

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Tuesday, September 12, 2006
Leacock Council Room - L232**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book.

DOCUMENTS: S-05-46, S-05-47 S-06-1 to S-06-5

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

This being the first meeting of the year, Dean Grant introduced a new feature for Faculty of Science meetings: the celebration of changes in standing of academic staff in the Faculty.

Dean Grant asked heads of units to introduce new professors in their units, and asked that the professors give a very brief summary of their research interests. New professors in the Faculty of Science were:

Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences:	Bruno Tremblay
Biology:	Chieh Chang
Chemistry:	Dmitrii F. Perepichka
Chemistry/Physics:	Bradley Siwick
Computer Science:	Theodore Perkins
Earth & Planetary Sciences:	Boswell Wing
Earth & Planetary Sciences:	Michael Riedel
Earth & Planetary Sciences:	Jeffrey McKenzie
Geography:	Navin Ramankutty
Geography:	Benjamin Forest
Geography:	Sébastien Breau
Geography/Earth System Science:	Bernhard Lehner
Mathematics & Statistics:	David Stephens
Mathematics & Statistics:	Jacques Verstraete
Physics:	Matt Dobbs
Psychology:	Heungsun Hwang

The new professors were each given a cap with a McGill crest and a science logo.

The following professors were recently granted tenure in the Faculty of Science:

Biology:	François Fagotto
Biology:	Laura Nilson
Chemistry:	Christopher Barrett
Computer Science:	Michael Hallett
Computer Science:	Michael Langer
Computer Science:	Doina Precup
Mathematics & Statistics:	Masoud Asgharian
Mathematics & Statistics:	Alain Vandal
Psychology:	Baerbel Knauper
Psychology:	Debra Titone

The newly tenured professors gave brief descriptions of their research, and each was given a T-shirt with a McGill crest and a science logo.

The following people were recently promoted to the rank of Full Professor:

Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences:	John Gyakum
Biology:	Gerald Pollack
Chemistry:	David Burns
Earth & Planetary Sciences:	Don Baker
Mathematics & Statistics:	Vojkan Jaksic
Physics:	James M. Cline

After describing their research interests, the new Full Professors were each presented with a silk McGill tie embroidered with their initials.

On behalf of the Faculty of Science, Dean Grant congratulated all the professors on their achievements, and asked members for a round of applause.

(1) **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

The motion carried.

(2) **RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF EMERITUS PROFESSOR ELTON POUNDER**

Prof. Charles Gale, Chair of the Department of Physics, presented the Resolution on the death of Emeritus Professor Elton Ponder (Appendix A, attached to the permanent copy of the Minutes).

The resolution was passed unanimously.

(3) **SEATING OF STUDENT MEMBERS** **S-06-1**

Dean Grant welcomed the student representatives to the Faculty of Science, and asked them to stand as he introduced them.

(4) **MINUTES OF MAY 23, 2006** **S-05-46**

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

The motion carried.

(5) **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

(6) **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

a) Scholarships Committee

(i) Scholarship Report **S-05-47**

Associate Dean Leighton presented the Scholarship Report.

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

The motion carried.

(ii) New Awards

S-06-2

- **Robert W. Wilson Scholarships in Science**
Estimated value: \$2,500.00 each
- **The Racey Prize**
Estimated Value: \$1,000
- **Jack Blumer Prize in Science**
Estimated value: \$775
- **Anna and Robert Skomoroski Prizes in Science**
Estimated value: \$500 each

Associate Dean Leighton introduced the new awards.

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Zuroff, that the above new awards be approved.

The motion carried.

b) Nominating Committee

S-06-3

1. Science Nominating Committee (for information):

The Nominating Committee consists of the Science Senate Representatives; the Convenor was Prof. David Burns.

2. Science Chairs' Council (for information):

The Science Chairs' Council serves as an advisory committee to the Dean, and consists of the Dean, the three Associate Deans, and the heads of all units in the Faculty of Science, including the MSE and the Redpath Museum.

3. Tenure Committee (for information):

4. Committee on Student Standing (for approval):

The Committee on Student Standing reviews student appeals of decisions made by the Associate Dean (Student Affairs).

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

The motion carried.

5. Academic Committee (for approval):

The Academic Committee reviews and approves academic content taught in the Faculty of Science.

Prof. Roulet **moved**, seconded by Prof. Moore that the membership of the Academic Committee be approved.

The motion carried.

6. Scholarships Committee (for approval):

The Associate Dean of Student Affairs serves as the Chair of the Scholarships Committee.

Prof. Zuroff **moved**, seconded by Prof. GowriSankaran, that the membership of the Scholarships Committee be approved.

The motion carried.

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

The Leo Yaffe and Principal's Prizes Committee recommends candidates for these awards for excellence in teaching.

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

The motion carried.

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

Prof. Mysak **moved**, seconded by Prof. GowriSankaran, that the change in membership of this Committee be approved.

The motion carried.

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

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

The motion carried.

10. Ad hoc Work Group on Women Professors' Academic Careers

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Mr. Newlove, that this Committee be discontinued, since its work had been completed.

The motion carried.

10. Animal Care Committee

Associate Dean Burns **moved**, seconded by Prof. GowriSankaran, that the Faculty of Science Animal Care Committee be discontinued, since animal care was being reorganized into a smaller number of multi-faculty animal care committees.

The motion carried.

c) Committee on Student Standing**S-06-4**

Associate Dean Leighton pointed out the Report from the Committee on Student Standing.

(7) DEAN'S BUSINESS**(a) Enrolment****S-06-5**

107.1 Associate Dean Hendren described the process by which enrolment targets were set for faculties, and the means by which faculties attempted to achieve the targets. In the recent past, the target for the number of B.Sc. students plus Science's share of B.A. & Sc. students had been 1150. However, for the current year the target was 1200. The target was very nearly reached, the number being 1197.

107.2 Associate Dean Hendren answered members' questions about the enrolment figures.

(b) Role of Research Papers versus Patents

107.3 Associate Dean Burns chaired the Committee of the Whole. He introduced the topic by saying that there had been discussions over the last few years as to the role of intellectual property in the Faculty of Science, and how to handle that role. Granting agencies were showing a great deal of interest in increasing funding for applied research, and much research already had tie-ins to industry.

107.4 Associate Dean Burns said that the Research Innovation Office had been established in the Faculty of Science, and he introduced Ms. Erica Besso, the Research Innovation Officer.

107.5 A very important question was whether the Faculty of Science should actively pursue education in innovation. If so, at what level? Faculty members? Postdoctoral fellows? Graduate and/or undergraduate students? How should innovation be weighted in tenure dossiers and in similar situations?

107.6 Associate Dean Burns said that he would welcome suggestions for promoting innovation in research in the Faculty of Science.

107.7 It was suggested that the Faculty provide courses or formal workshops to teach graduate students and postdoctoral fellows of their role in innovation; this should be part of the education of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.

107.8 It was mentioned that it would be very useful to be able to use some industry money to fund the stipends of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows past the end date of contracts or grants.

107.9 A member pointed out that to focus on innovation is to take away from the sharing of results and information, and thus is to take away from what science and universities should be. If a researcher is being funded by industry, would that mean that results would be confidential? It was pointed out that the issue of possible publication should be resolved before funding occurred. Sometimes publication would have to be delayed until patent, contract, etc. issues had been cleared.

107.10 The direct question was asked: What happens if a professor coming up for tenure has, say, three patents but only one publication? It was mentioned that patents were not peer-reviewed. The tenure committee would have to examine closely the patents, which would entail a great deal of responsibility.

107.11 Suggestions were made as to the possibility of putting some proceeds from innovation into a foundation, and the possibility of including patents in the Annual Report.

107.12 Ms. Besso pointed out that it was not necessary to wait for a patent to be granted before publishing, but that application for a patent was sufficient. She added that it would be worthwhile to include the number of patent applications (as opposed to the actual

number of patents granted) on a tenure dossier, and that some granting agencies were requiring a patent application before considering funding for certain projects.

- 107.13** Associate Dean Burns said if members had any further comments, they should feel free to contact him or Ms. Besso. He added that he was serving on the Research Policy Committee, and that he would be interested in members' input.

(8) 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 May 24, 2006 - Prof. K. GowriSankaran

1. The meeting of Senate held May 24 last Spring was the last meeting of the year and ended up as a pretty long meeting.

The meeting started with the usual Report from the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee had directed the Provost to address a question that had been posed at an earlier meeting regarding the possibility of making full time the position of Ombudsperson. Basically the Provost's stand on this issue was <it is not called for now, however, we will keep an open mind>. The rest of the Report of the Steering Committee addressed routine matters.

2. This was followed by Chair's remarks. The Principal Heather Munroe-Blum started by thanking all departing members of Senate. She conveyed special thanks to Professor Malcolm Baines for all his contributions and especially as a member of the Steering Committee for the last four years.

I would like to remind members of the Faculty that Malcolm, is the last of the members of the Faculty of Medicine who represented our Faculty on Senate.

The Principal announced the departure of Janyne Hodder, vice Principal Governmental relations. She pointed out that Ms. Hodder was taking up the position of the President of the College of the Bahamas and thanked for her valuable service to McGill during the last couple of years. She thanked Vice-Principal Denis Thérien, Deputy Provost Jacques Hurtubise and Ms. Jennifer Towell for organizing a very successful ACFAS meeting at McGill earlier in the month.

3. The Chair's remarks were followed by questions from individual Senators. Deputy Provost (Hurtubise) was directed to answer a question from Ms. Krajewska (a graduate student Senator) regarding the state of affairs regarding the recruiting and retaining of women faculty members. The Deputy Provost pointed out that if anything the situation was improving and definitely our University has not lost ground in this regard.

A second question by the same Senator requested information on the apparently tremendous disparity in the level of wages paid students (both graduate and undergraduate) employed as research assistants in different faculties. Vice Principal Thérien responded that indeed there was quite lot of variation in the salaries paid by different faculties and often departments in the same faculty. He pointed out that efforts are being made to normalize the situation but cannot guarantee immediate success.

Senator Elbourne raised the question whether it will not be environmentally friendly if Senators (numbering over one hundred) are sent pre-Senate documents electronically avoiding the use of papers. Johanne Pelletier, the Secretary General, responded that it is not absolutely clear that the simple process of sending documents electronically will be more environmentally friendly since individual Senators will tend to print such documents etc.

She however, assured Senate that she would be very open to suggestions for efficiency which meets minimum expectations of Senators.

4. The Senate then moved into a confidential session of the Committee of a Whole to discuss the 2006-07 Draft Budget with Nicolas Kasirer, the Dean of Law, in the Chair.

5. This was followed by a number of routine (and sometimes long) items from the APPC and the Nominating Committee of Senate.

6. The long awaited revised Tenure Regulations for Full-time Librarian staff was presented by the Provost for approval by Senate. This document was adopted without much of a discussion.

7. The Provost presented a report on Online (Teacher and course) Evaluation System, noting that this item deals only with the change in the means of data collection and not policy. There were two experts, Dr. Winer (Senior Education Technologist from the Office of the Deputy Provost) and Professor Wolfson (Chair of the Department of Mathematics & Statistics) to address the concerns of Senators. There were a number of interventions including those of Professor Harpp (Chemistry), Finn Upham (a student in Mathematics and presently the internal VP of the SSMU) and Senator GowriSankaran (Mathematics & Statistics), from our Faculty. The general impression that (at least) I got was that MOLE was no worse than the previous paper based evaluations and many felt that it was better. The final remarks by Dr. Winer said it all " While at the extreme some institutions make completion of the evaluation compulsory, compliance is always better when professors let students know how important the evaluations are to them in their teaching."

8. The Annual Report on Full time Academic staff changes and that of the changes in the Administrative staff were presented to Senate.

9. The last item was a discussion for fifteen minutes, in the format of Committee of the whole with Dean Nicolas Kasirer in Chair, the Progress Report of the Principal's Task Force on Student life and Learning. The Provost expects to bring the whole document for discussion in Senate some time in the Fall.

The meeting of Senate was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

- 108.1** Prof. GowriSankaran added that if members had any questions or concerns in areas where Science Senators could help, they should feel free to contact the Senators.
- 108.2** Prof. GowriSankaran encouraged members of the Faculty to join the McGill Association of University Teachers (MAUT). He said that there were many reasons to join MAUT, and added that he could provide membership applications.
- 108.3** Dean Grant thanked Prof. GowriSankaran for his Senate Report and for promoting MAUT.

(9) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD

There were no members' questions.

(10) OTHER BUSINESS

- 110.1** Mr. Spencer Ng, Vice-President (Academic), SUS, welcomed the new professors to the Faculty of Science, and congratulated the recently tenured professors and the recently promoted Full Professors.

- 110.2** Mr. Ng introduced the Science student representatives on Senate. They were Mr. Christopher Newlove (Physiology) and Ms. Lauren McGruthers (Biology).
- 110.3** Prof. GowriSankaran mentioned that sometimes the Science Senators meet for lunch to discuss various issues, and he invited the student senators to these lunches.
- 110.4** Dean Grant called for a motion to adjourn the Faculty of Science meeting.
- Prof. GowriSankaran **moved**, seconded by Prof. Baines, that the meeting be adjourned.
- The motion carried.**
- 110.5** The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.