

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Meeting of Faculty
Tuesday, March 17, 2015
Leacock Council Room – L232**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book.

DOCUMENTS: S-14-18 to S-14-21

Dean Grant called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Prof. Dudek **moved**, seconded by Prof. Mucci, that the Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

(2) INTRODUCTION TO THE PRINCIPAL'S PRIORITY PROJECTS IN RESEARCH S-14-21

702.1 Rosie Goldstein, Vice-Principal (Research & International Relations), said that she was visiting faculties in order to introduce them to the Principal's Priorities in Research.

702.2 The Office of Research and International Relations has been reorganized to better support researchers, including support for commercialization of research outcomes.

702.3 **Moving Support Closer to Research** will not only physically bring administrative support closer to the actual research, but will also make such support more accessible, and will advise and assist researchers in navigating pathways to funding. Discipline-specific teams (Biomedical and Health Sciences, Natural Sciences and Engineering, and Social Sciences and Humanities) have been created, and advisors and commercialization officers deployed. Researchers can thus have questions readily answered concerning funding applications and research support. Rupa Narasimhadevara is the officer for the Faculty of Science, and can answer questions related to both provincial and federal funding, and, if necessary, provide contact people for any other questions members of the Faculty may have.

702.4 The Invention Development and Entrepreneurship Assistance (IDEA) team, in the Office of Innovation and Partnerships, will be responsible for all aspects of commercialization. Derrick Wong is the IDEA Officer for the Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Science.

702.5 The Strategic Initiatives unit (Director: Kristina Ohrvall) is concerned with McGill's strategically important research initiatives, and will be responsible for policy and planning of these.

702.6 **The McGill Seed Fund** will provide initial funding for high-risk, high-potential projects which would otherwise have difficulty launching for lack of conventional funding.

702.7 **Support for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.** The reorganized Office of Innovation and Partnerships, in addition to the IDEA team, contains the McGill University Business Engagement Centre (MUBEC), and the team coordinating with Montreal's Quartier de l'Innovation (QI).

Prizes and Awards

- 702.8** Sarah Stroud, Associate Vice-Principal (Research and International Relations), said she would like to say a few words regarding prizes and awards. She said the Faculty of Science was doing a stellar job concerning prizes and awards, and would be the model Faculty regarding these.
- 702.9** Her office was in the process of energizing the recognition of McGill faculty members. This requires effort at all levels, including from the nominee herself/himself. Colleagues played an important role as well, being familiar with the nominee's work, and being well able to express the nominee's contribution to excellence. The faculty-level – the Dean's office – also had an important part to play, as does the University-level. The Office of Research and International Relations has implemented a series of meetings each year that include the Chairs of departmental and faculty awards committees. Best practices are shared at these meetings, enabling members to take away procedures that enhance success in the awards process.
- 702.10** Another approach being undertaken centrally involves working with an initiative spearheaded by the Governor-General and former McGill Principal, David Johnston, to increase recognition of Canadians internationally. This initiative utilizes international peer review of dossiers with the aim of making them more competitive in order to promote visibility of Canadians.
- 702.11** Again, recognition of McGill faculty requires effort at all levels, working in synchrony.
- 702.12** Associate V.-P. Stroud highlighted some recent successes of members of the Faculty of Science.
- Henri Darmon, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Simons Fellowship
 - Keshav Dasgupta, Department of Physics, Simons Fellowship
 - Graham Bell, Department of Biology, American Academy of Arts and Sciences
 - Nigel Roulet, Department of Geography, Royal Society of Canada
 - Dani Wise, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Royal Society of Canada
 - Aashish Clerk, Department of Physics, Royal Society College of New Scholars
- 702.13** Associate V.-P. Stroud said there were many more in addition to those she mentioned. Being recognized was great for, not just the individuals recognized, but also their colleagues, and McGill.
- 702.14** In closing, Associate V.-P. Stroud said that the more people thought about awards, and acted, the more awards would be obtained, producing a self-reinforcing circle. She thanked the Faculty of Science for its excellent work, and encouraged it to continue.
- Questions and Answers:**
- 702.15** In reply to a member, V.-P. Goldstein, said that the results of the two-year pilot project for the McGill Seed Fund were still being analyzed, and should be available soon. The funding for the Seed Fund proper should be between \$5000 and \$25,000 per year per project, but the details were still being worked out.
- 702.16** Dean Grant asked about the process for the Canada First Excellence Research Fund (CFREF). V.-P. Goldstein said that most of the money would be allocated by the end of the current year. Some money (about \$200M out of the original \$1.5B) will be left to be allocated, and this should be done in about six or seven years. The themes for McGill would be neuroscience, nanoscience and materials, and sustainability. These will be refined over the next few weeks. Writing teams will be put together to define the proposals.

- 702.17 V.-P. Goldstein said that while the competition allows for only one application per institution per competition, multiple themes may be included within that application.
- 702.18 In response to a member who asked about a timeline, V.-P. Goldstein said the first meetings will take place in April, and that a timeline will be published.
- 702.19 A member asked about what sort of projects would be included under sustainability. V.-P. Goldstein said that it was not a question of projects but rather a theme or research strategy with several themes. Much of the focus is on the people involved and the excellence and global importance they bring to the theme – what McGill's researchers are good at and how we could be better. The exact specifics of the themes have not been decided, and will be decided by the researchers themselves.
- 702.20 Dean Grant emphasized that he would like to encourage V.-P. Goldstein and her office to consider restricting the McGill Seed Fund to newly hired young researchers, since he thought that this would be a promising clientele for the Fund. V.-P. Goldstein said that these people would certainly be included although not exclusively.
- 702.21 A member asked whether the Seed Fund was restricted to community projects and commercializable projects, since these seemed to be referred to extensively in the document. V.-P. Goldstein said that this was not the case, and that the Seed Fund was available for all types of new ideas – curiosity-driven research.
- 702.22 In response to a member, V.-P. Goldstein said that she currently did not have information regarding CFI cyber-infrastructure plans.
- 702.23 Dean Grant thanked V.-P. Goldstein and Associate V.-P. Stroud for their time and informative presentations and answers.

(3) **MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 17, 2015** **S-14-18**

Prof. Lydon **moved**, seconded by Prof. Robinson, 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) **Committee on Student Standing** **S-14-19**

705.1 Director Nicole Allard said that there had been an appeal to have two grades removed from the GPA calculation, as well as the credits removed. The appeal was granted.

b) **Academic Committee** **S-14-20**

The Academic Committee approved the following on Tuesday, 24 February 2015:

Section A. Courses and Programs

(1) **BIOCHEMISTRY**

New Course:

BIOC 220

Laboratory in Biochemistry 1
3 credits (Winter U1)

AC-14-65

New Course:

BIOC 320

Laboratory in Biochemistry 2
3 credits (Fall U2)

AC-14-66

New Course:

BIOC 470

Lipids & Lipoproteins in Dis.
3 credits

AC-14-70

705.2 Associate Dean Western said that the newly designed courses, BIOC 220 and BIOC 320, will replace the current two-term laboratory course, BIOC 300D1/D2, currently taken in U2. Students will be exposed to laboratory practice in the Winter of U1 by taking BIOC 220, in parallel with the lecture course, BIOC 212 (co-requisite for BIOC 220). BIOC 320 will run in the Fall term of U2.

705.3 Associate Dean Western said that BIOC 470 was a new U3 Complementary course on lipids and lipoproteins in disease, and would replace BIOC 570.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Mucci, that the above three courses be approved.

The motion carried.

Program Changes:

- Liberal Core Science Component in Biochemistry
- Major in Biochemistry
- Honours in Biochemistry

AC-14-67

AC-14-68

AC-14-69

705.4 Associate Dean Western explained that the program changes were to replace BIOC 300D1/D2 with the newly approved courses, BIOC 220 and BIOC 320 in all three Biochemistry programs, as well as to include BIOC 470 in the Major and Honours Programs. Also, analytical chemistry, CHEM 287 and CHEM 297, were moved from U1 Required courses to U2 and U3 Complementary courses for the Major and Honours Programs, and were added to U2 Complementary courses for the Liberal Program.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Lydon, that the above changes be approved.

The motion carried.

(2) Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology, Physiology

- Honours Immunology (Interdepartmental) Program Changes

AC-14-64

705.5 Associate Dean Western said the changes were simply the inclusion of PHGY 488 (Stem Cell Biology), a Complementary course in U3, and the rewording of the program requirements.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Lydon, that the above changes be approved.

The motion carried.

(3) MINOR COURSE CHANGES (for information)

Biology

- Changes in title, description

BIOL 316 Biomembranes and Organelles
3 credits

Earth & Planetary Sciences

- Change in Restrictions

EPSC 180 The Terrestrial Planets
3 credits
EPSC 181 Environmental Geology
3 credits
EPSC 182 Astrobiology
3 credits
EPSC 185 Natural Disasters
3 credits
EPSC 501 Crystal Chemistry
3 credits

Earth System Science

- Change in Restrictions

ESYS 104 The Earth System
3 credits

Anatomy & Cell Biology

- Change in Restrictions

ANAT 182 Astrobiology
3 credits

Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences

- Change in Restrictions

ATOC 185 Natural Disasters
3 credits

705.6 Associate Dean Western described the above minor course changes.

Section B. Other (For Information Only)

(1) Information for Instructors Re Intellectual Property Posted On Web AC-14-72

705.7 Associate Dean Western said the Academic Committee had briefly discussed intellectual property that is re-posted on the web by someone else other than the instructor. She said there was some information for instructors on how to request "take-downs" of such material at the following web address:

<http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/staff/protecting-your-intellectual-property-instructors>

Information for students may be found at:

<http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/students/test/ugrad/posting-instructors-intellectual-property-course-materials-public-websites>

705.8 Associate Dean Western advised instructors to include a copyright notice on any material posted on the web, to make it easier to request take-downs.

705.9 She added that it wasn't against the Student Code of Conduct to re-post material, and asked Director Allard to elaborate.

705.10 Director Allard said re-posting material wasn't usually against the Student Code of Conduct. The occasions when it was against the code were very specific. It would have to be shown that such re-postings actively interfered with the smooth functioning of McGill. However, if students were making money from re-posting material, that would be different.

(2) Proposal to Modify M.D.,C.M. Prerequisites

705.11 Associate Dean Western said that the prerequisites for entry to the M.D.,C.M. program at McGill's Medical School will be changed. Currently the prerequisites are U0 courses in biology, chemistry and physics, plus organic chemistry. The new prerequisites would add some more U1 courses, BIOL 200, BIOL 201, PHGY 209. The situation had been discussed with the relevant departments. The change in prerequisites was to have been implemented for the 2017 application cycle, but has now been pushed back to the 2018 application cycle, allowing extra time for departments.

(6) DEAN'S BUSINESS

706.1 Dean Grant said that the Faculty was preparing for Fall submission of Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) projects. The Faculty, rather than the University, would be taking the lead in this. There had been several meetings so far on the topics of materials, sustainability and the environment, and IT. Further proposals would be welcome.

706.2 Dean Grant said that the next Dean of Science, and all other new deans, would be announced before the end of April 2015.

(7) REPORT ON ACTIONS OF SENATE

Please note that the entire Minutes of Senate are available on the Web at <http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/senate-2014-2015/senate-meeting-documents>

Senator Gregory Dudek will submit his written Senate Report of February 18, 2015 at a future Faculty meeting.

(8) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD

708.1 In response to a member, Dean Grant said that the next meeting of the Faculty CFREF committee would be held in his office on April 7, 2015. The people leading the materials effort are Professors Peter Grütter and Bruce Lennox. From the Office of the V.-P. Research and International Relations are Kristina Ohrvall and Nathalie Foisset.

708.2 Dean Grant emphasized that in submitting any CFREF projects, it was crucial to be aware that it was Industry Canada, rather than Health Canada, that was in charge of the process.

708.3 Related to this, McGill has two novel institutes that distinguish it from other universities in Canada: The Trottier Institute of Science and Public Policy in the Faculty of Science, and its parallel in the Faculty of Engineering, The Trottier Institute of Sustainable Engineering Design. Both faculties have commercialization programs.

(9) OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.