	Professor Hanadi SLEIMAN
Chemistry	Professor Bruce ARNDTSEN
Geography	Professor Oliver COOMES
Geography	Professor Wayne POLLARD

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Dean Grant said that the Report of the Committee on Student Standing would be considered under Item #7, Reports of Committees.

Prof. Moore moved , seconded by Prof. Zuroff, that the amended Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried .

(2) RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF J. BRIAN BIRD, PROFESSOR OF GEOGRAPHY

Prof. Tim Moore, Chair of the Department of Geography, read the Resolution on the Death of Professor J. Brian Bird.

It is with regret that I must inform Faculty that Professor J. Brian Bird passed away on August 20, 2011, at his Fitch Bay home.

Born in Birmingham, England in 1923, Brian Bird was a student at Cambridge University, whose education was interrupted by the Second World War. He served as a Captain in the Royal marines from 1942 to 1945 and completed his B.A. degree in Geography in 1947 and M.A. degree in 1949. He moved to Canada in 1947, first as Lecturer at the University of Toronto and then as an Assistant Professor of Geography at McGill University in 1950, being promoted to Associate and Full Professor in 1954 and 1961, respectively.

At McGill in the 1950s and 1960s, he was one of a group of faculty responsible for forging the very high reputation of the Department of Geography. He taught physical geography, supervised 35 Masters and Ph.D. theses and conducted field-work primarily in the Canadian Arctic, southern Canada and Barbados, mainly from the perspective of geomorphology and how that fashioned the landscapes we see today. The research generated numerous papers and monographs and two books, one on the Physiography of the Canadian Arctic and the other on the Natural Landscapes of Canada.

Brian Bird also played a key role in the development of Geography at McGill, Canada and internationally. He served as Chair of Geography from 1967 to 1974 and from 1980 to 1987, and was instrumental in establishing the McGill network of field stations at arctic Axel Heiberg, subarctic Schefferville and tropical Barbados, which continue to today. He was a founding member of the Canadian Association of Geographers, served as President in 1958-1959 and was honoured with its Award for Service to the Profession of Geography. He was active in the organization of the International Geographical Congress held in Montreal in 1972 and served on numerous Canadian and international commissions.

He was a strong, rugged character who provided clear leadership, was caring and supportive of his colleagues and firmly nurtured the development of Geography and McGill University.

During the 1950s and 1960s, Brian was involved in the McGill Geography Department summer school based at Stanstead College, Québec. From this experience grew Brian's fondness for the region. In 1974 he purchased a country home in Fitch Bay and spent much of his time there enjoying vegetable gardening.

The Faculty of Science and the wider academic community extend deep condolences to Prof. Bird's children, Colin, Neil and Joanne.

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

(3) SEATING OF STUDENT MEMBERS S-11-1

Dean Grant welcomed the student members, and asked them to introduce themselves.

(4) CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

104.1 Director Allard thanked everyone involved with the graduation process.

a) Bachelor of Arts and Science S-11-2

104.2 Director Allard said that there were 9 students currently graduating with the B.A. & Sc. degree, whereas there had been 15 students in October 2010.

Director Allard moved, seconded by Prof. Zuroff, that the above degree list be recommended to the Senate Steering Committee for the Bachelor of Arts and Science degree.

The motion carried.

b) Bachelor of Science S-11-3

104.3 There were 86 students approved for graduation. There were 88 students in October 2010.

Director Allard moved, seconded by Prof. Franklin, that the above degree list be recommended to the Senate Steering Committee for the Bachelor of Science degree.

The motion carried.

c) Diploma in Environment S-11-4

d) Diploma in Meteorology

S-11-5

104.4

There were no candidates for the Diploma in Environment or the Diploma in Meteorology.

Director Allard further moved , seconded by Prof. Zuroff, that the Dean be given

The Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Education serves as the Chair of the Scholarships Committee.

7. Leo Yaffe & Principal's Prizes Committee (for approval):

The Leo Yaffe and Principal's Prizes Committee recommends candidates for these awards for excellence in teaching.

8. Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (for approval):

Representatives of all faculties sit on the Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

9. B.A. & Sc. Program Administration Committee (for approval):

The B.A. & Sc. PAC reviews changes and coordinates the administration of the B.A. &

The motion carried.

- 2) Pharmacology & Therapeutics
- Major in Pharmacology
- Honours in Pharmacology

AC-11-4
AC-11-5

107.5 Associate Dean Hendren described the revisions to the Major and Honours Programs in Pharmacology.

107.6 There was a question regarding whether CHEM 503 could be added to the programs. Associate Dean Hendren suggested that the proposals be voted on as is, and that she would check with the relevant departments to see if they agreed to the addition of CHEM 503. If the departments agreed, Associate Dean Hendren would add CHEM 503 to both programs without the need for the proposals to go back to the Academic Committee.

107.7 Associate Dean Hendren moved, seconded by Mr. Blayney, that the changes be approved, and that Associate Dean Hendren be given discretionary power to add CHEM 503 after consultation with the departments.

The motion carried.

Secretary's Note: The Department of Chemistry and the Department of Pharmacology & Therapeutics agreed to the addition of CHEM 503 in the list of Complementary Courses for the Major and Honours Programs in Pharmacology.

undergraduates and beginning graduate students. The GIGS would be based around a topic. The proposed topic for January was Entrepreneurship. There would be about 10 lectures over the term. Associate Dean Hendren said that the aim was to have one or two GIGS courses in Winter 2012, and to hold more beginning in the Fall. She asked members to let her know about possible topics and whether members would be willing to host GIGS.

Associate Dean Hendren moved, seconded by Mr. Verma, that the Graduate Interest Groups be adopted.

The motion carried.

SECTION D: OTHER (For Information Only)

- | | | |
|--------|---|----------|
| 1) | Zero Enrolment Science Courses | AC-11-12 |
| 107.10 | Associate Dean Hendren said that the administration had sent to the Faculty a list of Science courses that had had zero enrolment over the previous five years. The Faculty had been asked to retire unneeded courses. Units had been sent a list of their courses, and asked to retire or keep courses as appropriate. The Faculty would compile a list of these and send it to the administration. Associate Dean Hendren added that it was a good thing to tidy up unneeded courses from time to time. | |
| 2) | Computer Science B.A. Program Changes:
- Supplementary Minor Concentration in Computer Science
- Major Concentration in Computer Science | |
| d) | Committee on Student Standing | S-11-9 |
| 107.11 | Director Allard said that there had been one request, namely, to have a grade removed from a student's CGPA. The request had been denied. | |
| (8) | <u>DEAN'S BUSINESS</u> | |

(i) Biological, Biomedical and Life Sciences (BBL) group — students planning to major in the Departments of Anatomy & Cell Biology, Biochemistry, Biology, Microbiology & Immunology, Physiology or Psychology.

(ii) Physical, Earth, Math and Computer Science (PEMC) group — students planning to major in the remainder of the units in Science.

(iii) Education group — students planning to take the concurrent B.Sc./B.Ed. (Science for teachers) program. Since the B.Sc./B.Ed. is to be retired in 2012, the 2011-2012 year will be the last year in which students are admitted to this group.

- 108.5 At the end of the freshman year, students can freely choose a program from within their group, apply for an intrafaculty transfer to change groups, or apply to Microbiology & Immunology or Neuroscience.
- 108.6 Incoming CEGEP students are able to choose from any of the three groups, or apply to the Microbiology & Immunology or Neuroscience programs. Students can freely change majors within their group or change groups via an intrafaculty transfer.
- 108.7 Associate Dean Hendren said that the CEGEP cut-offs for all admission groups were very high and respectable. She added that for the last several years the cut-offs for the BBL and Microbiology & Immunology pools had been the same, so she was intending to merge those two groups.
- 108.8 Regarding admissions from Ontario and the rest-of-Canada high schools, the cut-offs for the BBL group were extremely high - too high. The cut-offs for the PEMC group and for the B.A. & Sc. were both high, but acceptably high.
- 108.9 Associate Dean Hendren said that the reason for the higher cut-offs in the BBL, Microbiology & Immunology, and Neuroscience groups, is that there is more interest among students in majoring in these areas. The groups were introduced with the aim of balancing enrolment more evenly across the Faculty of Science, and the last three years had seen an increase in PEMC enrolment in U0, from 19% to 30%. She said that 40% would be a good target.
- 108.10 She said that PEMC registrations could be increased, (1) through recruitment activities, particularly in Ontario and rest-of-Canada high schools, (2) by enabling and encouraging intra-faculty transfers to the PEMC pool, especially at the end of the U0 year, (3) by interesting pre-medical students in the PEMC majors and joint majors, and by emphasizing the Interdisciplinary Life Sciences Minor for PEMC students.
- 108.11 Associate Dean Hendren said that admissions to both the B.Sc. and the B.A. & Sc. for the current year were very close to the Faculty's target admissions.
- 108.12 Since 2004, the number of Science students had increased by 21% and the number of U0 students by 27%.
- 108.13 Interfaculty transfers into the B.Sc. were healthy, but too many students were transferring out of the B.A. & Sc.
- 108.14 Associate Dean Hendren summed up by listing a number of points to consider:
- x The high school pool historical yield was not very good at predicting future yields, and a more agile admission process was needed.
 - x A better way of predicting the fraction of applicants over a given threshold was needed.

