FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Tuesday, December 7, 2004
Leacock Council Room - L232

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book.

DOCUMENTS: S-04-17, S-04-18, AC-04-34(Rev)

Dean Shaver called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

The motion carried.

(2) MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 9, 2004 **S-04-17**

Prof. GowriSankaran **moved**, seconded by Prof. Baines, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

(3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

(4) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

a) **Academic Committee** **S-04-18**

SECTION A: NEW PROGRAMS - None

SECTION B: MAJOR PROGRAM CHANGES

(1) B.A. & Sc.
- Faculty Program in Cognitive Science **AC-04-48**

Prof. Donderi **moved**, seconded by Mr. Pasternak, that the program changes be approved.

The motion carried.

(2) PSYCHOLOGY
- Honours in Psychology **AC-04-62**

Prof. Shultz **moved**, seconded by Prof. Nader, that the program changes be approved.

The motion carried.

SECTION C: NEW COURSES

(1) ATMOSPHERIC & OCEANIC SCIENCES
ATOC 240 Science of Storms **AC-04-42**
3 credits

Prof. Gyakum **moved**, seconded by Prof. Lin, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

(2) PHYSICS

PHYS 202 Everyday Phys: A Baker's Dozen **AC-04-43**
3 credits

Prof. Grant **moved**, seconded by Prof. Wiseman, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

PHYS 478 Short Research Project **AC-04-44**
1 credit

Prof. Wiseman **moved**, seconded by Prof. Grant, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

(3) B.A. & Sc.

COGS 401 Research Cognitive Science 1 **AC-04-46**
6 credits
COGS 402 Research Cognitive Science 2 **AC-04-47**
6 credits

Prof. Shultz **moved**, seconded by Prof. Nader, that the courses be adopted.

The motion carried.

(4) PSYCHOLOGY

PSYC 329 Intro. to Auditory Cognition **AC-04-49**
3 credits

Prof. Shultz **moved**, seconded by Prof. Nader, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

PSYC 537 Adv Seminar in Psych of Lang **AC-04-50**
3 credits

Prof. Nader **moved**, seconded by Prof. Shultz, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

(5) COMPUTER SCIENCE/MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS

COMP 552/MATH 552 Combinatorial Optimization **AC-04-63/AC-04-64**
4 credits

Prof. GowriSankaran **moved**, seconded by Prof. Schmidt, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

(6) MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS

MATH 590 Advanced Set Theory **AC-04-65**
4 credits

Prof. Schmidt **moved**, seconded by Prof. GowriSankaran, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

(7) COMPUTER SCIENCE

COMP 649	Quantum Cryptography 4 credits	**AC-04-69**

Prof. Panangaden **moved**, seconded by Mr. Pasternak, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

SECTION D: MAJOR COURSE CHANGES

PSYCHOLOGY

PSYC 395	Psychology Research Project 1 Change in credit weight (from 3 to 6)	**AC-04-52**
PSYC 450	Research Project and Seminar Change in credit weight (from 6 to 9)	**AC-04-53**
PSYC 494	Psychology Research Project Change in credit weight (from 6 to 9)	**AC-04-54**
PSYC 495	Psychology Research Project 2 Change in credit weight (from 3 to 6)	**AC-04-55**
PSYC 496	Senior Honours Research 1 Change in credit weight (from 3 to 6)	**AC-04-56**
PSYC 497	Senior Honours Research 2 Change in credit weight (from 3 to 6)	**AC-04-57**
PSYC 498	Senior Honours Research Change in credit weight (from 6 to 9)	**AC-04-58**
PSYC 380	Honours Research Project Sem. **AC-04-59** Changes in title & credit weight(from 6 to 9)	

Prof. Shultz **moved**, seconded by Prof. Nader, that the above changes be approved.

The motion carried.

SECTION E: MINOR COURSE CHANGES (For Information Only)

Report on Minor Course Changes **AC-04-41**

SECTION F: MINOR PROGRAM CHANGES (For Information Only)

Report on Minor Program Changes **AC-04-P3**

SECTION G: OTHER (For Information Only)

Academic Program Review Process **AC-04-35**
- Detailed Procedural Guidelines **AC-04-36**

404.1 Associate Dean Mendelson said that, as mentioned at the last Faculty meeting, there would be a review of all academic programs in the university over the next two years. In each faculty, the process would be overseen by a Faculty Review Group.

404.2 For the Faculty of Science, the members of the Faculty Review Group were:

Associate Dean Mendelson (Chair)
D. Baker (Earth & Planetary Sciences)
R. Harris (Physics)
B. Kemme (Computer Science)
R. Levine (Biology)
C. Mandato (Anatomy & Cell Biology)
A. Wechsler (Physiology)
C. Lee (undergraduate student member)
TBA (graduate student member)

404.3 Associate Dean Mendelson said that the Faculty Review Group would be meeting until the review was completed, and would be reporting periodically to the Faculty.

b) Other Reports or Academic Business

- Report on Online Course Evaluations - Associate Dean Mendelson
AC-04-34(REV)

404.4 Associate Dean Mendelson said that the Report had been approved by the Academic Committee, and was now being brought to Faculty for approval. The Report consisted of two parts:

A. Accessibility of Course Evaluation Results to the McGill Community

B. McGill On-Line Evaluation (MOLE) Project

404.5 Associate Dean Mendelson described Part A, and highlighted its various recommendations (Recommendations 1 and 2a-g).

404.6 Recommendation 1 involved Faculty of Science policy.

404.7 Recommendation 2a-g involved endorsing suggestions to the university.

404.8 A member stressed the importance of Recommendation 2g, which endorses separate permissions for course and instructor evaluations.

Associate Dean Mendelson **moved**, seconded by Prof. Levine, that Recommendation 1 be adopted, and Recommendation 2a-g be endorsed (recommendations in Part A).

The motion carried.

404.9 Associate Dean Mendelson described Part B and its various recommendations (Recommendations 3a-g, 4 and 5).

Associate Dean Mendelson **moved**, seconded by Prof. GowriSankaran, that Recommendations 3a-g, 4 and 5 be adopted (recommendations in Part B).

404.10 Prof. Levine, seconded by Prof. Gyakum, proposed an amendment that the final bullet relating to '"lottery" incentives' in Recommendation 3a, be removed from the Report. This was accepted as a friendly amendment.

The amended motion carried.

- Update on Planning Compacts - Dean Shaver

404.11 Dean Shaver said that since the Planning Compacts involved a large amount of detailed work, and since this was the first time the exercise had been done, the process was necessarily slow. He said the process was being pushed forward as fast as it reasonably could be. He said that he thought that summaries of strategic plans from the university, CFI and MEQ should soon be available, and that he felt that the priorities of the Faculty of Science would be well represented in these plans.

(5) DEAN'S BUSINESS

There was no Dean's business, apart from the above report.

(6) REPORT ON ACTIONS OF SENATE

Please note that the entire Minutes of Senate are available on the Web at http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/minutes/

Senate Meeting of October 27, 2004 - Prof. M. Mendelson

1. The meeting opened with the usual formalities. There was some confusion raised by a report of the University Appeals Committee that had breached confidentiality, but one of the Science Senators guided Senate to a solution.

2. In response to a question about daycare for children of newly hired staff, Provost Vinet replied that the Academic Personnel Office (APO) works to facilitate the transition of new faculty and their families to McGill and Montreal. This year the APO has been able to assist most incoming faculty in finding suitable daycare arrangements, primarily through an informal network of daycares. The Executive Director of the McGill Child Care Centre also meets with incoming faculty to provide them with guidance in understanding the Quebec childcare system, even if their children cannot immediately be accommodated.

Childcare facilities at McGill are independent associations that lease space from the University, which does not directly control daycare spaces. The McGill Child Care Centre has received government permission to add an additional 50 subsidized spaces through affiliation agreements with home daycares located within 10 km of downtown. The University is currently reviewing its relationship with the McGill Child Care Centre and the SSMU Day Care with the aim of determining the best strategy in the area of child care support. The Provost confirmed that the Administration is monitoring the demand for daycare space carefully and reiterated the University's commitment to academic renewal and to continue to address the daycare needs of incoming professors.

3. There was a motion regarding the use of plagiarism-detection software made by student senators, but Senate voted to refer the motion to CSA, which was already reconsidering a previous proposal on the topic.

4. There were fairly routine reports from APPC, Nominating Committee, the University Bookstore Committee, and the Committee on Student Discipline as well as a house-keeping change to the Regulations Concerning Complaints of Sexual Harassment.

5. Ms. Nancy Wells, Vice-Principal (Development and Alumni Relations) presented an update on fundraising activities, spending some time highlighting the preparations for the coming capital campaign.

6. Ms. Jennifer Robinson presented an update on McGill communications. She noted that there are advantages to the institution from the highest quality communications both within and outside the University and that her role is to provide tools to the University community that allow them to enhance their own communication. It is the quality and utility of the tools that will influence how broadly they are used, rather than trying to force a uniform approach on all areas of the University. She noted that media training is important and that her future goals include plans to offer media training to faculty members.

7. The Twenty First Annual Report of the University Appeals Committee was received. Prof. GowriSankaran noted the hearing committee's finding that only one standard applies – to both associate and assistant professors – in determining whether tenure should be granted. The Provost reminded Senate of the review of the tenure regulations that is currently underway. In particular, he remarked that the tenure regulations require an assessment of what is "reasonable" and what is "superior," without offering a strict definition of either term, offering significant room for interpretation.

Professor Baines stressed how important it is for the members of the Appeals Committee to be aware of the practices in different disciplinary areas with respect to identifying the roles played by authorship of scholarly papers. Professor Waller agreed and indicated that the Committee goes to great length to ensure that it is aware of the practices with respect to recognizing authorship in different disciplines.

Senate Meeting of November 17, 2004 - Prof. D. Kramer

This meeting had relatively little of specific relevance to the Faculty of Science.

In the Chair's Remarks, the Principal noted important recent recognition of McGill. Among the noted items, Science played a role in the Prix de Québec recently awarded to Graham Bell, a new crop of inductees to the Royal Society of Canada with particular thanks to Lawrence Mysak for his role in chairing the nomination committee, and the major role of McGill faculty in the recent World Congress of Science Journalists held in Montreal. She also informed us of the departure of the Secretary-General, Robin Geller, to join her family in England.

Professor Galaty raised a concern about reductions in use of special institutional funds for the social sciences and humanities teaching replacement, seminars, and graduate support. The Interim Vice-Principal (Research) Dr. Hurtubise and Dean Crago responded that the humanities were central to the university's mission and that while some funding had been reduced other funding had increased, that Arts students received graduate funding in a greater proportion than their proportion in the pool of graduate students and that a group of faculty had been asked to help develop a global plan for internal funding in the humanities.

There is an ongoing discussion in Senate concerning the central control (or not) of dining facilities at McGill. Nothing has been resolved to date.

The APPC Report proposed to establish a Centre for Biorecognition and Biosensors which includes two faculty members from Chemistry but no others from Science.

The Committee on Teaching and Learning made its annual report and was criticized for having made little progress on the problems arising from large classes.

This was followed by the Report of the University Admissions Committee. In response to a question from Sam Noumoff, Professor de Takacsy explained how complicated it was to use admissions policy to control class size in specific units.

Senate Meeting of December 1, 2004 - Prof. C. Lin

- First assessment of centrally scheduled classroom space is completed, and will be discussed in Senate shortly after the new year.
- Initial phase of the next fund raising and development campaign has started, with emphasis on academic priorities.
- The Principal plans to visit and reach out to regional universities in Quebec. She is planning visits to Saguenay, Chicoutimi, Sherbrooke and Trois Rivières, and cutting back on her out of province travel.
- Research Centre guidelines: Aspects discussed include the closing of centres, participation of undergraduate students, and multi-university centres based at McGill. In view of the comments and suggestions, the guidelines were referred back to acting VP Research Hurtubise, who will present the revised guidelines at the next Senate meeting.
- Formation of research center SYTACom on technology of communications was approved.
- Text Matching Software: Senate approved three documents: Recommendations Regarding the Use of Text-matching Software at McGill, The Use of Text-matching Software as a Means of Investigating Suspected Plagiarism, The Use of Text-Matching Software in Courses.
- An annual report of the University Appeals Committee was presented.
- Quorum was called and the meeting terminated at 5:30 p.m.

(7) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD

There were no members' questions.

(8) OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.