FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Tuesday, September 13, 2005
Leacock Council Room - L232

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book.

DOCUMENTS: S-04-43, S-04-44 S-05-1 to S-05-6
AC-05-1

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

Dean Grant welcomed members to the first Faculty of Science meeting of the year.

Dean Grant introduced himself and asked the other members of the table to introduce themselves. They were:

- Dean Martin Grant (started June 1, 2005)
- Associate Dean (Academic) Laurie Hendren (started September 1, 2005)
- Josie D'Amico, Secretary to the Faculty (started "forever" ago)
- Associate Dean (Research) David Burns (started October 2002)
- Associate Dean (Student Affairs) Henry Leighton (started June 1, 2004)

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

CHEM 211, Organic Chemistry 1 Lectures (AC-05-1), to be added under "Other Business."

Prof. Andrews **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gyakum, that the amended Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

(2) MINUTES OF MAY 24, 2005 **S-04-43**

Prof. Kienzle **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gale, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

(3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

(4) SEATING OF STUDENT MEMBERS **S-05-1**

Dean Grant welcomed student representatives to the first Faculty meeting, and introduced them.

(5) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

a) Scholarship Committee **S-04-44**

105.1 Associate Dean Leighton pointed out the Scholarship Report. He mentioned that the GPA cutoff for the Dean's Honour List was 3.85, and that for awards given by the Faculty was 3.94.

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Holder, that the Scholarship Report be approved.

The motion carried.

b) <u>Nominating Committee</u> **S-05-2**

1. Science Nominating Committee (for information):

105.2 Dean Grant said that the Nominating Committee consists of the Science Senate Representatives, and that the Convenor was Prof. Charles Lin.

2. Committee on Student Standing (for approval):

105.3 Dean Grant said that the Committee on Student Standing reviewed student appeals of decisions made by the Associate Dean (Student Affairs).

Prof. Paquette **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gyakum, that the membership of the CSS be approved.

The motion carried.

3. Academic Committee (for approval):

Prof. Ewing **moved**, seconded by Prof. Mucci, that the membership of the Academic Committee be approved.

The motion carried.

4. Science Chairs' Council (for information):

105.4 Dean Grant said that the Science Chairs' Council serves as an advisory committee to the Dean, and consists of the Dean, the three Associate Deans, and the chairs/directors of all units in the Faculty of Science, including the MSE and the Redpath Museum.

5. Scholarships Committee (for approval):

105.5 Dean Grant mentioned that the Associate Dean of Student Affairs serves as the Chair of the Scholarships Committee.

Prof. Mucci **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ewing, that the membership of the Scholarships Committee be approved.

The motion carried.

6. Tenure Committee (for information):

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

Prof. Mucci **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gale, that the membership of the Leo Yaffe & Principal's Prizes Committee be approved.

The motion carried.

8. Animal Care Committee (for approval):

105.6 Dean Grant mentioned that the Chair of the Faculty of Science Animal Care Committee was Associate Dean Burns.

Prof. Gervais **moved**, seconded by Prof. Best, that the membership of the Animal Care Committee be approved.

The motion carried.

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

Prof. Kienzle **moved**, seconded by Prof. Andrews, that the new membership of Prof. Daniel Schoen on the Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies be approved.

The motion carried.

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

Prof. Hayden **moved,** seconded by Prof. Gonzalez, that the Science membership of the B.A. & Sc. Program Administration Committee be approved**.**

The motion carried.

11. Ad hoc Work Group on Women Professors' Academic Careers (for approval):

Prof. Mucci **moved**, seconded by Prof. Best, that a one-year extension of the mandate, as well as the membership, of the ad hoc Work Group on Women Professors' Academic Careers be approved.

The motion carried.

c) <u>Committee on Student Standing (CSS)</u>
S-05-3

105.7 Associate Dean Leighton summarized the Report of the CSS.

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

The motion carried.

(6) <u>DEAN'S BUSINESS</u>

(a) Faculty of Science Undergraduate Research Conference

106.1 Associate Dean Burns said that the first annual Faculty of Science Undergraduate Research Conference would be held on September 30, 2005 from 12 noon to 5:00 p.m. in Redpath Hall. Posters from units in Science and related units in Medicine would be displayed, and prizes would be given out. The Conference would showcase undergraduate research at McGill, and would be part of McGill's efforts to introduce

students to research and laboratory work early in their programs. Prof. Leon Lederman, a Nobel Laureate, would give a lecture entitled “How to win the Nobel prize.”

(b) Program Review

106.2 Associate Dean Hendren said the Academic Program Review in the Faculty of Science was underway. Initially, Faculty, Major and Honours programs would be reviewed. Later, graduate and freshman programs would be reviewed.

106.3 In reply to a member, Associate Dean Hendren said the Faculty's Academic Program Review was part of a University-wide review of programs, but at the same time would provide an opportunity for the Faculty to take a critical look at its programs.

106.4 In response to a member's question, Dean Grant said that the memberships of the various committees involved in the Academic Program Review were posted on the Web.

(c) Freshman Interest Group (FIGs) Proposal **S-05-4**

106.5 Dean Grant said that the Science Undergraduate Society (SUS) had asked the Faculty to introduce a pilot project for the implementation of Freshman Interest Groups. This would be done in conjunction with Associate Dean Leighton and the Student Affairs Office. There would be five FIGs sessions in January 2006. The FIGs proposal would soon be brought to the Faculty's Academic Committee.

(d) New Professors in the Faculty of Science **S-05-5**

106.6 Dean Grant asked Chairs to introduce their new professors, and to give a brief description of their research area.

Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences/Chemistry	Assistant Professor	BOURQUI, Michel
Biology	Professor	CHAPMAN, Lauren
Biology	Professor	LOREAU, Michel
Biology	Assistant Professor	MCGILL, Brian
Chemistry	Assistant Professor	COSA, Gonzalo
Chemistry	Assistant Professor	MITTERMAIER, Anthony
Geography	Associate Professor	UNRUH, Jon
Mathematics & Statistics	Assistant Professor	WIHLER, Thomas
Physics	Assistant Professor	DASGUPTA, Keshav
Physics	Assistant Professor	GERVAIS, Guillaume
Physics	Assistant Professor	HOLDER, Gilbert

106.7 Dean Grant said that in the future, after each Faculty of Science meeting there would be a reception for Faculty members. Also, each meeting in the future would have a Committee of the Whole portion integrated into it. He would try to have a theme for each Committee of the Whole.

106.8 Dean Grant added that it would be very useful for professors to describe in general terms their research to other professors, since this would enable professors to see links between their own and others' research.

(e) Enrolment **S-05-6**

106.9 Associate Dean Hendren described the data shown in Document S-05-6.

(7) REPORT ON ACTIONS OF SENATE

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

- Senate Meeting of April 13, 2005 - Prof. M. Mendelson

1. The meeting opened with the usual formalities, after which there was a question from a student Senator regarding the athletics complex. The Vice-Principal (Administration and Finance) replied that the original project presented to the Building and Property Committee (BPC) had a budget estimate of $3.6M. As the design evolved, the scope of the project increased, raising the estimated cost to $5M, which required a return to BPC and a delay to the tender process. The VP reported that the contractors had been asked to mobilize on site beginning the week of April 18 and the project w scheduled for completion on September 5, 2005.

2. In answer to a question about dial-up access service (DAS), the Interim Provost replied that it represents a real cost to McGill University, specifically in the budget of Network and Communications Services (NCS). Nonetheless, he advised Senate that, effective June 1, 2005, academic staff would no longer be charged for DAS usage. However, he stressed that this decision set no precedent for services other than DAS and that DAS would not be enhanced nor upgraded; as DAS usage continued to slip, it would be phased out.

3. A student Senator asked a question about names of common usage, stressing their importance for transgendered people. The Interim Provost replied that in response to the discussions at the Joint Senate-Board Committee on Equity, the Registrar will collect, upon request, the “preferred name” of any student. This “preferred name” can then be made available for use in the generation of lists not related to the academic record. However, almost all interactions with the Registrar's Office are of an “official” nature, and therefore require the use of the legal name. Thus, the circumstances of use and the non-official purposes to which the “preferred name” will be applied are not clearly understood and consequently not precisely defined. Potential examples where the “preferred name” might be used, include, but are probably not limited to:

- lists that Registrar's Office provides to student societies;
- lists that are provided to alumni relations for the purpose of announcing alumni events;
- the name that is published in the upcoming online directory being developed by NCS;
- the UEA (uniform e-mail address), as long as there is an unambiguous link to the official name for purposes of e-mail as official communication with students.

Therefore, there may be lists that could use “preferred names”, but it must be understood that only such unofficial lists would use those names. Regardless, there are also examples where it probably will not be appropriate to use “preferred names”—e.g., ID cards, diplomas.

The Interim Provost observed that the issue is complex and will require further study. Consequently, the administration was not able to promise to allow a “preferred name” to be used until boundaries are defined. When these boundaries are more clearly understood, the Registrar would advise faculty student affairs offices of the availability of the “preferred name” for unofficial use.

4. The Vice-Principal (Research) presented the 370th Report of the Academic Policy and Planning Committee (D04-65) and responded to questions and comments concerning the "Research Centre Regulations" contained in the APPC Report.

5. The Interim Provost presented the Report of the Nominating Committee (D04-67), which was routine, except for a motion that Senate rescind its resolution of December 1, 2004, to establish a standing Committee of Senate entitled Senate Committee on Ancillary Services to allow for the establishment of a non-Senate committee on ancillary services. After a heated discussion, the motion did not carry (having failed to obtain the two thirds majority necessary for the passage of a motion to rescind), and it was agreed that the matter be referred back to the Senate Nominating Committee for action. The Chair assured Senate that the consensus in the House—viz., that the proposed Committee on Ancillary Services be advisory and not administrative in nature—would be conveyed to Nominating Committee as it worked further on the proposed Ancillary Services Committee.

6. The Dean of Students presented the document, "The Student Services fee for 2005-2006" (D04-69) for the information of Senate, which included what appeared to be a 10% increase, reportedly the second largest in 10 years. Dean Shore explained the different elements that led to this increase and that the main controversy was due to the increase allocated to inter-collegiate athletics because it was questioned by some students whether this activity should be considered as a student service.

A student Senator noted that the problem is not the $18.50 increase but rather the inclusion of the inter-collegiate fees to the student fees. He believed that inter-collegiate athletics is not a student service and only a small number of students benefit from it. He asked why devote 10% of the increase to inter-collegiate athletics rather than to other services such as mental health service.

Another student Senator observed that while inter-collegiate athletics may have value in maintaining links with the alumni, there is a downside for student services and the majority of students. It must be asked whether students are receiving value for the money and it must be remembered that no student representatives voted in favour of the increase.

7. Dean Shore presented several changes to the Handbook of Student Rights' and Responsibilities (D04-70), which were either passed or referred back to CSA for further discussion.

8. The meeting ended after Senate received a notice of motion to amend the Charter of Students' Rights (D04-64) and the Report from the Board of Governors to Senate (D04-68).

- Senate Meeting of May 25, 2005 - Prof. C. Lin

The 2005-06 university budget was presented by VP Yalovsky and discussed. There is a provision to increase FTE students by 7% over 5 years. Questions were raised on how the increased enrolment would impact on net revenues and teaching quality. Interim Provost Masi noted these estimates have not been made, and even the cost per student is not known yet, but will be calculated soon. He also noted the increase in student numbers have been matched by increasing staff counts. There were several comments made on the need to strongly support graduate enrolment as well. The budget also provides for an increase in international student fees. VP Yavlosky explained that 4% of the 8% increase is clawed back by the government. The Principal also noted that the additional revenues from the higher fees are being used to provide graduate students with better support and services, and not to subsidize undergraduate students.

Concerns were raised about the maintenance of equipment purchased through multiple CFI grants. VP Yalovsky replied that part of the funding from indirect cost revenues will continue to be distributed to faculties. The Provincial government has increased its support for indirect cost and would like the Federal government to also do so.

The Principal reported on the progress of the Task Force on Student Life and Learning, where it was suggested that McGill should redefine its image as one of a "student centred research-intensive university".

Senator Mendelson raised the issue of inadequate access to daycare in the downtown Montreal area. Steps are being taken by the administration to assess what can be done to improve daycare access. This includes meetings with managers of different daycare facilities, as well as with other universities to compare practices. More effective communication of information to prospective daycare users will also be examined. The administration will report back to Senate this fall.

In response to questions on the status of non-tenure academic staff, the Interim Provost noted that the academic status of such staff will be reviewed on a case by case basis to regularize the status of those entitled to progress to the tenure track stream.

The Paper Use Policy was presented and approved. Double sided use of paper will be encouraged.

107.1 In response to a member who asked how the proposal to increase FTEs would impact space, Senator Lin said that past studies had shown there was probably sufficient lecture space in the University; it was just a question of using lecture space efficiently. Laboratory space was a different issue, and was scarce due to recent hiring.

107.2 Dean Grant mentioned that in the Faculty's five-year plan, there was a proposal to refurbish undergraduate laboratory space.

(9) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

(10) OTHER BUSINESS

Department of Chemistry

New Course Number for Lecture Component of CHEM 212:
CHEM 211 Organic Chemistry 1 Lectures (AC-05-1)
3 credits

110.1 Associate Dean Hendren said that the proposal created a separate course number for the lecture component of CHEM 212. There was already a separate course number (CHEM 224) for the laboratory component of CHEM 212.

110.2 It was agreed that Permission of the Department of Chemistry should be added under "Restriction."

Prof. Ronis **moved**, seconded by Prof. Andrews, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

110.3 Dean Grant thanked Associate Dean Hendren, Prof. Ronis and the Department of Chemistry for the intensive work related to the proposal.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.