

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE**  
**Meeting of Faculty**  
**15 October 2019**  
**Redpath Museum Auditorium (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)**

**ATTENDANCE:** As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book

**DOCUMENTS:** **S-19-3, S-19-10**

Dean Lennox called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., and welcomed members to the second Faculty of Science meeting of the year.

**1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Prof. Roulet **moved**, seconded by Prof. Stix, that the Agenda be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**2) RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR JOAN POWER, DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY**

Prof. Perepichka, Chair of the Department of Chemistry, read the following Resolution on the Death of Professor Joan Power:

With great sadness we report that Prof. Joan Power passed away this last September after a long struggle with cancer, at the age of 61.

Prof. Power obtained her B.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Chemistry from Concordia University in 1982 and 1986, respectively. After a postdoctoral fellowship at University of Toronto in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, she joined McGill in 1987, and became the first female faculty member in the Department of Chemistry.

Prof. Power's research involved the invention and development of novel imaging platforms and their associated instrumentation. Much of her work focused on depth profile imaging or tomography of solid biological samples and materials via photoacoustic or photothermal spectroscopies, as an alternative to X-ray and ultrasound imaging. Prof. Power designed these new platforms by integrating her knowledge of complex optics, skills in mathematical modelling, and deep understanding of spectroscopies.

She published 40 peer-reviewed papers, many of them as a single author, and was awarded three patents based on her research. These patents have generated worldwide interest as they enable new light microscopes for the three-dimensional imaging of biological cells. Her layer-by-layer photothermal approach was described as "allowing one to read a book without ever opening it". Her work with Light Profile Microscopy provided the foundations for Light Sheet Microscopy, a powerful method that has taken the world of biological imaging by storm. Her other contributions included photopyroelectric thin-film instrumentation and impulse-response detection.

Prof. Power was a dedicated classroom and undergraduate laboratory instructor. She continually tuned her courses in Introductory Analytical Chemistry and Instrumental Analysis and taught to many hundreds of students over the years. Amongst her students, the course was called "The Power Hour" referring to the

rigour that was her trademark. She believed that the basics of computer programming were essential for every science student and introduced it in her courses in the early days. Her rigorous approach to chemometrics and instrumentation design provided these students with a career-long foundation in key aspects of chemistry.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to Joan's family: her father Bernard, her sister Christine, and her brothers Mark and Michael.

**The resolution was adopted unanimously.**

**3) CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES**

- |                                 |               |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| a) Bachelor of Arts and Science | <b>S-19-4</b> |
| b) Bachelor of Science          | <b>S-19-5</b> |

On behalf of Director Allard, Associate Dean Hundemer said that for the B.A. & Sc. degree, there were 13 candidates, compared to 17 in October 2018. For the B.Sc. degree, there were 69 candidates, compared to 78 in October 2018.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, that the candidates for the B.A. & Sc. and the B.Sc. be approved for their respective degrees.

**The motion carried.**

- |                           |               |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| c) Diploma in Environment | <b>S-19-6</b> |
| d) Diploma in Meteorology | <b>S-19-7</b> |

Associate Dean Hundemer said there were no students graduating with diplomas in Environment and Meteorology.

Associate Dean Hundemer further **moved**, seconded by Prof. Lydon, that the Dean be given discretionary power to make such changes as would be necessary to prevent injustice.

**The motion carried.**

**4) MINUTES OF 10 SEPTEMBER 2019** **S-19-3**

Prof. Kirshbaum **moved**, seconded by Prof. Perepichka, 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**

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|-----------------------|---------------|
| a) Academic Committee | <b>S-19-8</b> |
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**The following proposals were approved at the Academic Committee meeting held on 24 September 2019:**

**I. New and Revised Courses**

(1)	Office of Science Education (OSE) FSCI 396	Research Project: Science Teaching & Learning Changes in restrictions 3 credits	<b>AC-19-1</b>
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Associate Dean Hundemer described the proposed changes in restrictions for FSCI 396. The two revisions are that (i) FSCI 396 will be made available to students in the B.A. & Sc. degree, and (ii) approval of the course coordinator, instead of the Associate Dean, will be required.

<i>New Course:</i>	FSCI 397	Research Project: Science Teaching & Learning 2 3 credits	<b>AC-19-2</b>
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<i>New Course:</i>	FSCI 398D1/D2	Research Project: Science Teaching & Learning 3 6 credits	<b>AC-19-3</b>
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Associate Dean Hundemer reminded members that the regulation governing -396 courses is that students cannot be supervised by the same instructor for two -396 Science courses. FSCI 397 will give students the opportunity to continue their project or have a second follow-up project with the same instructor. In addition, a six-credit course, FSCI 398D1/D2, is being introduced when it is clear from the outset that a research project will take more than one semester to complete.

In response to a member, Prof. Western highlighted some of the different types of research projects in FSCI 396. Some examples of research topics are: research into topic-related misconceptions, looking into the literature for, and design of, peer mentoring at the faculty level (i.e., faculty member to faculty member), the assessment of deficiencies in background knowledge, the assessment protocols for the FRezCa peer tutoring program, etc.

FSCI 396 was first offered in January 2019, with six students enrolled. There were four students in Summer 2019, and there are nine students in Fall 2019.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Prof. Western, that the revisions to FSCI 396 be approved, and that the creation of FSCI 397 and FSCI 398D1/D2 be adopted.

#### **The motion carried**

(2)	Physics PHYS 447	Applications of Quantum Mech. Changes in restriction, prerequisites 3 credits	<b>AC-19-4</b>
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Associate Dean Hundemer said the modifications in restrictions and prerequisites were being revised to reflect the changes in course numbering.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Prof. Jeon, that the revisions be approved.

A member proposed a friendly amendment that one of the two restrictions should clearly specify that PHYS 447 is not open to students in Honours in Physics or any Joint Honours in Physics programs.

**The amended motion carried.**

**II. Retirement of Option/New Option**

- Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences  
Option to be **Retired**:
  - M.Sc. in Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences; Environment AC-19-6

Associate Dean Hundemer explained that the Environment Option in the M.Sc. in Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences program was being retired due to the heavy course load in the M.Sc. program, leaving little time to complete additional courses in the Environment Option. For this reason, the Department has opted to offer an Environment Option in the Ph.D. in Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences (discussed below) program.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Prof. Kirshbaum, that the retirement of the Environment Option be approved.

**The motion carried**

**New Option:**

- Ph.D. in Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences; Environment AC-19-7

Associate Dean Hundemer said that, given that the Ph.D. program allows for more time and more in-depth research, and given that some students have expressed interest in the Environment Option, the Department would like to offer it in the Ph.D. program.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Prof. Kirshbaum, that the Environment Option for the Ph.D. in Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**III. Program Revisions**

- (1) Biochemistry/Microbiology & Immunology/Physiology  
- Interdepartmental Honours Program in Immunology AC-19-5

Associate Dean Hundemer said that a one-credit writing course, MIMM 301 (Scientific Communication & Skills), was being added to the program as a U2 Required course, thereby increasing the total program credits to 76 credits from 75.

A few members voiced their concern about the increase to the program credit weight, and said that the writing course could be a component of a research course. Another member commented that MIMM 301 was a very useful course for her program.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, that the revisions be approved.

**The motion carried.**

- (2) Minor Concentration in Education for Science Students AC-19-8

Associate Dean Hundemer explained that, in light of Quebec's secular school system, a three-credit Complementary course, EDEC 261 (Philosophy of Catholic Education), was being removed from the Minor program since it is no longer required for teacher certification. Moreover, the course has not been offered for a number of years. The total program credits remain unchanged.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Mr. Barry, that the change be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**7) DEAN'S BUSINESS**

a) Announcements

**(I) McGill's Bicentennial Kick-off**

Dean Lennox announced that on 26 September 2019 the kickoff event for McGill's Bicentennial took place at the Homecoming Tent on McGill's lower campus. He said that the Faculty of Science was present and he represented the Faculty at the Honorary Doctorate presentation to Dr. Jane Goodall, who also delivered the 65<sup>th</sup> annual Beatty Lecture. Dean Lennox said that Dr. Goodall gave an impressive and powerful lecture that has been archived on the University's Beatty Lecture website <https://www.mcgill.ca/beatty/>

**(a) Made by McGill**

As part of the Bicentennial kick-off, Dean Lennox said that the event was timed with the launch of the new "Made by McGill" branding. The new logo will be used throughout the entire Bicentennial campaign will also be the new logo for the University. He noted that the logo has not yet been widely communicated to the McGill community.

**(b) Cases for Support**

The Bicentennial was also the venue for the launch of "Cases for Support." The University's target is \$2 billion over the next five years, and so far, \$1.13 billion has been raised. The Faculty's target is \$120 million over the next five years. Dean Lennox commented that the University of Toronto raised \$2.65 billion over 13 years of campaigning. He encouraged members to check out the Faculty of Science Strategic Plan, "Cases for Support McGill."

**(II) Announcements of Awards and Prizes**

Dean Lennox informed members that there have been many announcements of awards and prizes over the last six weeks, and members should visit the Faculty's website (<https://www.mcgill.ca/science/kudos>) for details. The Faculty's Communications Officer is Mr. Fergus Grieve (fergus.grieve@mcgill.ca).

**(III) Faculty of Science Meetings**

In discussion with the Faculty's Associate Deans and the Director of Administration, Dean Lennox said that the Faculty is looking into ways of increasing attendance and sharing information at Faculty of Science meetings in the future. The plan is to hold three-part meetings to include: (i) discussion/approval of standard business items, (ii) inviting award and prize winners to present a three-minute talk (Soup & Science style), and (iii) student initiatives within the student society or individually, students' undergraduate research projects, student outreach initiatives, student fundraising initiatives, peer-to-peer initiatives, etc.

**(IV) Leo Yaffe Teaching Award**

Dean Lennox reminded members that the deadline is 15 March 2019 for submission of nominations for the Leo Yaffe Teaching Award. He asked members to remind their departmental awards committee to start planning and preparing for nomination dossiers.

**(V) Principal's Prizes for Excellence in Teaching**

Dean Lennox said he was pleased to announce that **Professor Melanie Dirks (Psychology)** is the winner of the Principal's Prize for Excellence in Teaching in the

Associate Professor Category. Prof. Dirks was also the winner of the 2018-2019 Leo Yaffe Teaching Award. The Principal's Prize will be officially awarded at the Fall Convocation ceremony on 29 October 2019.

b) Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List (DMURL)

**S-19-9**

Associate Dean Hundemer reminded members that the DMURL provides recognition for students who have completed at least 9 credits of graded, research-based courses in at least two different units, and who have a minimum GPA of 3.00 in these courses. There were seven B.Sc. students listed in Document S-19-9 who would be graduating with this honour. There were no students in the B.A. & Sc. degree.

c) B.Sc. Global Designation

**S-19-10**

Associate Dean Hundemer said that the B.Sc. Global was a designation being given at graduation. Students must have at least three credits of a second language course, at least three credits of an independent research project course, plus a third component, chosen from various preselected options. There were three candidates who would graduate with the B.Sc. Global designation included in Document S-19-10.

**8) SCIENCE EQUITY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE (SECC)**

Associate Dean Laura Nilson gave some background on the SECC. The inspiration for forming such a committee was a series of conversations with students who had come to talk to the Dean and herself about their concerns regarding equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in the Faculty of Science. How to address these issues at the Faculty level was not clear, since most of the policies in this area occur at the central administration level and groups offering support are organized at the grassroots level. Ideally the Faculty would complement what was happening at the other two levels with work that would be meaningful but not redundant. The idea that took shape was to have a committee on equity and climate, with "climate" having the broader sense, i.e., the institutional climate within our Faculty in which we work and learn. The full name of the Committee is the Faculty of Science Committee on Equity and Climate for Working and Learning. The goal of the Committee is to support the Faculty's goal of providing an equitable, diverse and inclusive environment for Faculty, students and staff, and, more generally, promoting a climate to help support their success. These goals are linked because being inclusive and respectful contributes to having a good institutional climate, but studies also show that having a good climate for everyone helps achieve EDI objectives, as well. The intention is that this focus will help the Committee make a distinct contribution rather than duplicate other work that is going on in this area at McGill.

Associate Dean Nilson mentioned that the Committee was launched in December 2018, and the composition of the Committee is:

- one faculty member from each unit
- two graduate students
- three support staff members
- support from Tynan Jarrett (Senior Employment Equity Advisor, Office of the Provost and Vice Principal (Academic))

Associate Dean Nilson pointed out that the lack of direct undergraduate representative does not indicate a lack of concern for undergraduate-related issues, but rather a desire to launch the committee with a more manageable scope. An undergraduate student representative will be invited once the Committee further defines its specific roles, but the meantime, one of the support staff members is an undergraduate advisor from the Faculty of Science, who helps to connect the committee to the undergraduate perspective.

Associate Dean Nilson gave an overview of the Committee. She said that the Winter 2019 term was spent informing the Committee members by inviting speakers with expertise in institutional EDI practices, STEM and equity, in order to provide background information EDI research and related subjects so that the members could become familiar with the area. In addition, the Committee also thought about the roles of the different members, and how the Committee members could be liaisons to their constituents. It is fundamental that the information, policies and work of the Committee, and the University as a whole, in this area be properly communicated to members of the Faculty. Another area the Committee worked on was mentorship as a way of promoting good climate and people's success, because mentorship can be beneficial to everyone and also can impact success in underrepresented groups. The Committee decided to start with pre-tenure faculty members, through the creation of a "Pre-Tenure Faculty Forum," which is a series that meets three times a year with a speaker of interest, and provides a platform for communication, peer mentorship and support, and sharing practices.

Associate Dean Nilson said that, for the coming year, a number of working groups have been set up to look at several projects that have arisen either through discussions within the Committee or that have been brought forward by Committee members to the Committee. Examples of the projects the working groups will include: (i) parental leave for graduate students: assessing any gaps where graduate students may not be covered and subsequently implementing a plan; (ii) issues important to graduate students and how to benefit them; (iii) removing unconscious bias by removing names from exams and identifying students instead by identification numbers. The Faculty of Law has been doing the latter for a long time, and the Committee is examining the possibility of implementing this model in the Faculty of Science. Associate Dean Nilson said that members could email her ([laura.nilson@mcgill.ca](mailto:laura.nilson@mcgill.ca)) with any questions, concerns or suggestions.

Associate Dean Nilson ended her report by asking members to think about what kind of things, either at McGill or in past experience, have made people feel included in their working environment or maybe not so included?

In response to a member's questions, Associate Dean Nilson said that she would welcome any suggestions or questions from undergraduates, and that a website about the Committee's workings would be created in the future. In response to another question, Associate Dean Nilson explained the makeup of the Committee and each member's role.

Dean Lennox asked members to bring this information back to their units, and that there will be regular SECC updates at future Faculty meetings.

## **9) ROYAL VICTORIA PROJECT (The New Vic) - Update**

Dean Lennox gave an update on the New Vic project. In collaboration with the architects and principle users of the New Vic site, the Functional and Technical Program (FTP) is in the development phase. Since June 2019, the process has involved collecting information for the architects as to what space people are currently using, how they are using it, and what types of facilities because the mandate is to design space associated with the Sustainability Systems and Public Policy clusters for about 185 principal investigators (PIs) and approximately 1,000 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. With this information, the architects will generate a plan and present a design to McGill in Spring 2020.

In architecture terms, typology refers to a specific set of characteristics of the different types of laboratories/space. For example, the Bellini Building includes three typologies: (i) biological wet labs with no types of biological restriction; (ii) more biohazard-restricted laboratories; and (iii) a more generic space for services supporting research. The Bellini Building was designed by the same architects. The New Vic project involves many types of researchers and departments, and there are probably about seven or eight typologies.

The allocations of people and units will occur in six or seven years. Dean Lennox said that customized space will not be designed at this time, because it is difficult to anticipate departures, and simultaneously, anticipate the needs of the new people. Another important component of this project is the building of new space, and the releasing of space; therefore, it will be much easier to customize space in six to seven years. The space will be released subject to McGill's needs, especially those of the Science and Engineering Departments. The architects are expected to present the third and final draft of the FTP by 23 November 2019. Dean Lennox said he will give an updated report on the FTP document at the next Faculty meeting.

## **10) REPORTS OF DIRECTOR AND ASSOCIATE DEANS**

- a) Director (Advising Services) Nicole Allard

There was no report for the current meeting.

- b) Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer

### **- Enrolment**

Associate Dean Hundemer presented the report on enrolment for Fall 2019. The total number of new admissions for Fall 2019 was 1,287 which is comparable to Fall 2018 and Fall 2017. Again this year, the distribution of incoming students was uneven in that there was an increase in U1 admissions (from CEGEPs) and a decrease in U0, whereas last year, there was an increase in U0 admissions and a decrease in U1. There was a 27% decrease in U0 and a 17.8% increase in U1, but bear in mind that last year these figures were transposed. In general, the increase in U1s results from an increased interest in Computer Science due to AI research in Montreal, as well from the BBL group. The decrease in U0 students can be explained by an unexpected number of students receiving advanced standing, who were therefore exempted from taking U0 courses.

Associate Dean Hundemer said that the Faculty's long-term goal was to increase the PEMC group to roughly 40%, and currently the PEMC group is at 40%, which is most likely due to the interest in Computer Science. In previous years, the BBL group was the largest and there is a very small decrease in this group (54.3% from 54.8%) but this may be due to the relatively new Bio-Physical-Computational Sciences (BPC) group. The target was lower than the actual enrolment, i.e., an increase of 9.5%, but within the acceptable range. The total Science enrolment has increased by 3.2% due to cumulative increases over the years. This year enrolment in two courses, CHEM 110 and PHYS 101, has been affected by the decrease in U0. Due to the increase in Computer Science and Mathematics & Statistics, both are still growing, even though there is a decrease in U0 admissions. A particular concern is possible overcrowding in U1, although it seems that the classrooms are manageable. One issue with the admissions process is that the Admissions Office is not first and foremost concerned with ensuring a correct mix of U0 and U1 students; rather, their priority is to admit the best students available. For the Faculty of Science, the right mix of students is very important, unlike the Faculty of Arts, because it does not have designated courses in U0.

### U0 Enrolments

U0 enrolments in the Faculty of Arts have also decreased. A more important matter is keeping a close watch on enrolments in the Faculties of Science and Engineering because U0 Engineering students take Science freshman courses. The combined enrolments for the latter faculties are minus 15.8%.

#### Science Admissions by Type

The table below gives a breakdown of the sources of Science students. Associate Dean Hundemer pointed out the dramatic increase from CEGEPs, from 30% in Fall 2018 to 42.2% in Fall 2019. The increase of incoming CEGEP students is very good news for the Faculty given that, by law, 50% of students admitted to McGill have to come from Quebec. Associate Dean Hundemer remarked that these incoming students (42.2%) are coming to McGill because of their interest in McGill. There was a decrease in students coming from Ontario high schools, Canadian high schools, US high schools, and overseas high schools.

Science Admissions by Type		
	2018	2019
<b>CEGEP</b>	30%	42.2%
<b>Ontario HS</b>	17.8%	14.4%
<b>Canadian HS</b>	17%	15.5%
<b>US High</b>	9.8%	7.9%
<b>Overseas HS</b>	24.4%	19.5%

#### Admissions R-Score Cut-offs

Associate Dean Hundemer went over the admissions R-Score cut-off levels. He noted that the BBL and PEMC groups have the same R-Score cut-offs, whereas, in previous years, the cut-offs for the BBL group were higher because more students were interested in the BBL. Also, the cut-offs for overall R-Scores are the same for these two groups, and the cut-off level for the NEURO group is the highest due to the fact that it is a selective program. The cut-offs for the B.A. & Sc. programs are comparable to the BBL, PEMC and BPC groups, while the cut-off for the B.A. degree is considerably lower. In general the cut-offs for the B.Eng. programs are comparable to the B.Sc. programs.

#### Total Science Enrolments Over the Last 10 Years

Concerning total Science enrolment over the previous 10 years, there was a considerable decrease from 2013 to 2015, which was intentional, but since then the enrolment has increased rapidly.

#### B.A. & Sc. Enrolment and New Admissions

Total enrolment for the B.A. & Sc. had decreased, but in the last two years, the enrolment has increased. The total number of B.A. & Sc. Students has increased by 9.9% since Fall 2018, and the increase is mostly due to the high interest in the Interfaculty programs in Cognitive Science, Environment, and Sustainability, Science and Society. In the future, the goal is to increase the number of Interfaculty programs in the B.A. & Sc.

degree. Since Fall 2018, new admissions for the B.A. & Sc. degree have increased considerably by 19%. The Provost's target was slightly lower than the actual enrolment.

A discussion ensued about the following issues: classroom sizes and constraints; the stress to students caused by not being able to register for courses needed for their program because the courses are already full; wait lists and reserved seating to improve the registration experience for students; recording lectures.

In response to a member, Associate Dean Hundemer said he would look into the impact of student enrolment in the B.A. degree, given that these students are taking the same courses as the B.Sc. students in the Computer Science and Mathematics and Statistics programs. Dean Lennox added that student fees for international students will be increasing in the Faculty of Arts because their tuition fees will be deregulated in the very near future. It is important to keep a close watch on the enrolment in the Faculty of Science.

Dean Lennox informed members that McGill's goal is to grow enrolment at the graduate-level, and not at the undergraduate level.

c) Associate Dean (Graduate Education)

Associate Dean Nilson announced that there would be some new pilot funding initiatives designed to benefit graduate students in the Faculty of Science. The goal is to support a range of activities that will enhance the training and experience of graduate students. The four initiatives are:

**(i) Science Graduate Student Travel Awards (\$850 per eligible student)**

The motivation behind this pilot program is to allow students to travel to a conference, workshop, or course that will benefit them in their current research and also provide opportunities for networking and professional development. The Faculty of Science currently receives from the central Administration the GREAT awards, which provide funding for this purpose, but the total funding amount is very small compared to the total number of students. The Faculty would like to provide funding per eligible (eligibility criteria to follow) thesis graduate student so that each of them will be able to participate in a conference or equivalent opportunity. This information will also be communicated directly to the graduate students.

**(ii) Departmental Seminar Series Support (\$5,000 per unit)**

The rationale behind this is to invite researchers to present their work. This is an important role in the scholarly life of a department and provides opportunities for both faculty and students to learn from, and interact with, outside speakers, and, hopefully, through this mechanism, also interact with each other. The goal of this program is to allow the graduate student population within a department to invite and host their own speakers in the departmental seminar series. Also, there will be funds available for organizing a refreshment program or hosting a speaker.

**(iii) \*Science Outreach Fund (\$5,000 per unit)**

The rationale behind this is to allow a number of departments within the Faculty to participate in outreach activities in the community. The Science outreach programs can facilitate community engagement and can also provide useful skills and professional development opportunities for graduate student participants and organizers.

**\*Secretary's Note:** This item is under review for the 2019-2020 academic year.

**(iv) Science Graduate Student Activity Fund (\$2,500 per unit)**

The goal of this funding is to benefit graduate students by providing support for a wide range of student-organized initiatives. The funds will be flexible for this program. Some examples of activities are: research symposia, a career seminar series, etc.

Associate Dean Nilson answered members' questions, and she looked forward to receiving feedback from graduate students and departments on these pilot funding initiatives

- d) Associate Dean (Research) John Stix

There was no report for the current meeting.

**11) REPORTS ON ACTIONS OF SENATE**

Senate Meeting of 18 September 2019 – Senator Peter Grüter

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on Wednesday, September 18, 2019.

The meeting began with memorial tributes being presented by Dean Lennox for Professors Laurie Hendren and Godfried Toussaint, and by Dean Bajeux for Professor Richard Donovan.

In her remarks from the Chair, Principal Fortier reported that this year's university rankings have started to be published; McGill has gone from 44th to 42nd in the Times Higher Education ranking, from 70th to 90th in the Shanghai ranking, and is ranked 30th by the Center for World University Rankings.

A formal question posed by Senators Wilson and Buraga was regarding support for students and alumni in light of Bill 21; the response was provided by Provost Manfredi ([https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/question\\_and\\_response\\_re\\_support\\_for\\_students\\_and\\_alumni\\_in\\_light\\_of\\_bill\\_21.pdf](https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/question_and_response_re_support_for_students_and_alumni_in_light_of_bill_21.pdf)).

**QUESTION:**

- Is McGill University formally in opposition to or in support of Law 21?
- Now that Law 21 has been passed, what concrete steps can McGill commit itself to taking to support students or recent graduates who are affected by Law 21, either personally or professionally?

**RESPONSE:**

In public statements concerning Bill 21 and Law 21 earlier this year, the Provost confirmed the University's commitment to embracing and celebrating diversity, and to ensuring that our policies and practices would not change as a consequence of this legislation. McGill does not support legislative developments that could restrict educational opportunities for our students or professional opportunities for our graduates. McGill will continue to uphold its commitment to supporting all our students who choose to pursue public sector career paths. Within our own community, moreover, we encourage and will continue to participate in active, constructive dialogue. To this end, the Shared Spaces program recently launched by the Office of the Dean of Students has included discussion of Law 21 and its implications in its Fall 2019 workshop and other programming.

Senate next debated an added agenda item, a motion from Senators Wilson, Lametti, Kemeni, Duckett, Mecabô, Garneau, Buraga, Mikkelson and Nystrom to cancel classes from 11:35 a.m. to 3:55 p.m. on September 27 to allow students to participate in the local Montreal iteration of the global climate strike. Following numerous interventions both for and against the cancellation of classes, the motion was voted upon and massively defeated. The major argument was that our mission was educational (which can be interpreted 2 ways: outreach = demonstrate, raise awareness or teach and (possibly) use this as a learning moment); in passing I learned that Uof T and UBC did not cancel classes either, many other universities did. Also recall that the Provost had indicated in

an earlier email that McGill will maintain regular academic and administrative activities on that day, but asked teaching staff to be flexible in accommodating students who wish to participate in the march, and asked that teaching staff not schedule exams or graded activities, and be understanding about absences.

A few other items made up the rest of the meeting, which did not lead to discussions.

- report of the Senate Nominating Committee (nominations of members to complete various committees).
- appointment of four Assessors under the Policy on Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law.
- report on academic appointments with tenure (~12 per year)
- annual report on investigation of research misconduct (small numbers, not much changed)
- annual report on the Policy on Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law (increase in reports, not clear if increase in cases; might be related to better awareness of reporting possibilities and one point entry to support system).
- annual report of the Committee on Student Services
- annual report of the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity

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Following numerous interventions both for and against the cancellation of classes, the motion was voted upon and defeated.

Provost Manfredi presented the report of the Senate Nominating Committee ([https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/05\\_d19-01\\_nominating\\_report.pdf](https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/05_d19-01_nominating_report.pdf)), which was approved. The nominations included:

- the appointment of Mr Jeffry Archer and three student members to the Senate Committee on Libraries;
- the appointment of Ms Katarina Daniels as a legal assessor to the Appeal Committee for Student Discipline and Grievances;
- the appointment of Mr Joseph Hafner as alternate member for the University Libraries on the University Tenure Committee for Recruitment;
- the appointment of Professor David Ragsdale as an alternate member of the Advisory Committee for the Possible Extension of Term of the Trenholme Dean of Libraries.

Senate approved the appointment of four Assessors under the Policy on Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law ([https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/06\\_d19-02\\_harassment\\_assessors.pdf](https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/06_d19-02_harassment_assessors.pdf)); this item was presented by Associate Provost Campbell. Professor Campbell also presented a report ([https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/07\\_d19-03\\_appointments\\_with\\_tenure.pdf](https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/07_d19-03_appointments_with_tenure.pdf)) on the academic appointments with tenure which have been recommended directly by the Provost under section 7.32.5 of the *Regulations Relating to the Employment of Tenure Track and Tenured Academic Staff*, which was introduced (along with the equivalent section 3.56 of the *Regulations Relating to the Employment of Librarian Staff*) in October 2016. In response to a question from Senator Richard about how many recommendations to appoint an academic staff member with tenure are typically handled in a given year by the University Tenure Committee for Recruitment, Professor Campbell indicated that the figures on average are about twelve to fifteen per year.

Senate received for information the annual report on investigation of research misconduct ([https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/08\\_d19-04\\_research\\_misconduct\\_report.pdf](https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/08_d19-04_research_misconduct_report.pdf)), which was presented by Dr Christina Wolfson, Research Integrity Officer, and the annual report on the Policy on Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law ([https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/09\\_d19-05\\_harassment\\_policy\\_report.pdf](https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/09_d19-05_harassment_policy_report.pdf)), which was presented by Associate Provost Campbell.

Senate also received for information the annual report of the Committee on Student Services ([https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/10\\_d19-06\\_css\\_report.pdf](https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/10_d19-06_css_report.pdf)), which was presented by Deputy Provost Labeau, and the annual report of the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity ([https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/11\\_d19-07\\_jbsce\\_report.pdf](https://mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/11_d19-07_jbsce_report.pdf)), which was presented by Associate Provost Campbell.

The next Senate meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 23, 2019. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

**12) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no members' questions.

**13) OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no further business, Associate Dean Stix **moved**, seconded by Prof. Perepichka, that the meeting be adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

**The motion carried.**