

## MINUTES

### MEETING OF THE FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

The November 16, 2018 meeting of Staff of the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, held in R3-048, was called to order at 2:30 p.m. with Professor Cue in the Chair and Professor Akbarzadeh as Secretary.

The Staff Meeting was followed by the Faculty Meeting with Dean Geitmann in the Chair.

Attendance: As recorded on the Faculty Meeting attendance sheet.

Regrets: As recorded on the Faculty Meeting attendance sheet.

#### 3.01 Adoption of the Agenda

Senate Report - to be presented by Professor Bayen

Professor Fyles moved adoption of the Agenda, as modified, seconded by Professor Jabaji.

**CARRIED**

#### 3.02 Minutes of the meeting of October 19, 2018.

There were no corrections.

A motion to adopt the minutes was made by Professor Dumont seconded by Professor Jabaji.

**CARRIED**

#### 3.04 Business arising from the minutes of the October 19, 2018 meeting.

There was no business arising.

#### 3.05 Committee Reports to Faculty

##### **a. Academic Program Committee – D1695 – Professor Scott**

Professor Scott presented the report, D1695, from the FAPC meeting of October 29th.

Professor Scott moved adoption of two course revisions in the Department of Natural Resource Sciences, WILD 420, Ornithology – supplementary calendar info and NRSC 614, Special Topics 7 – this is a transition from a course that is not being offered anymore.

**CARRIED**

Professor Scott moved adoption of a new course in the Department of Plant Science, PLNT 430, Pesticides in Agriculture.

**CARRIED**

Professor Scott moved adoption of two program revisions in the McGill School of Environment, Diploma in Environment and the B.Sc. (Ag.Env.Sc.), Minor in Environment.

**CARRIED**

Professor Scott explained that since programs in the MSE effectively relate to three different faculties, Arts, Science and our faculty, any changes in the program of one faculty has to be transmitted to the other faculties for information and equivalent changes. Therefore the B.Sc., Minor Environment and the B. Arts, Minor Concentration Environment have equivalent changes.

Professor Scott moved adoption of Guidelines on Level and Prerequisites for Undergraduate Courses. This is a series of guidelines for course levels and recommendations for pre requisites. This is to get clarity on how different course levels are interpreted and our expectations in regards to pre requisites. All academic units are asked to review these guidelines with respect to their courses. For courses where the level or suggested pre-requisites are not consistent with these guidelines, the instructor is asked to consider submitting a course revision.

**CARRIED**

Professor Scott had two other items for information purposes, one is the report on the FMT program which we were requested to obtain and send down town which has been done and the other is information on a workshop in the School of Continuing Studies: Block Chain Enabled Food Supply Chain: Preparing for the Disruption.

Ms. Major pointed out that the Block Chain course has been postponed to November 30<sup>th</sup> due to low enrollment. Professor George said at the moment the enrollment was so low that the course might not take place.

Professor Scott moved adoption of her report.

**CARRIED**

**b. Academic Standing Committee – D1696 – Professor Cherestes**

Professor Cherestes moved, seconded by Mr. Enright that the meeting move into closed session.

Professor Cherestes presented the Academic Standing Committee report, D1696.

Professor Cherestes moved, seconded by Mr. Enright that the meeting return to open session.

**CARRIED**

Professor Cherestes moved acceptance of her report.

**CARRIED**

### **3.06 Senate Report – Professor Bayen**

Professor Bayen reported on the October 24th Senate Meeting on behalf of Professor Goodridge.

A copy of the report is on file in the Dean's Office.

Professor Ngadi brought up the fact that McGill puts a lot of emphasis on rankings and is consumed with how we rank amongst our peers in Canada but the fact is that we seem to be slipping steadily in the international rankings from 14<sup>th</sup> at one point to 44<sup>th</sup>. We are losing ground and he wondered if this was something that has come up in Senate.

Professor Bayen said that the Principal was not present at this Senate meeting but had sent the highlights to be read out at the meeting. However at other Senate meetings the Principal always urges on caution as to how we interpret the rankings. As far as Professor Bayen was aware he didn't think that the trend had been discussed at Senate. Professor Ngadi felt very strongly that this topic should be discussed as to why this was happening. He said that just boasting about how we are doing in Canada is not going to cut it when clearly we are losing ground internationally. Professor Singh reiterated the same point.

Professor Bayen said he would take it into advisement and work with other senators to see how they could pose this as a question.

Professor Bayen moved acceptance of his report.

**CARRIED**

### **3.07 Other Business**

#### **a) Dean's Report**

Dean Geitmann began with kudos, she congratulated Professor Dumont and Professor Qi for getting tenure back in August followed by

Congratulations to Ian Strachan (together with colleagues from Science, the University of Waterloo and the University of Alberta) for receiving an award of \$1.4M NSERC-CRD, which is a collaborative research and development award.

Congratulations to Professor Saji George who just obtained his CRC Tier II Chair.

The Dean then shared that we recently had a staff relations party to honour staff members who had recently retired or are about to retire. The members from support staff that retired recently are Lynn Bachand, Yvon Ducas, Gary Murch, James Ranjitsingh and Fern Ship. Two Professors, Tim Johns and Louise Thibault retired recently as well. The Dean said she hopes to see them back occasionally.

The members who will be retiring at the end of the calendar year are Professors Danielle Donnelly, Tim Geary and Humberto Monardes and at the end of January, a colleague, Peter Knox, who has been at Mac for almost half a century, will be retiring as well.

Dean Geitmann highlighted recent events that had taken place, we had a Scholastic Reception where students that received scholarships, as well as the donors who contributed financially to these scholarships were invited. Many faculty were there as well. The Dean thanked everyone that attended.

We also marked Remembrance Day with an annual ceremony, it was the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Armistice. All the West Island veterans were invited. The ceremony is co-organized by John Abbott College, Macdonald High School and ourselves. It was very well attended and was a very touching ceremony.

Dean Geitmann reported that she had recently gone on a trip to the United Arab Emirates along with a McGill delegation that included two other Deans, the Provost and a member of graduate studies. This was supported by the Crown Prince Court of Abu Dhabi. The purpose of the trip was to canvas ties in the Middle East and diversify after the problems with the Saudi Government. They met with four or five universities and the Dean met with alumni as well.

Dean Geitmann concluded her report with information about the Master Planning exercise which is on going, there have been group meetings held recently on our campus. The Dean thanked everyone that participated and said she was looking forward to the report. The Master Plan group met with John Abbott College recently. In January, there are plans to have town hall type events or information booths as well as an on-line presence.

3.08 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Professor Ngadi seconded by Professor Jabaji.

**CARRIED**

3.08 The Faculty meeting followed with Dean Geitmann in the Chair.

A motion to ratify the business at the Staff Meeting was proposed by Professor Scott seconded by Professor Singh.

**CARRIED**

3.10 There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 15h10.