

FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
Meeting of Faculty  
Tuesday, 20 October, 2015  
Leacock Council Room - L232

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book

DOCUMENTS: S-15-4 to S-15-11

Dean Lennox welcomed members to the second Faculty of Science meeting of the year. The research presentations would be given by Prof. Natalya Gomez , Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, and Prof. Anna Weinberg , Department of Psychology, two new hires in the Faculty of Science. Dean Lennox said that he was sure that research connections would be made as a result of the presentations.

After the presentations, Dean Lennox thanked Prof. Gomez and Prof. Weinberg for their interesting and informative talks.

1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Amendment of Agenda: Addition of Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List (DMURL) as item 7(d), Dean's Business.

Prof. Mucci moved , seconded by Prof. Harpp, that the amended Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

2) RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR ROBERT MARCHESSAULT,  
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

202.1 Prof. David Harpp from the Department of Chemistry, read the resolution on the Death of Professor Robert Marchessault.

Dear colleagues of the Faculty,

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Professor Robert ('Bob')



To Mary, his wife of 63 years, whose love and support he cherished to the end, and to their 6 children, Robert, Nicole, Claude, Janine, Kim and Pierre, ten grandchildren, and other members of his family, we offer our heartfelt sympathy. May all of us here at McGill be comforted by the knowledge that Bob left an impressive mark on campus by his scholarship, his early and passionate vision of green and sustainable industry in Canada, and the role he played in the education of students at McGill and elsewhere for over 50 years.

202.2 Dean Lennox said that he would consider the resolution as being adopted unanimously.

202.3 Dean Lennox said that Prof. Marchessault was a true giant in the Canadian context, and was also well known worldwide.

3) CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

- a) Bachelor of Arts and Science S-15-5
- b) Bachelor of Science S-15-6

203.1 Director Allard said that there nine candidates for the B.A. & Sc. and 70 for the B.Sc. These numbers were very similar to those of the previous year.

Director Allard moved , seconded by Prof. Roulet, that the candidates for the B.A. & Sc. and the B.Sc. be approved for their respective degrees.

The motion carried.

- c) Diploma in Environment S-15-7



- (3) PHYSICS
- |          |                                    |           |
|----------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| PHYS 101 | Intro Physics Mechanics            | (AC-15-5) |
|          | Change in description              |           |
|          | 3 credits                          |           |
| PHYS 102 | Intro Physics-Electromagnetism     | (AC-15-6) |
|          | Change in description              |           |
|          | 3 credits                          |           |
| PHYS 131 | Mechanics and Waves                | (AC-15-7) |
|          | Changes: description, restrictions |           |
|          | 3 credits                          |           |
| PHYS 142 | Electromagnetism & Optics          | (AC-15-8) |
|          | Changes: description, restrictions |           |
|          | 3 credits                          |           |

206.5 Associate Dean Western said that PHYS 101 and PHYS 102, and PHYS 131 and PHYS 142, formed pairs of courses. The changes made it easier for students to switch between course pairs. Some restrictions were also updated.

Associate Dean Western moved , seconded by Prof. Ragan, that the above changes be approved.

The motion carried.

- (4) ANATOMY & CELL BIOLOGY
- |            |                             |           |
|------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| - ANAT 381 | Experimental Embryology     | (AC-15-9) |
|            | Changes: title, restriction |           |
|            | 3 credits                   |           |

206.6 Associate Dean Western said the title better reflected the course content as taught. The restriction would now prevent students from taking a course with substantial overlap, BIOL 303.

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

The motion carried.

- (5) BIOCHEMISTRY - *For Information Only:*
- |            |  |            |
|------------|--|------------|
| - BIOC 670 | Biochemistry of Lipoproteins                       | (AC-15-10) |
|            | Changes: renumbered from BIOC 570;                 |            |
|            | administering faculty, prerequisites, restrictions |            |

206.7 Associate Dean Western explained that the number change was done in conjunction with the previous year's creation of BIOC 470. There would now be distinct graduate and undergraduate courses in lipoproteins. Because BIOC 670 is a graduate course in the Faculty of Medicine, it is not for approval by the Faculty of Science.

7) DEAN'S BUSINESS

a) Announcements

- i. Dean Lennox introduced Prof. Laura Nilson, Department of Biology, as the newly appointed Associate Dean (Graduate Education).

Associate Dean Nilson said that she had been Associate Dean in the Office of

2016 on approval of Letters of Intent. The Faculty of Science had taken the lead on behalf of seven faculties in submitting to McGill a project involving Sustainability, Sciences and Technologies. This project was not however selected by McGill to go forward to the national competition; a proposal based on Neuroscience will go forward. The Neuroscience project does however involve several departments in the Faculty of Science. Furthermore, the experience gained in submitting the Sustainability project will be used in future research by units in the Faculty.

b) Budget

207.1 Dean Lennox said that the Faculty of Science was in the initial stages of putting together a Faculty-Central Administration agreement regarding the budget. Additionally, he had attended a meeting of departmental administrative assistants/officers in which they made a start in discussing creative ways of staffing to deal with the coming budget cuts. He said that these were not going to be reversible cuts, but rather that in the future the Faculty would have smaller staffing. The Faculty would have to cope with smaller number of administrative and support staff. Every effort will be made to retain the best talent, even in the face of budget cuts.

c) Enrolment - Associate Dean Tamara Western

S-15-10

207.2 Associate Dean Western summarized the admiss

- 207.9 Another statistic tracked is yield — the percentage of offers made that are accepted. For students from CEGEPs, both the total number of applications and the yield have decreased. This has been shared with some other faculties, such as Arts. However, while the applications and yields for BBL had decreased, those for PEMC had actually increased.
- 207.10 Total registrations for U0, U1, U2, U3 were very close to those of the previous year. The U0 load (students taught in Freshman courses) was at a manageable level. It is important to keep a close eye on this figure to ensure that it doesn't increase too much.
- 207.11 Regarding interfaculty transfers, similar numbers of students transferred into the B.Sc. as transferred out. For the B.A. & Sc., there was more movement out than in, largely to the Faculty of Arts and to the B.Sc. in the Faculty of Science.
- 207.12 More students come into the BBL than the PEMC group, although the number in the PEMC group is increasing, currently being a little over 30%; 40% would be a good target.
- 207.13 January admissions are only for CEGEP students and McGill graduates seeking a second degree. Admissions in January are only into the PEMC group.
- 207.14 Several things to consider for the future:  
 Try to obtain more CEGEP applicants. Should the cut-off be lowered? Should CEGEP recruitment be increased?  
 Promote the PEMC group. Increase recruitment into PEMC? Inform students that medical-school admission from PEMC is possible?  
 Work on ensuring a high-quality of international students.
- 207.15 In reply to a member's question, Associate Dean Western said that students who turn down admission to McGill often have many other choices, and that they are specifically asked why they refused McGill. She would be contacting the Planning and Institutional Analysis Office for information.
- 207.16 In response to a member who asked about a breakdown of admissions into anglophone and francophone CEGEPs, Associate Dean Western said that she had asked the Director of Admissions about this, and the Director was going to see if that information could be shared.
- 207.17 In reply to a member, Director Allard said that while the Faculty of Science offers to visit CEGEPs more than once a year, the CEGEPs wish to restrict recruitment visits.
- 207.18 Dean Lennox said it might be possible to put a greater effort into McGill's Open House.
- Dean Lennox thanked Associate Dean Western for her informative presentation. He said that it was important to look at trends, and also to make sure to have large numbers of students from Québec.

d) Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List (DMURL)

S-15-11

- 207.19 Director Allard said that the DMURL provides recognition for students who have completed at least 9 credits of graded research-based courses in at least two different units, and who have a minimum GPA of 3.00 on these courses.
- Director Allard moved, seconded by Prof. Harpp, that the candidates on the DMURL be approved.

The motion carried.

8) REPORTS OF ASSOCIATE DEANS

b) Associate Dean Doina Precup - Research

- 208.9 Associate Dean Precup said that the NSERC RTI selection had been completed. There were 20 applications for 14 slots for the Faculty of Science.
- 208.10 The NSERC Discovery Grant deadline will be the following week.
- 208.11 Associate Dean Precup emphasized that it was a very good idea to have grants reviewed by colleagues before submission.
- 208.12 The details of the upcoming CFI process will be announced in a couple of weeks. Anyone with suggestions for projects should contact her. Every effort would be made to maximize prospects for success in the proposals.
- 208.13 In the next couple of months, information sessions will be organized concerning CIHR grants. The sessions will be targeted to members of the Faculty of Science.
- 208.14 The deadline for nominations for Fellows of the Royal Society is approaching. Associate Dean Precup asked members to contact her if they had anyone in mind for a nomination.
- 208.15 The Committee on Innovation looks at issues involving IP and entrepreneurship. There are educational programs for undergraduate and graduate students regarding entrepreneurship. There may be improvements to IP policies at McGill.
- 208.16 Dean Lennox said that with the intensification of competition for grants, there was now a tendency on the part of reviewers to look for flaws rather than the positive. He reiterated Associate Dean Precup's advice to have grant applications, including particularly the Discovery applications, reviewed by colleagues before submission.
- 208.17 Regarding CFI grants, Dean Lennox said that while the Faculty is on time, he wanted to emphasize that the process should be done thoroughly, with due vetting to ensure submission of the best applications possible.

Dean Lennox thanked Associate Dean Precup for all her information.

9) REPORTS ON ACTIONS OF SENATE

Senate Meeting of 24 September 2015 – Prof. D.N. Harpp

The following is a brief summary of the Senate meeting that took place on 24 September 2015.

As a point of business arising from the last Senate meeting, it was announced that in the winter 2016 session of Senate there would be an open discussion on the subject of employment equity.

Principal Fortier indicated that the Faculty of Medicine has been re-accredited but has been put on probation by the accrediting body. Dean Eidelman provided an update on the situation indicating that much homework remains to be done on dealing in a proper way with several administrative issues, notably as pertains to the Curriculum Committee. The Faculty needs to submit a report by December 1, 2016, and the Faculty hopes to be off probation in the Spring of 2017.

Principal Fortier reported that the Administration has been continuing discussions with

the Quebec government on the future of the site currently occupied by the Royal Victoria Hospital. McGill and the government will be funding studies (\$4M each) on the feasibility of converting the site for use by McGill; a call for tenders for this study will go out soon.