

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Tuesday, January 11, 2011
Leacock Council Room - L232**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book.

DOCUMENTS: S-10-13 to S-10-15

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

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

With the addition of a new award (Robert H. Mills Science Undergraduate Research Award [S-10-15]) under item #5, Reports of Committees, Prof. Levine **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gyakum, that the amended Agenda be approved.

The motion carried.

(2) PRESENTATION ON ACHIEVING STRATEGIC ACADEMIC PRIORITIES

502.1 Dean Grant introduced Provost Anthony C. Masi who gave a presentation on Achieving Strategic Academic Priorities (ASAP) at McGill.

502.2 **Provost Masi's presentation is available on the Web at:**

www.mcgill.ca/files/science/McGillASAP2012.pdf

502.3 Provost Masi said that he was pleased to have the opportunity to address the Faculty of Science regarding McGill's strategic directions, current serious economic constraints and plans concerning them, and steps McGill would be taking to achieve its overall goals.

502.4 Provost Masi began by stressing that McGill's mission and aspirations must now be sustained under a significant budget shortfall. The shortfall was the result of a number of factors, including some specific to universities in Québec. It was imperative that McGill: emphasize the urgency of acting immediately; stretch its resources by utilizing best practices cost efficiency measures; invest/reinvest in targeted academic areas; employ new ways of thinking; improve quality within the context of constraints; enhance accountability and transparency.

502.5 Provost Masi gave an outline of the budget situation over the coming years.

502.6 The shortfall meant that difficult choices had to be made. Under the Strategic Reframing Initiative (SRI), five key areas would be addressed immediately: cost efficiencies, enrolment mix, performance management, research and innovation, philanthropy.

502.7 Provost Masi said that Achieving Strategic Academic Priorities 2012 would consolidate and expand the gains achieved as a consequence of the 2006 White Paper, Strengths and Aspirations, and move forward from there. He said that the McGill community must work together in order to ensure and sustain the University's excellence and strength. He pointed out a number of areas that would be targeted for attention and to which initiatives would be applied over the next five years (2012-2016).

- 502.8** Provost Masi said that discussion and feedback was extremely important, and that he welcomed these. Members could express themselves to the Provost or to the Dean of Science.
- 502.9** In reply to Dean Grant, Provost Masi said that McGill must engage in public policy decisions in Québec and Ottawa.
- 502.10** Dean Grant thanked Provost Masi for his most important presentation.

(3) MINUTES OF DECEMBER 7, 2010 S-10-13

Mr. Djafarian **moved**, seconded by Prof. Dudek, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

(4) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

(5) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

a) Academic Committee S-10-14

The Academic Committee approved the following on Tuesday, December 14, 2010:

SECTION A: AD HOC PROGRAMS

- (1) B.Sc. Major in Quantitative Biology (*ad hoc*) AC-10-49**
(2) B.A. & Sc. Joint Honours in Physics & Philosophy (*ad hoc*) AC-10-50

- 505.1** Prof. de Takacsy introduced the above two ad hoc programs. He said that the Major in Quantitative Biology was actually in the process of being approved, but in the interim, there had been a request for an ad hoc program in quantitative biology.
- 505.2** Prof. de Takacsy said that the ad hoc B.A. & Sc. Joint Honours in Physics and Philosophy should not be considered as a precedent for future programs in physics and philosophy.
- Prof. de Takacsy **moved**, seconded by Prof. Levine, that the ad hoc programs for the B.Sc. Major in Quantitative Biology and the B.A. & Sc. Joint Honours in Physics and Philosophy be adopted.

The motion carried.

SECTION B: PROGRAM CHANGES

(1) Bachelor of Arts and Science AC-10-48

- 505.3** Prof. de Takacsy explained that BASC 201, a required integrative course for students registered in the B.A. & Sc. degree, was currently under review and therefore would not be offered in Winter 2011. BASC 201 will now not be listed as a required course, but instead will be listed as one of the complementary integrative courses.

Prof. de Takacsy **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gyakum, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

(2) Major & Honours Programs in Anatomy & Cell Biology AC-10-44

505.4 After briefly explaining that there were a number of complementary courses that were currently either not offered or not being taken by students in the Major and Honours Programs in Anatomy & Cell Biology, Prof. de Takacsy **moved**, seconded by Prof. Levine, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

SECTION C: NEW COURSES

(1) Anatomy & Cell Biology AC-10-43
 ANAT 565 Diseases-Membrane Trafficking
 3 credits

505.5 Prof. de Takacsy introduced the above new course and said that there was a need for a more advanced membrane-trafficking course in the Major and Honours Programs in Anatomy & Cell Biology.

Prof. de Takacsy **moved**, seconded by Prof. Devroye, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

(2) Computer Science/Mathematics & Statistics AC-10-45/AC-10-46
Double-Prefix Course
 COMP 553/MATH 553 Algorithmic Game Theory
 4 credits

505.6 Prof. de Takacsy said that the proposed double-prefix course, COMP 553/MATH 553, would be given by a jointly-appointed faculty member in the School of Computer Science and the Department of Mathematics & Statistics.

Prof. de Takacsy **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ruths, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

(3) Bachelor of Arts and Science AC-10-47
 BASC 449D1/D2 Integrative Research Project
 6 credits

505.7 Prof. de Takacsy explained that BASC 449D1/D2, a six-credit research project course, had been initiated by students in the B.A. & Sc. degree. He added that a three-credit research course currently existed; however, a six-credit course would benefit students wishing to do a longer project.

Prof. de Takacsy **moved**, seconded by Prof. Franklin, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

SECTION D: MAJOR COURSE CHANGES

BIOCHEMISTRY AC-10-41
 BIOC 689 Seminars in Chemical Biology 2

BIOC 690	Change in teaching unit [from Chemistry] 1 credit Seminars in Chemical Biology 4 Change in teaching unit [from Chemistry] 1 credit	AC-10-42
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505.8 Prof. de Takacsy said that the above two courses would no longer be administered by the Department of Chemistry, but instead by the Department of Biochemistry.

Prof. de Takacsy **moved**, seconded by Prof. Levine, that the above changes be approved.

The motion carried.

SECTION E: MINOR COURSE CHANGES (For Information Only)

- Report on Minor Course Changes **AC-10-40**

There were no questions concerning the Report on Minor Course Changes.

b) Scholarships Committee – New Award **S-10-15**

505.9 Associate Dean Peter Grütter introduced a new award, **Robert H. Mills Science Undergraduate Research Award**, that would be available for students in the Science Undergraduate Research Awards program.

Associate Dean Grütter **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gyakum, that the award be approved.

The motion carried.

(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 20, 2010 - Prof. K. Franklin

The meeting began with a resolution by Dean Manfredi on the death of Professor Mary MacKinnon of Economics.

In her opening remarks Principal Munroe-Blum commented on Bill 100 which requires public institutions to reduce operating expenses by 10% and cut 25% in training and travel expenses this academic year. McGill has submitted a plan but at this time the Administration was still considering how best to implement the measures. The university administration argues that the university is best able to determine how to reduce costs and is in agreement with CREPUQ that it would be better for the government to focus on performance-based funding rather than increased regulation.

In question time Senator Richard asked a whether the traditional designation “Director of Libraries” had been changed to “Dean of Libraries”. The provost confirmed that the titles Dean or Director were now being used as appropriate.

The main part of the meeting was taken up by various reports which contain few items that may be of special interest to Faculty of Science. The Financial report of the Board of Governors on fiscal year ending May 31, 2010 dealt mainly with explaining the new GAAP reporting system and its implications to Senate. Essentially it means we will be using a

system more closely aligned with accepted accounting practices. In particular the new system will give a better picture of McGill's liabilities. The Provost then gave an overview of the progress on the 2006 White Paper and asked Senate to consider whether the objectives and targets for action needed to be modified in the light of experience. Senators were uncertain about the details of what had been achieved to date and no modifications were proposed, but it is expected that the issue will return to Senate. Two motions that are of interest for all research supervisors arose from the report of the Academic Policy committee. Senate approved the proposal to eliminate the Dean's Honour List for research Master's students following the June 2011. Senate also approved a proposal for a McGill Writing Centre within the Centre for Continuing Education.

Senate Meeting of December 8, 2010 - Prof. J. Gyakum

Section I - Chair's Remarks

The Principal discussed her December 6 meeting in Quebec City (the Recontre des partenaires en education), hosted by the Ministers of Finance and Education. She was pleased that the Finance Minister, Raymond Bachand, remained committed to increasing university tuition fees. The Principal expressed regret at the pre-planned walkout of student and union representatives, who disapprove of the government's intention to raise tuition fees.

Section II - Part A – Questions and Motions by Members

1. Question regarding Research Performance Report

Senator Robaire asked the question concerning the Research Performance Report, in which a decline was reported in research revenues. Associate Vice-Principal Rozen responded that, as part of the Strategic Reframing Initiative, a careful analysis of research performance is occurring. However, a preliminary analysis indicated that the peak in research revenues for a tenure-track academic occurs between 14 and 36 years after hiring. Therefore, a contributing factor in research revenue may be due to the relatively large number of recently hired professors.

Part B – Motions and Reports from organs of the University Government

2. Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee

The Senate moved into a confidential session to consider this report.

Open Session

3. McGill University 2011-2012 Budget Considerations Report

The Provost, presenting the report, pointed out that McGill operates in an environment of chronic underfunding. He indicated that academic priorities drive the budget, and that McGill is committed to maintaining high-quality academic programs, including the recruiting and retention of top academic staff. Several significant financial challenges face McGill including deferred maintenance, and pension liabilities.

4. 424th Report of the Academic Policy Committee

5. Policy on Cyclical Academic Unit Reviews

Following his presentation of the 424th Report of the Academic Policy Committee, the Provost introduced the Policy on Cyclical Academic Unit Reviews. Such reviews are

necessary to assess units' objectives, priorities, and achievements. Though previous cyclical reviews typically concluded that more financial resources were required, the new reviews' focus will be on whether resources are being optimally used, and on the quality of a unit's programs as compared with other programs in North America. Questions were raised concerning the additional work associated with producing these reviews. The Provost's office of Planning and Institutional Analysis (PIA) will assist units in providing data for benchmarking, and in providing a template for reporting. The Provost, in responding to a question as to whether the reviews would come back to Senate, responded that the reviews would be reported to APC, and subsequently reported to Senate through its reports. The Cyclical Review Document is to be revised taking into account today's discussion, and returned to Senate for approval at its January 2011 meeting.

6. Report of the Senate Nominating Committee

7. Motion to Amend the McGill University Statutes

The remainder of the meeting consisted of reports presented as information.

8. Presentation on course reserves

Diane Koen, Interim Trenholme Director of Libraries, discussed the recently implemented course reserves system, allowing for students to electronically access course reserves.

9. Report on University-related international travel activity by students and university staff accompanying them

Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning) Morton Mendelson noted that the use of the travel registry is increasing, although about half of the forms were left incomplete. The Deputy Provost's office is working to shorten the forms, with input from administrators and students.

10. Annual report of the Ombudsperson for students

Professor Spencer Boudreau, the Ombudsperson for students, after presenting his report, answered a question concerning whether his position should be expanded from its present part-time status to full time. He indicated that his current time allotment is appropriate, as he only works with students and postdoctoral fellows. Other Quebec university ombudspersons also address issues raised by both academic and support staff.

11. Annual report of the Committee on physical development

Professor Jim Nicell, Associate Vice-Principal (University Services), as part of his report, listed several ongoing projects, including renovations of 3471 Peel and 475 Sherbrooke Street West for student residence use in September 2011, and the refitting of the Maass Chemistry Building, with an estimated completion by March 31, 2011.

12. Annual report of the Committee on student discipline

Professor Jane Everett, the Dean of Students, noted in her report a 19% increase in the total number of discipline cases from 2009 to 2010, primarily due to an increase in non-academic offence allegations (48 in 2010 versus 13 in 2009).

13. Enrollment report at October 5, 2010

Ms. Kathleen Massey, Registrar, in her report, noted an enrollment increase to 36,531, up 3.5% from the previous year. Most faculties, including Science (+3.4% from 2009)

showed an enrollment increase. Of particular note is the university-wide 19.7% increase in doctoral enrollments.

14. Annual report of the Committee on Enrolment and Student Affairs

Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning) Morton Mendelson in his report noted that the funds for scholarships and student aid in 2009-10 have increased to nearly \$75M, or 37% since 2002-2003. He also noted that McGill's student body is not as economically diverse as the population of Canadian university students. He concluded that more efforts are needed to attract students from less economically privileged backgrounds, and more financial aid is need to ensure that these students succeed at McGill.

(7) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD

- 507.1** A member suggested that calling for questions immediately after a presentation such as the Provost's, in which a great deal of new information was revealed, did not give members time to digest the information and come up with thoughtful questions. In response, Dean Grant said that at the next Faculty meeting scheduled for February 15, 2010, there would be a Committee of the Whole discussion of the topic lasting 15 minutes.

(8) OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, on a motion duly proposed and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.