# FACULTY OF SCIENCE Meeting of Faculty Tuesday, May 22, 2007 Trottier Building, Room 0100

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book.

**DOCUMENTS: S-06-36** to **S-06-44** 

Dean Grant called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

#### (1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

The motion carried.

# (2) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- a) Faculty of Science Excellence Award Committee
- **902.1** Prof. R. Roy, Chair of the Faculty of Science Excellence Award Committee, said that the purpose of the Faculty of Science Excellence Award was to acknowledge outstanding performance and contributions by members of the administrative and support staff.
- **902.2** The Committee members were:

Prof. Richard Roy (Chair), Department of Biology Mr. Normand Trempe, Department of Chemistry (M) Mr. Michel Beauchamp, Department of Physics (T) Ms. Chantale Bousquet, Department of Psychology (C)

- **902.3** Prof. Roy said that there were seven nominations. They were:
  - Mona Bissada, Department of Biology (T)
  - Raffaella Bruno, Department of Mathematics & Statistics (M)
  - Liette Chin, School of Computer Science (C)
  - Louise Decelles, Department of Physics (C)
  - Mary Gauthier, Department of Psychology (C)
  - Anne Kosowski, Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences (M)
  - Marie LaRicca, Redpath Museum (M)
- Prof. Roy said that a major problem for the Committee was comparing the work and contributions of people in different categories. In addition, all the nominees were excellent. After considerable deliberation, the Committee had recommended Raffaella Bruno, Administrative Officer, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, for the award.
- **902.5** Prof. Roy added that as a result of the difficulty in comparing different work categories, the Committee had recommended that in future two prizes be awarded.

- 902.6 Ms. Bruno said that it was a privilege to work at McGill. She thanked the Chair of the Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Prof. D. Wolfson, and said that it was a pleasure working with the Department's administrative and support staff.
- **902.7** On behalf of the Faculty of Science, Dean Grant congratulated Raffaella Bruno, and thanked Prof. Roy.

# b) Leo Yaffe Award Committee

**902.8** Prof. Jacques Verstraette, on behalf of Prof. Williams-Jones, Chair of the Leo Yaffe Award/Principal's Prizes Committee, said that the Committee membership was:

Chair: Prof. Anthony Williams-Jones, Earth & Planetary Sciences

- Prof. John Abela, Department of Psychlogy
- Prof. Thomas Bureau, Department of Biology
- Prof. Ian Butler, Department of Chemistry
- Prof. Oliver Coomes, Department of Geography
- Prof. Richard Harris, Department of Physics
- Prof. Craig Mandato, Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology
- Prof. Peter Swain, Department of Physiology
- Prof. Jacques Verstraete, Department of Mathematics & Statistics
- Mr. Michael Wang, Student Member
- **902.9** Prof. Verstraete said that the nominees for the Leo Yaffe Award were:
  - Prof. J. Coulton, Department of Microbiology & Immunology
  - Prof. F. Genesee, Department of Psychology
  - Prof. C. Morales, Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology
  - Prof. A. Ricciardi, Redpath Museum
  - Prof. J. Stix, Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences
  - Prof. P. Wiseman, Departments of Chemistry and Physics
- 902.10 Prof. Verstraete said that it had been a difficult task to come up with a winner because of the very high calibre of the nominees. The Committee had eventually chosen Prof. Paul Wiseman, Departments of Chemistry and Physics, as the Leo Yaffe Award winner.
- **902.11** Prof. Verstraete read the Citation for Prof. Wiseman:

"The Leo Yaffe Award for Excellence in teaching honours professors who make an outstanding and long-lasting impact on undergraduate education in the Faculty of Science. Paul Wiseman is such a professor.

"Professor Wiseman was appointed an assistant professor in the Departments of Chemistry and Physics in 2001 and demonstrated immediately that he was a born teacher with a remarkable 4.9 on 5 evaluations for his first course in the University. In the following year, he was thrown into Freshman Chemistry (110), a course with an enrolment of over 600 students that had never received a rating greater than 4.2 on 5, despite being taught by the Department's very best teachers. In his very first year in this course, Professor Wiseman was given an evaluation of 4.6/5 and, in the years that followed, his evaluations soared as high as 4.8/5. The reasons for his extraordinary abilities as a teacher are not hard to find. According to one student "This man is not simply a professor, he is a mentor, and an outstanding role model for students and faculty alike" and according to another, "his abilities as an instructor are surpassed only by his traits as a person". However, this quote probably sums up Paul Wiseman, the teacher, best, "While we went to class for 'science', ultimately what we came away with

was much more profound and infinitely more valuable...it was an affirmation of what this educational sanctuary should be."

"Paul Wiseman is a teacher-scholar of the very highest calibre and a most worthy recipient of the Leo Yaffe Award."

**902.12** On behalf of the Faculty of Science, Dean Grant congratulated Prof. Wiseman, and thanked Prof. Verstraete and the Committee for their hard work.

# (3) <u>CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES</u>

#### a) Bachelor of Arts and Science

S-06-37

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hurtubise, 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-06-38

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ragan, 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-06-39

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Zuroff, that the above candidates be recommended to the Senate Steering Committee for the Diploma in Environment.

The motion carried.

#### d) Diploma in Meteorology

S-06-40

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Yau, that the above candidates be recommended to the Senate Steering Committee for the Diploma in Environment.

#### The motion carried.

Associate Dean Burns further **moved**, seconded by Prof. Moore, that the Dean be given discretionary power to make such changes in the degree list as would be necessary to prevent injustice.

#### The motion carried.

903.1 Associate Dean Leighton thanked unit advisors, and the advisors and staff in the Student Affairs Office for their enormous efforts in getting the degree lists ready on time.

# (4) RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR ROBERT NICHOLLS, DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

**904.1** Professor Bruce Lennox, Chair, Department of Chemistry, read the Resolution:

"It is with regret that I inform you of the death of Professor Robert V.V. Nicholls who passed away on March 9, 2007 at the age of 94. He was born in Montreal and grew up in Halifax where his father was a professor in the Faculty of Medicine. He entered McGill at the age of 16, earned his B.Sc. in 1933 and his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry in 1936. Upon graduation he was immediately offered a teaching position in the Chemistry Department. During World War II, he was part of an international research project on explosives. He was a Director of the first Board of the Chemical Institute of Canada in 1945 in the position of Director of Scientific Affairs. In the Department of Chemistry he was active in teaching and research and wrote several textbooks. He was the first President of the James McGill Society, set up in affiliation with the History of McGill Project. He retired from McGill in 1971.

"In his private life, he was instrumental in setting up the Canadian Railway Historical Association, eventually becoming its president. When the Association decided to develop a Museum, Professor Nicholls was the driving force to obtain both the land (outside of Montreal) and the first collections from Canadian National and Canadian Pacific. For this work he was awarded the Order of Canada. Retiring to Merrickville, Ontario in 1981, he took a very active interest in the village and regional heritage. He always maintained his love of history and an interest in the advances of science. He received two awards from the Government of Canada for his work for community and historical preservation. A scholarship was set up in his name at McGill in the Faculty of Science.

"He was devoted to his family, his wife of 61 years (Nora) two daughters, Sarah and Eleanor, two granddaughters, and four great-grandchildren. He was committed deeply to his family, his community, his friends and colleagues and to his faith.

"The Faculty of Science extends its condolences to Professor Nicholls's wife, Nora, daughters, Sarah and Eleanor, and grandchildren and great-grandchildren."

The Resolution was adopted unanimously.

# (5) <u>MINUTES OF APRIL 10, 2007</u>

S-06-36

Prof. Wiseman **moved**, seconded by Prof. Moore, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

# (6) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

#### (7) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

#### c) Scholarships Committee

S-06-41

- Associate Dean Leighton, Chair, Faculty of Science Scholarships Committee, said that two Governor-General's Silver Medals were awarded annually across all of McGill's undergraduate faculties. He said he was pleased to announce that one of the current year's winners was **Kevin Shopsowitz**, **First Class Honours in Biochemistry**.
- **907.2** Associate Dean Leighton presented the Scholarships Report to the meeting.

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hurtubise, that the Scholarships Report be approved.

The motion carried.

907.3 Regarding the Dean's Honour List (the top 10% of students), the number of students and the CGPA cutoff points were as follows:

> B.A. & Sc.: 4.3.81 B.Sc.: 77, 3.88

- 907.4 Associate Dean Leighton noted that over the past six years, the CGPA cutoff for the Dean's Honours List had been steadily increasing. He said he wasn't sure of the reason for this, but wanted to point out that the cutoff was becoming rather high.
- 907.5 Associate Dean Leighton thanked Josie D'Amico for her hard work in preparing the Scholarships Report in time for the meeting of the Scholarships Committee.
  - d) **Committee on Student Standing**

S-06-42

- 907.6 Due to lack of business, there was no Report from the Committee on Student Standing.
  - **Academic Committee** e)

S-06-43 (Rev)

The Academic Committee approved the following on April 24, 2007 and May 9, 2007:

# **SECTION A: NEW PROGRAMS**

# **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

#### **B.Sc. Option:**

- Major in Computer Science; Computer Games Option

AC-06-120

Associate Dean Hendren moved, seconded by Prof. Whitesides, that the option be adopted.

The motion carried.

#### B.A. & Sc.:

- Minor Concentration in Computer Science

AC-06-121

- Major Concentration in Computer Science

AC-06-122

Associate Dean Hendren moved, seconded by Prof. Whitesides, that the above programs be adopted.

The motion carried.

# **SECTION B: MAJOR PROGRAM CHANGES**

#### **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

#### B.Sc.:

AC-06-117 - Minor in Computer Science - Major in Computer Science AC-06-118 AC-06-119

- Honours in Computer Science

Associate Dean Hendren moved, seconded by Prof. Whitesides, that the above program changes be approved.

#### The motion carried.

# SECTION C: NEW COURSES

(1) PHYSICS

PHYS 657 Classical Condensed Matter AC-06-94 (Rev.)

3 credits

Associate Dean Hendren moved, seconded by Prof. Gale, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

(2) GEOGRAPHY

GEOG 451 Res in Society & Dev in Africa AC-06-115

3 credits

Associate Dean Hendren moved, seconded by Prof. Moore, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

SECTION D: MAJOR COURSE CHANGES

None

SECTION E: MINOR COURSE CHANGES (For Information Only)

None

SECTION F: MINOR PROGRAM CHANGES (For Information Only)

Minor Program Change Report AC-06-P4

**SECTION G: OTHER (For Approval)** 

(1) Motion:

Assignment Due Date AC-06-88(Rev. 2)

**907.7** The motion in Document #AC-06-88 (Rev. 2) read:

Any graded assignment, in a Faculty of Science course, must be distributed not later than two weeks before the first day of exams.

907.8 Associate Dean Hendren introduced the motion and said that it was a student initiative. The motion had been presented to the Academic Committee, and had been considered

and discussed several times prior to being approved.

After some discussion concerning the two-week deadline, Associate Dean Hendren

moved, seconded by Prof. Levine, that the above motion be adopted.

**907.9** A vote was held:

In favour: 12 Opposed: 8 Abstentions: 7

The motion carried.

(2) Motion:

- **907.10** That the Faculty of Science deplores the use of material incentives to encourage students to complete course evaluations.
- 907.11 Associate Dean Hendren said that the Academic Committee had passed the above motion in response to learning that material incentives were being used to encourage students to fill out course evaluations.

After a short discussion, Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Levine, that the above motion be adopted.

**907.12** A vote was held:

In favour: 12 Opposed: 5 Abstentions: 7

The motion carried.

#### (3) Academic Program Review

AC-06-125

- 907.13 Associate Dean Hendren briefly described the history and structure of the Academic Program Review process, and highlighted the main points of Document #AC-06-125.
- The Honours and Major Programs were generally considered to be well-structured and to be serving the needs of students. Recommendations from these two Program Review Groups would be brought to units and to the Academic Committee for consideration during the 2007-2008 academic year.
- 907.15 The Faculty Programs had a number of problems associated with them. The Faculty Program Review Group examined the possibility of replacing the Faculty Programs. In consultation with units, the B.Sc. Liberal Program was created, and would be implemented in September 2007. The B.Sc. Liberal Program consists of a Core Science Component to provide depth, as well as a Breadth Component.
- The Program Review Groups and the Faculty Review Group examined the three "I"s, Internationality, Interdisciplinarity and Inquiry-based Learning, in the Faculty of Science. Recent initiatives in the Faculty have supported interdisciplinarity and inquiry-based learning. An upcoming initiative would renovate undergraduate laboratories and develop course material which would support inquiry-based learning.
- **907.17** Associate Dean Hendren thanked everyone involved in the Academic Program Review process.
- In response to a member who was concerned that the proposed 3.3 CGPA cutoff for Honours students might be too restrictive for students in the Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Dean Grant emphasized that the Faculty was not at the moment adopting the recommendations of the Report, but was merely accepting the Report as the Faculty's official report.
- 907.19 Several members expressed reservations about accepting the Report without necessarily accepting the recommendations in the Report. Associate Dean Hendren said that this was the nature of the process, and that the external reviewer, Prof. D. Thomas, Dean of Science, Université de Sherbrooke, would examine the Report as an official Faculty of Science document, and would then make his recommendations concerning the Report.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Levine, that Document AC-06-125 be adopted as the official Report of the Faculty of Science Academic Program Review.

The motion carried.

#### **SECTION H: OTHER (For Information Only)**

# (1) Biology B.A. Program Changes:

- Minor Concentration in Science for Arts Students; Organismal Stream
- Minor Concentration in Science for Arts Students; Cell & Molecular Stream

#### (2) Geography:

#### New B.A. Program:

- Honours in Urban Systems

# (3) Computer Science:

# New B.A. Program:

- Minor Concentration in Advanced Computer Science (Combinable)
- Major Concentration in Computer Science

# **B.A. Program Changes:**

- Minor Concentration in Computer Science

# **B.A. Program Retirements:**

- Minor Concentration in Computer Systems (Combinable)
- Minor Concentration in Foundations of Computing
- Major Concentration in Foundations of Computing

# (8) DEAN'S BUSINESS

# a) Recognition of Technology Transfer and Commercialization Activity

- 908.1 Dean Grant said that the Faculty of Science wished to recognize commercialization of research, and so, starting in the current year, plaques would be presented to Faculty of Science principal inventors for:
  - (a) The first filing of a patent application further to the submission of a report of invention.
  - (b) The signature of a license agreement for a technology.
- 908.2 The plaques being presented would cover the period from June 1, 2006 to April 2007. Dean Grant said that he would like to ask Associate Dean (Research & Graduate Education) Burns and the Research & Innovation Officer, Dr. Erica Besso, to consider organizing another event to recognize earlier Science investigators whose research had been led to licensed technologies.
- **908.3** Plaques were presented for

The first filing of a patent application further to the submission of a report of invention

to:

Prof. Scott Bohle

Prof. David Burns

Prof. Masad Damha (twice)

Prof. Chao-Jun Li

and for:

The signature of a license agreement for a technology

to:

Prof. Nicolas Moitessier Prof. Masad Damha Prof. David Burns

**908.4** Dean Grant thanked Associate Dean Burns and Dr. Erica Besso for their efforts in regard to these awards.

# b) Support Staff and the Academic Mission

- **908.5** The meeting moved into the Committee of the Whole, chaired by Associate Dean Burns.
- Associate Dean Burns said that obviously support staff are invaluable to the workings of the Faculty of Science, and that the question is often raised as to how support staff could be more involved in the Faculty's academic mission. He asked for ideas on how to better integrate the Faculty's support staff into the academic mission.
- **908.7** Among the ideas proposed were:
  - Providing support staff with opportunities to attend lectures
  - It was mentioned that the Department of Physics already offers once a month presentations by its academic staff on their research to support staff. These are well attended, even sometimes by outsiders.
  - That researchers needed assistance with management of accounts, due to the complexity of Banner.
  - That in many cases, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows were assisting researchers in such tasks as information technology support, account management and research laboratory administration, that could be more appropriately performed by support staff.
  - Hiring more support staff would enable greater assistance to be provided to academic staff. Over the years, the number of support staff had decreased while the workload had increased.
  - That support staff could potentially assist academic staff in the process of applying for research grants.
  - That perhaps membership in the Faculty of Science could be expanded to include support staff, particularly in the capacity of professional advisors.
  - That some units provide better advising services to students than do others.
- **908.8** Associate Dean Burns thanked members for their suggestions.

# (9) REPORTS ON ACTIONS OF SENATE

Please note that the entire Minutes of Senate are available on the Web at <a href="http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/minutes/">http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/minutes/</a>.

#### Senate Meeting of April 18, 2007 - Prof. S. Whitesides:

This condensed report highlights items of particular interest to the Faculty of Science. The official Minutes of Senate meetings are available at: www.mcgill.ca/senate/minutes

#### **Principal's Remarks**

The April 18, 2007, meeting of Senate took place soon after the Virginia Tech Massacre, and the Principal opened her remarks with condolences for those involved. She reminded Senate of the McGill hostile intruder protocol, and touched on the difficulties in attempting to prevent violent incidents by monitoring members of the university

community in a manner that interferes with the personal privacy and freedom of individuals.

She announced the appointment of Drew Love as Director of Athletics.

#### Task Force on Non-Tenure Track Academic Staff

Provost Masi announced the creation of a Task Force on Non-Tenure Track Academic Staff, to establish procedures and guidelines, as well as to analyse related statistics, to ensure equitable practices across campus.

# Report of the APPC (APC)

During the 389th report of the Academic Policy and Planning Committee, Senate approved programs including these for Science:

The graduate "Environment Option" for

the M.A. in Geography,

the M.Sc. in Geography,

the Ph.D. in Geography,

the M.Sc. in A&O,

the M.Sc. in Biology,

the Ph.D. in Biology, and

the M.Sc. in Earth and Planetary Science.

Also, Senate approved the "Development Studies Option" for the M.A. in Geography.

### University Budget for 2007-08 (with look ahead)

With Dean Todd as Chair, Senate discussed the University Budget for 2007-08, following a presentation by Provost Masi.

# Some highlights:

- a 2007-08 deficit of less than \$15 million, with a goal of balancing the budget in 4 years;

# - Revenue assumptions included:

an increase in tuition of \$100/year/FTE;

an 8% increase in tuition for international students of which 4% would go to McGill; a modest FTE growth over 5 years, mostly at the graduate level;

an increase in targeted funding donations; and

decreasing optimistim about future revenue growth;

# - Forecasting of expenses for 2008-09 and beyond included:

competitive salary increases:

no net change in the number of academics for 2010 and beyond, with a steady state of 1579 tenure-track professors (the same as at present, to be increased by new arrivals and decreased by estimated departures);

priority spending to be justified by "the white paper", the Principal's Task Force on Student Life and Learning, the Campus Master Plan, and the Capital Campaign;

- Disciplinary benchmarking on academic productivity was noted under the title of "performance evaluation";

# - The "priority envelope" included:

support and recognition for end-career academic staff; wise use of carry-forward balances;

generation of more indirect cost recoveries and overheads.

Responding to a question from Prof. Glenn about encouragement of interdisciplinary teaching and research, Provost Masi remarked that new positions must now be justified in terms of their contributions to the university's objectives in those regards, and that through incentives, Deans would be encouraged to work together to find joint or interdisciplinary hires.

#### Sabbatic Leave Report

Provost Masi reported that all \*eligible\* sabbatic applications were approved this year. (Eligibility involves several technical points.)

# **Harrassment Assessor Appointment**

Senate approved the appointment of Prof. Prakash Panangaden of Science as an alternate assessor under the Policy on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law, for a two-year term to end beginning June 1, 2008.

#### **Athletics Fee Increase**

The Athletics Fee for 2007-08 has increased, by recommendation of the Finance Committee of the Athletics Board, which is constituted roughly half by students.

# Senate Meeting of May 9, 2007 - Prof. D. Ryan:

#### Principal's remarks

As a result of some file migration activities, a number of student records were accessible to external search engines for about one day. Only twelve access events were logged and the affected people have been notified. A review of migration routes is underway so that there are no repeats.

The extreme cost over-run on the UQAM building projects was discussed. The Principal was careful to distinguish the current under-funding of Quebec universities, which leads to us all running deficits that are responsibly managed, from the severe mis-management that appears to have led to the problems at UQAM. There is a danger that such incidents might be used as an excuse to impose more oversight or intrude on the autonomy of the Universities.

There is a big G13 meeting in Ottawa that is being hosted by our Principal and will aim to foster links with governments.

#### Questions

There was a question regarding the participation rate in course evaluations now that the entire process has gone online.

The numbers given as evidence that there is no real decline, showed a steady downward trend (54%, 51%, 49% for the past three semesters) and it was stated that the more extensive comments now being provided by the students were more helpful to the instructors.

There were repeated claims that there was no bias introduced by the reduced sampling rates, although since the reference points are the modest return rates on the paper-based system, it might be more correct to argue that there was no evidence of *additional* bias.

Strategies for improving participation were mentioned. We have an iPod draw, and various "reminders" every time students access the online systems. Allowing access to their grades in a course only after the student has provided an evaluation was discounted for the moment.

A reason given by students for not completing the evaluations was that they did not know why the evaluations were being done, what use was made of the numbers, and could not access the results. The extra effort required to generate the comments that are being held up as more useful, is also leading fewer students to embark on the evaluation process.

A processing problem was provided as the source of the publication delays.

There was some discussion about making more of the evaluations accessible to students and it was suggested that rather than allowing instructors to make their evaluations public, we should consider making the default state publication and permit instructors to opt-out. This was identified as likely illegal as silence can not be construed as assent.

The low response rates are a bigger problem for faculty seeking to use the results for tenure or promotion, as poor statistics might be seen as reducing the significance of the numbers. However while defending the procedure against this criticism, the statement was made that the evaluation procedure was "robust" against both the response rate and the time of evaluation. It was clear from the further comments that this was intended to mean that the evaluations obtained were not affected by variations in student participation rates or the stage in the class (at the end, after the mid-term, during the first few weeks of term) when the evaluation was run. If it is indeed true that the results are independent of both the response rate and the timing, what exactly is being evaluated?

#### Confidential report of the Honorary degrees and Convocations Committee

It is possible that various people may have been nominated and approved, but no records were kept and this part of the tape is mysteriously blank.

#### 390th report of the academic...

Wild flapping of voting arms as pages of course revisions were rubber-stamped.

#### **Report of the Senate Nominating Committee**

More rubber-stamping, however the back of the report was blank, providing a convenient location for my notes.

#### Revision of "Regulations Relating to the Employment of Librarian Staff"

A complete revision of the regulations has been completed. Information has been gathered into a logical order and clean definitions are provided. It is likely that the structure of this revision will provide the inspiration for a wider revision of the employment regulations for faculty at some later date.

There have been no tenure-track librarian appointments while these revisions were being made and the new regulations contain specific provisions for the ~35 librarians hired during this moratorium to transition to tenure-track positions.

The duties associated with librarian positions are dominated by "position responsibilities" *i.e.* being a librarian, with much less weight being given to "scholarly activities" and "other contributions" than would be normal for other academic appointments. Research is clearly an optional component of the "scholarly activities", and appears at the same level as membership of professional organisations.

Remarkably, librarians can be denied tenure for "University Priorities", independent of the merit (or otherwise) of the candidate. In the event that a librarian is the victim of this clause, they are to be given a final one-year appointment and a letter saying that they would have been given tenure had they not been fired.

#### Report on Research

Presentation from VP(RAIR) was one of those "heck of a university doing a heck of job" deals.

The local (Quebec) industrial interactions are weak and other Quebec universities do far better. However, our international reputation is excellent and our VP(RAIR) maintains that during his extensive international travels he has discovered that there are only two brands from Quebec that enjoy truly international recognition: McGill and Cirque du Soleil. I for one am very glad that we do not share dress codes with our sister Quebec brand.

Much effort appears to be going into the 'International Relations' side of our VPs portfolio, and the recent "McGill-India Initiative" was apparently a great success. When asked about the balance between the "International" and "Research" components of his job, the VP answered that he was very comfortable, but it was not clear that many members of the senate shared this comfort.

It was noted that during the period that OTT underwent a factor of two expansion and a more recent slim-down, the actual income derived from industrial sources was essentially static. Nobody asked how much further OTT could be trimmed before the income would begin to suffer.

The poor performance in recent CFI rounds was attributed to McGill choosing not to play by CFI's rules, and to having "too many stars and not enough galaxies". When pressed for further details, the recent nanotools project was singled out as an example of a lot of great people doing great work, but the proposal had no central unifying theme (this central theme would presumably correspond to those super-massive black hole that sit in middle of galaxies, eating stars).

As a new CFI round is likely, the current idea is to start planning and developing winning proposals now, well in advance of the actual call.

**909.1** Dean Grant thanked the Senators for their work on behalf of the Faculty of Science.

#### (10) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD

There were no members' questions.

#### (11) SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES

S-06-44

Dean Grant noted the schedule of meeting dates for the next academic year.

#### (12) OTHER BUSINESS

912.1 Mr. Louis Houle, Director, Schulich Library of Science and Engineering, invited members to Prof. Arthur Sale's presentation on Open Access and its implications on research output. The presentation would take place at 1:30 p.m. on May 24, 2007 in the Bronfman Building.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.