

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE**  
**Meeting of Faculty**  
**Tuesday, October 21, 2014**  
**Leacock Council Room – L232**

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

**DOCUMENTS:** S-13-35, S-14-1 to S-14-9

Dean Grant welcomed new and continuing members to the first Faculty of Science meeting of the year, and called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Dean Grant also welcomed Prof. Tamara Western as the new Associate Dean (Academic) of Science.

**New Professors, Recently Tenured Professors, and Recently Promoted Full Professors:**

Dean Grant congratulated the new professors, recently tenured professors, and recently promoted full professors. He presented a gift bag to the professors present.

**New Professors**

Dean Grant asked new professors to briefly describe their areas of research.

<b>Atmospheric &amp; Oceanic Sciences and Chemistry</b>	Assistant	PRESTON	Thomas
<b>Computer Science</b>	Assistant	CAI	Yang
<b>Mathematics &amp; Statistics</b>	Associate	CHEN	Linan
<b>Mathematics &amp; Statistics</b>	Assistant	SABOK	Marcin
<b>Mathematics &amp; Statistics</b>	Assistant	PRZYTYCKI	Piotr

**Tenured Professors:**

<b>Biology</b>	Associate	DANKORT	David
<b>Biology</b>	Associate	MOON	Nam-Sung
<b>Chemistry</b>	Associate	SZUCHMACHER BLUM	Amy
<b>Chemistry</b>	Associate	BROUHARD	Gary
<b>Chemistry</b>	Associate	MOORES	Audrey
<b>Computer Science</b>	Associate	KRY	Paul
<b>Geography</b>	Associate	BERRANG FORD	Lea
<b>Geography</b>	Associate	FORD	James
<b>Geography</b>	Associate	KALACSKA	Margaret
<b>Mathematics &amp; Statistics</b>	Associate	WALCHER	Johannes
<b>Physics</b>	Associate	WEBB	Tracy
<b>Redpath</b>	Associate	MILLIEN	Virginie

## Full Professor

Chemistry	Professor	PEREPICHKA	Dmitrii
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(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

**The motion carried.**

(2) RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF EMERITUS PROFESSOR JOACHIM (JIM) LAMBEK, DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS

202.1 Prof. Henri Darmon read the resolution:

"It is with great sadness that we report the death of Joachim Lambek, who died this past summer at the age of 91. Jim was one of the pioneers of mathematics at McGill, and indeed in Canada.

"He was born in Leipzig in 1922, and attended a German gymnasium until 1938, when he was forced to leave by a Nazi decree. He left for England on the Kindertransport, then was interned as an enemy alien at the beginning of the war and sent to Canada. In camp, he combined tree felling with a mathematical apprenticeship with Fritz Rothberger, also interned, and wrote the McGill Junior Matriculation in fall of 1941, while in camp. He was, eventually, released in the spring of 1942. He then entered McGill, and graduated with an honours mathematics degree in 1945.

"If one counts his quite regular presence for seminars until last year, Jim spent over 70 years at McGill, a presence which, if not a record, must surely be surpassed by very few. He did his graduate work here, obtaining his doctorate in 1950 under the supervision of Hans Zassenhaus, a pioneer in algebra; it was the first McGill mathematics PhD. At the same time he started as a lecturer, then went on to become a professor in 1950. He was made a full professor in 1963. His seminar, started in the 60s, continues to this day.

"Our faculty member's files from the old days are wonderful things, and give a true idea of their times, in a way which is gone forever, because of email. Jim's from the fifties, sixties and seventies abounds in life: suggestions for the chair on whom to hire, and occasionally whom not to; discussions about the library; reports from sabbatical. Jim's services were much in demand, and there are also letters of offer from quite a few places. The ones from Canada tend to represent McGill as a lost cause in Quebec; plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.

"Jim's scientific interests were extremely varied, ranging all the way into physics, but centred on the general theme of algebra, logic, and linguistics. His work was characterised by a conceptual clarity and an aesthetic dimension that was often missing in the work of others in these fields. His early work in the algebra of rings led to recognition; this was followed by foundational work in category theory, most notably in categorical logic, bringing logic into the domain of "structuralist" mathematics. Already in the 1950's he showed a deep interest in linguistics, and some of his early work has slowly blossomed into a school of "Lambek grammars". More generally, his work has tended to re-emerge in subsequent years, with repercussions in a wide variety of domains. He was a superb teacher, and supervised over fifty graduate students during his time at McGill.

"Jim retired in 1992, but his presence in the Department was constant until the year before his death. He continued to hold a research grant until a few years ago, and his last publication dates from 2014, the earliest being in 1951. His career saw the development of

his discipline in Canada from a rather weak and poor thing to the flourishing enterprise we see today, and he contributed in great measure to this happening. His career was a model for us all. The Faculty extends its condolences to his sons Michael, Larry, and Bernie, and his grandchildren."

**The resolution passed unanimously.**

**202.2** On behalf of the Faculty of Science, Dean Grant thanked Prof. Darmon for a very respectful tribute to Prof. Lambek.

**(3) Seating of Student Members S-14-1**

**203.1** Dean Grant called out the names of the student members, and asked the students present to introduce themselves. He said that attendance is very much appreciated.

**(4) Candidates for Degrees (For information)**

**204.1** Director (Advising Services) Nicole Allard said that the B.A. & Sc. and B.Sc. degree lists had been e-mailed to chairs/directors for approval, and that as part of this process, the chairs/directors had given the Dean discretionary power to make such changes as would be necessary to prevent injustice.

**a) Bachelor of Arts and Science S-14-2**

**204.2** Director Allard said there were 9 candidates graduating with the B.A. & Sc. degree. In October 2013, there were 8. The CGPA cut-off for the Dean's Honour List in June 2014 was 3.86, and 3.70 for Distinction.

**b) Bachelor of Science S-14-3**

**204.3** Director Allard said there were 69 candidates, as opposed to 96 in October 2013, graduating with a B.Sc. degree. For Dean's Honour List, the CGPA cut-off was 3.91 and 3.80 for Distinction.

**c) Diploma in Environment S-14-4**

**d) Diploma in Meteorology S-14-5**

There were no students graduating with either diploma.

**(5) MINUTES OF MAY 22, 2014 S-13-35**

Prof. Mucci **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gyakum, that the Minutes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**(6) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES  
- Minutes 906.14 to 906.16, GEOG 205 (AC-13-96)**

**206.1** Prof. Roulet **moved**, seconded by Prof. Mucci, that the proposal for GEOG 205, which had been tabled at the Meeting of May 22, 2014, be taken off the table and be put to a vote.

**The motion carried.**

**206.2** Prof. Roulet **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gyakum, that GEOG 205 be included on the list of Approved Freshman Science Courses.

**The motion carried.**

**(7) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**a) Nominating Committee S-14-6**

**207.1** The Nominating Committee consists of the Science Senate Representatives.

**2) Science Chairs' Council (For Information)**

**207.2** The Science Chairs' Council serves as an advisory committee to the Dean, and consists of the Dean, the Associate Dean (Academic), the Associate Dean (Research and Graduate Education), the Director of Advising Services, 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)**

**207.3** The Committee on Student Standing reviews student appeals of decisions made by the Director of Advising Services.

Prof. Roulet **moved**, seconded by Prof. Green, that the membership of the Committee on Student Standing be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**5) Academic Committee (For Approval)**

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

Prof. Grütter **moved**, seconded by Prof. Bell, that the membership of the Academic Committee be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**6) Scholarships Committee (For Approval)**

**207.5** The Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Education serves as the Chair of the Science Scholarships Committee.

Prof. Grütter **moved**, seconded by Prof. Blanchette, that the membership of the Scholarships Committee be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**7) Leo Yaffe & Principal's Prizes Committee (For Approval)**

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

Prof. Roulet **moved**, seconded by Prof. Lydon, 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)

**207.7** Representatives of all faculties sit on the Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS).

Prof. Mucci **moved**, seconded by Prof. Roulet, that the Science members be approved for the membership of the CGPS.

**The motion carried.**

### (9) B.A. & Sc. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (PAC)

**207.8** The B.A. & Sc. PAC reviews changes and coordinates the administration of the B.A. & Sc. degree programs. Only the Science membership is for approval by the Faculty of Science.

Prof. Mucci **moved**, seconded by Prof. Roulet, that the Science membership of the B.A. & Sc. PAC be approved.

**The motion carried.**

#### b) Scholarships Committee S-13-36

**207.9** Associate Dean Kaspi, Chair of the Science Scholarships Committee, said that the In-course Scholarships Report lists awards given to continuing students based on their grades for the 2013-2014 academic year. The cut-off for receiving a monetary award for B.Sc. and B.A. & Sc. students was 4.00 SGPA, and for the Dean's Honour List designation, 3.95 for B.Sc. students and 3.87 for B.A. & Sc. students.

#### c) Academic Committee S-14-7

**The Academic Committee approved the following on Tuesday, 23 September 2014:**

### SECTION A: New Courses

<b>1)</b>	<b>Redpath Museum</b> REDM 511	Advanced Museum-Based Science 3 credits	<b>AC-14-1</b>
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**207.10** Associate Dean Western introduced the new course REDM 511, and said that it will build on current Redpath Museum courses.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Green, that the course be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

<b>2)</b>	<b>Medical Physics</b> MDPH 396	Undergraduate Research Project 3 credits	<b>AC-14-3</b>
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**207.11** Associate Dean Western said MDPH 396 was a further addition to the 396-series of undergraduate research courses.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Grütter, that the course be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**SECTION B: (For Information)**

- 1) **Computer Science** **AC-14-4**  
 - Cotutelle Program (Ph.D. Program)
- 207.12 Associate Dean Western said that while the current Cotutelle Program, similar in concept to an undergraduate ad hoc program, had already been approved, and was being presented to the Faculty for information, in future, such programs should need approval by the Academic Committee.
- 207.13 Additionally, the current program specifies that a minimum number of publications must be achieved before a thesis submission, but the Academic Committee feels that this should not be the case in future similar programs. A particular number of publications may be recommended, but not required.
- 207.14 Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Mucci, that for future programs similar to the current Cotutelle Program, the Faculty of Science will not require a specific number of publications prior to thesis submission.

**The motion carried.**

2) **Courses on Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List (DMURL)** **AC-14-2**

- 207.15 Associate Dean Western said that Document AC-14-2 represents an updated list of courses eligible for the DMURL. GEOG 460, Research in Sustainability, had been added to the list, and MDPH 396 (above) will be added once approved by SCTP.

3) **B.Sc. Global Designation** **AC-14-5**

- 207.16 Associate Dean Western said that the B.Sc. Global Designation, which had been passed by the Faculty of Science in December 2012, will recognize students who have broadened themselves by going beyond the standard requirements of a B.Sc. degree, as specified in Document AC-14-5. The Faculty is currently in the process of preparing for implementation of the Designation, and Associate Dean Western will be presenting the proposal to APC on 30 October 2014.

d) **Committee on Student Standing (CSS)** **S-14-8**

- 207.17 Director (Advising Services) Allard said that the Committee on Student Standing considers appeals by students regarding decisions made by the Director of Advising Services.
- 207.18 As in Document S-14-8, the CSS had rejected one appeal.

(8) **DEAN'S BUSINESS**

a) **Enrolment** **S-14-9**

- 208.1 Associate Dean Western gave a summary of the admissions process. Applicants to McGill are considered as coming from different pools: CEGEPs, Ontario high schools, rest-of-Canada high schools, U.S. high schools and overseas high schools. Different pools are given different admissions threshold, to allow for differences in grading schemes, and to generate appropriate percentages of incoming students from each pool.

Admissions threshold are based on previous years' experiences which give an indication as to the number of offers for admission that should be generated. Offers to students are made on a rolling basis, with earlier offers made to students with higher grades and to international students, who require more documentation (visas, etc.).

- 208.2** CEGEP students enter U1, other students enter U0.
- 208.3** Freshman students apply to one of two groups:
- Biological, Biomedical and Life Sciences (BBL group)
  - Physical, Earth, Math and CS (PEMC group)
- 208.4** U1 Students apply to one of three groups:
- Biological, Biomedical and Life Sciences (BBL group)
  - Physical, Earth, Math and CS (PEMC group)
  - Neuroscience (NEUR group)
- 208.5** U1 (CEGEP) students can freely change majors within their group or apply for an intrafaculty transfer between groups, although it is difficult to transfer into the BBL or NEUR group.
- 208.6** At the end of their U0 year, freshman students can freely choose a major from within their group or apply for a transfer to another group, including the NEUR group.
- 208.7** Associate Dean Western went over the admissions cut-off levels for 2014-2015. All were high, perhaps too high in some cases. However, the actual admissions were very close to the targets.
- 208.8** Another statistic tracked is yield — the percentage of offers made that result in registration. For 2014-2015, most yields were slightly lower than previous years. There was a little better yield for the BBL group than the PEMC group, and it would be worthwhile to try to increase the PEMC yield.
- 208.9** Registrations for all years were slightly lower for 2014-2015, because of lower target levels. The U0 load (students taught in Freshman courses) was a little below 1000 for 2014. It is important to keep a close eye on this figure, since the Freshman capacity of the Faculty is between 1000 and 1100.
- 208.10** There is more interest on the part of students in the BBL and NEUR groups than in the PEMC group and this is reflected in the fraction of PEMC students in U0. It had been around 30% in previous years, but for 2014-2015 it dropped to 27%. A good target to aim for would be 40%, and obviously more work needs to be done on this.
- 208.11** Some ways to increase registration in the PEMC group: watch cut-offs, which are slightly high; put more effort into PEMC recruitment, including at Francophone CEGEPs and high schools outside Québec; encourage intrafaculty transfer to PEMC; let students know that it is possible to go into Medicine via the PEMC group.
- 208.12** For interfaculty transfers, there was a 2.5% net loss for the B.Sc., and an approximately 4% loss for the B.A. & Sc. The latter figure is lower than in the past.
- 208.13** January admissions are only for CEGEP students and McGill graduates seeking a second degree. Admissions in January are only into the PEMC group.

**208.14** The most important challenges ahead are to increase interest in the PEMC group, and to ensure that international students are of the same calibre as Canadian students.

**208.15** Dean Grant thanked Associate Dean Western for a very clear and informative presentation.

#### **b) Announcements**

**208.16** Dean Grant made the following announcements:

**208.17** (i) The members of the **Advisory Committee for the Selection Committee of the Dean of Science** are:

**Faculty Representatives:**

Niky Kamran (Math & Stats)

Paul Lasko (Biol.)

Tim Moore (Geogr.)

Karine Auclair (Chem.)

**Senate Representatives:**

Elena Bennett (NRS)

Andrew Kirk (Engr.)

Steve Maguire (Mgt.)

Michel Tremblay (Cancer Res. Ctr)

**Board of Governors Representatives:**

Kappy Flanders

Lorne Trottier

**Student Representatives:**

Jeremy Goh, SSMU Representative

TBD, SSMU Representative

TBD, PGSS Representative

**Secretary:**

Stephen Stropole

**208.18** (ii) The Faculty of Science received two **Principal's Prizes for Excellence in Teaching**:

- At the Assistant Professor Level - **Gary Brouhard** (Biology)

- At the Faculty Lecturer Level - **Eyad Atallah** (Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences)

**208.19** (iii) The **Principal's Prize for Outstanding Emerging Researchers** was awarded to:

- Assistant Professor **Jonathan Davies** (Biology)

**208.20** (iv) **Robin Rogers** will be coming to McGill as the **Canada Excellence Research Chair** in Green Chemistry and Green Chemicals.

**(9) 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>

- Prof. John Gyakum: Senate Meeting of September 17, 2014

**1. Welcoming remarks (Principal Fortier)**



Principal Fortier welcomed everyone, and reported that Provost Masi had to convey his regrets. He had important outside business, with no possibility of rescheduling.

Principal Fortier welcomed in particular the new and returning senators, and proceeded to outline a few key procedures of Senate:

1. The first three rows for senators, visitors sit at back
  2. Use of laptops and other electronic devices are fine, but there are no recordings, no postings or sending of deliberations
  3. As approved last year, there is live streaming
- Meetings are recorded on the senate website until the minutes have been approved at the next Senate meeting of October 22, 2014.

## **2. Memorial Tributes: Professors Ellen Aitken and Roderick Macdonald**

Professor Ellen Aitken tribute was given by Acting Dean of Religious Studies, Ian Henderson.

Professor Roderick Macdonald tribute was given by Faculty of Law Dean Daniel Jutras.

The Senate unanimously approved both tributes.

## **3. Report of the Steering Committee [Consent item]**

Senate approved the minutes of the previous Senate meeting (May 14, 2014), granted speaking rights for various individuals listed on the agenda, approved the holding of a Confidential Session for the purpose of discussion of the Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocation Committee, and approved the Agenda (September 17, 2014).

## **4. Business Arising**

This is a new agenda item recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Enhancement of Senate Meetings

The May 2014 Senate meeting was held in the Moot Court Room in the Faculty of Law in an effort to assess whether this was a better venue than that of Leacock 232. The majority view is that Leacock 232 is a better venue, as a consequence of surveying the membership after that meeting.

The possibility of an earlier start time (such as at 1:30 PM) was addressed. This was not implemented, as an earlier starting time would generate more conflicts with Senators' teaching commitments.

Nevertheless, among the Committee's recommendations that have been implemented includes:

- A. The distribution in advance of each meeting, the written answers to formal written questions from Senators
- B. Powerpoint slides to be presented at Senate should be limited to only a few slides.
- C. The advance notice of Senate meeting dates to student groups, to facilitate the setting up of bake sales for treats to Senators and Visitors at the Senate meeting room entrance.

## **5. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair noted that several remarks are appropriate, considering the lengthy gap since the May 2014 meeting:

First, the Chair congratulated all parties on the implementation of a very successful Freshman Orientation week.

McGill welcomed about 6400 undergraduates, 1600 M. Sc., and 500 Ph. D. students. Among the new students, 57% are female. Geographical representations included 52% from Quebec, 23% from other Canadian Provinces and Territories, and about 24% from other countries. So, the total of 8500 is about the same as in the previous year. Such a diverse student community enhances the learning environment.

Next, University rankings:

A. QS Survey

McGill was ranked 21<sup>st</sup>, and the U. of Toronto was ranked 20<sup>th</sup>. The ranking is good, considering McGill's financial constraints.

Other universities enjoy better financial situations. Canadian universities overall fared well, with 10 being ranked in the top 10 of 200.

- In the Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities, released in mid-August, McGill dropped from 58th to 67th place; the Principal noted that the Shanghai ranking uses narrower criteria than the QS. Yearly fluctuations are expected in such a narrow-scope of metrics, such as Nobel Prizes, etc., for rankings.
- Two more rankings are expected in the next few weeks: the one produced by Macleans and the one produced by the Times Higher Education Supplement.

In the period allocated for questions or comments pertaining to the Principal's remarks, Senator Richard referred to a recent article in which the Rankings Editor of the Times Higher Education Supplement defined what a university must have to achieve a high ranking, notably the financial resources needed to attract and retain leading scholars and to build facilities. Principal Fortier concurred that a great deal of money is needed to be top-ranked university, but she added that one must also consider what a university does with the resources that it has; if value for money were a ranking criterion, McGill would be at top of the rankings.

B. Government relations

On the subject of government relations (the financial aspect of which she will discuss under the agenda item for formal questions), Principal Fortier reported that she had attended the Quebec government's *Forum des idées* last week. The focus of this three-day meeting was on innovation. The Premier attended the entire three-day forum (Friday through Sunday), as did most of the Ministers. It is clear to the Chair that McGill stands out as a model university for Quebec Society.

On the federal scene, the Standing Committee on Finance is receiving briefs and hearing presentations that will assist the government in preparing the next budget. McGill has submitted a brief and has been invited to appear before the Committee. The brief includes three primary components: Maintain priority investments in granting councils. Next, continue to find excellence-based recruiting and Chair programs. Finally, invest in such research training initiatives, as CREATE. Principal Fortier will be chairing an AUCC committee on digital infrastructure.

As an extension of the Principal's remarks, V.-P. Di Grappa provided an update on the McTavish Street construction work. Based on contractor estimates and on the university's observations, it appears that the work may be completed in late October, more likely into November. Although we have no control over the activities, there are continuous communications with the city to address the safety issues for pedestrians. To enhance pedestrian security, one more signal person has been added to the work site (bringing the total up to four), and improvements in signage and fencing have been made.

The Principal mentioned that there were too many honors (kudos) to mention.

Nevertheless, two items are noteworthy for the Faculty. The Royal Society of Canada announced 90 new Fellows, including the Faculty's Nigel Roulet of Geography, and Daniel Wise of Mathematics and Statistics.

## **Part "A" – Questions and Motions by Members**

### **1. Question Regarding the Potential Impact on McGill of the 2014-2015 Quebec Budget and Spending Estimates**

Under the agenda point for formal questions, Senators Greenspon, Rourke, Godil and Benrimoh posed a question regarding the potential impact on McGill of the 2014-2015 Quebec budget and spending estimates. Principal Fortier answered the question via a short PowerPoint presentation

([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/4a\\_question\\_re\\_qc\\_2014\\_15\\_budget\\_with\\_response.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/4a_question_re_qc_2014_15_budget_with_response.pdf))

The Principal responded to a follow-up question, by indicating that, although the government will not be providing McGill with as much money as it had originally promised, it does not appear that this lower level of funding will put McGill into a crisis situation because McGill, in developing this year's budget, had anticipated that this situation might occur. The budget includes various additional investments that the University would have wanted to make if the funding had been available for them, but which will need to be postponed in the new financial situation. We are still moving in the direction that we want, but not at the pace that we would have wanted.

In response to questioning as to whether she was saying that there would not be cuts, Principal Fortier responded that it is still too early to be sure. McGill only received the government's *règles budgétaires* document in early September, four months into the new fiscal year, and this 180-page document is built around detailed enrolment assumptions that the Administration is now examining to assess their validity. It will take at least a month, and probably longer, to determine how much confidence we can have in the accuracy of the government's enrolment estimates. Moreover, some parts of the funding envelope have not yet been distributed. The Principal indicated that further consultations with the community will likely occur as the full implications of the budget become evident.

### **2. Question Regarding Follow-up to the Joint Board-Senate Meeting on Mental Health**

The second formal question, from Senators Rourke and Stewart-Kanigan, was a follow-up to the Joint Board-Senate Meeting on Mental Health. It was answered by Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning) Dyens. ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/4b\\_question\\_re\\_mental\\_health\\_strategy\\_with\\_response.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/4b_question_re_mental_health_strategy_with_response.pdf)).

Highlights of the response included the fact that the university has composed several pre-arrival advising tools, including:

- The Advising Checklist, which has hopefully helped to clarify some of the advising-related steps that new students should be taking and when.
- Two McGill 101 videos were produced, explaining the importance of academic advising, and the different types of advising resources to which students have access.
- Advising and registration information targeted at newly admitted students was updated and improved on the courses and programs website.
- Increasing the visibility of "Ask an Advisor" as a resource for new students through:
  - Inclusion in the Advising Checklist
  - inclusion in the McGill 101 videos
  - making Recruitment and Welcome Centre staff aware that it is available to newly admitted students

- Inclusion in the new McGill App
- holding in-person drop-in hours at Service Point from August 22 – September 5 (including residence move-in weekend). In total, 224 of the 267 students seen during this time were new students.

Followup questions included whether mental health resources are available to the university staff. Ms. Jana Luker, the Student Services Executive Director, responded the staff does have access to the university's mental health services.

Another question was raised as to how the university intends to respond to spikes in demand, to which Ms. Luker responded that McGill has a plan to provide access services outside of the campus.

### 3. Question Regarding the Promotion of Consent and Safer Spaces on Campus

The third and final question, posed by Senators Ibrahim and Stewart-Kanigan, concerned the promotion of consent and safer spaces on campus; it was answered by Deputy Provost Dyens ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/4c\\_question\\_re\\_consent\\_and\\_safer\\_spaces\\_with\\_response.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/4c_question_re_consent_and_safer_spaces_with_response.pdf))

A followup question from Senator Stewart-Kanigan inquired as to whether the university intends to focus on consent training for athletes. Senator Dyens responded that the University is not targeting athletes, as all McGill students should be treated in the same manner.

Senator Ibrahim questioned whether student safety efforts are made for students who are not Freshmen. Senator Dyens and Costopoulos responded that the focus on Freshman at the beginning of the academic year is important, as this is their first university experience, and that establishing standards for behavior early in their career is an important benchmark.

#### **Annual Report Concerning the Investigation of Research (D14-01) Misconduct (2013-2014) Information Dr. Rose Goldstein, Vice-Principal (Research and International Relations)/ Professor Abraham Fuks, Research Integrity Officer**

Senate next received for information the annual report concerning the investigation of research misconduct, which was presented by Professor Abraham Fuks, McGill's Research Integrity Officer ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/5\\_d14-01\\_research\\_misconduct\\_report\\_memo\\_and\\_appendix\\_2.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/5_d14-01_research_misconduct_report_memo_and_appendix_2.pdf)).

Professor Fuks noted that six allegations were received during 2013-2014, with the majority being initiated from outside campus.

Senator Hastings remarked that most of the allegations originated from outside McGill and wondered what might be behind this situation. Professor Fuks answered that the sample size is too small to interpret, but speculated that the situation may reflect a greater awareness of research integrity issues within the academic world. The pressure to obtain grants is perhaps also driving some researchers to push the boundaries of research integrity. There may also be a greater temptation among researchers to try to find fault with the papers of other researchers, given the increasing volume of electronic publications and the availability of tools that can be used to scrutinize them.

### 2. 457th Report of the Academic Policy Committee (D14-02)

***Professor Lydia White, Associate Provost (Policies, Procedures & Equity) Approval***

The report was presented by Associate Provost White

([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/6\\_d14-02\\_457th\\_apc\\_report\\_with\\_appendix\\_2.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/6_d14-02_457th_apc_report_with_appendix_2.pdf) )

Professor White explained that Senate approval for the creation of the B. Eng. (Major in Bioengineering). Though this program had already been approved by Senate in 2011, the provincial authorities had asked for revisions in the program. The proposed program, with the requested revisions, was provided to the Senate for approval.

The Senate approved this proposal.

***Annual Report of the Committee on Student Services (2013-2014) (D14-03)***

***Professor Ollivier Dyens, Deputy-Provost (Student Life and Learning) Information***

The report, for information, was presented by Deputy Provost Dyens ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/7\\_d14-03\\_css\\_annual\\_report\\_2013-2014\\_memo\\_and\\_appendix\\_1.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/7_d14-03_css_annual_report_2013-2014_memo_and_appendix_1.pdf) )

In response to a comment by Senator Lu, Senator Dyens acknowledged that there is a disproportionately large representation of students from Canada and the United States, who are taking advantage of the university's mental health services. Senator Dyens indicated that the University is working with student organizations (e. g., the PGSS), to reach out to Asian cultural groups.

Addressing Senator Rourke's comment that 80% of students seeking mental health services are first-year students, Ms. Luker indicated that these students have both an awareness and ready access to such services. Once a student moves off campus, they are more likely to seek these services in their own communities.

Though Senator Bader noted that Continuing Education students are not eligible to receive university mental health services, the MACES (McGill Association for Continuing Education Students) would like to address the possibility of providing mental health services to this group of students.

***4. Annual Report on the Policy on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and (D14-04) Discrimination Prohibited by Law (2013-2014) Information***

***Professor Lydia White, Associate Provost (Policies, Procedures & Equity)***

([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/8\\_d14-04\\_harassment\\_report\\_memo\\_with\\_appendix\\_1.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/8_d14-04_harassment_report_memo_with_appendix_1.pdf) ).

Associate Provost White, in presenting this report for information, noted that there were fewer complaints compiled in 2013-14 than in previous years.

Senator Benrimoh noted that most of the cases stop at the inquiry stage, and wondered whether this indicates that the policy is not fulfilling its function. Associate Provost White responded that this interpretation is not necessarily what is going on. The Social Equity and Diversity Education Office is often contacted for information purposes; individuals who do so sometimes choose to pursue their case through other means, for instance by going to a Dean. When people go elsewhere, for whatever reason, the university is not able to track what happens subsequently.

Senator Lu said that there is a need to collect information on a more global level, in order to understand how cases are handled in other venues and to get a better grasp of the overall situation. Professor White answered that she would look into whether this is feasible, with one potential obstacle being that of confidentiality.

**4. Annual Report of the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity (2013-2014) (D14-05)**

***Professor Lydia White, Associate Provost (Policies, Procedures & Equity) Information***

Associate Provost White presented, for information, the annual report of the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity

**([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/9\\_d14-05\\_jbsce\\_memo\\_and\\_appendix.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/9_d14-05_jbsce_memo_and_appendix.pdf)).**

Senator White indicated that the Award for Equity and Community Building will be more publicized than it has been in the past. The recently created Subcommittee on Family Care will be examining family-related issues on campus during the 2014-15 year. Professor White said that the Committee on Equity will support a revised university mission statement that includes embracing diversity.

Senator Stewart-Kanigan inquired as to why the request to raise the Hiawatha Wampum Belt flag on such notable occasions as Aboriginal Day, was rejected by the university. The Secretary-General responded that the request to raise the flag on Aboriginal Day (June 21, 2014) had not been received in enough time for consideration, but that the request to raise the flag in 2015 would be considered.

**6. Report of the Senate Nominating Committee (D14-06)**

***Professor Martin Grant, Dean of the Faculty of Science Approval***

Senate approved the report of the Senate Nominating Committee, which was presented by Dean Grant

**([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/10\\_d14-06\\_report\\_of\\_the\\_nominating\\_committee.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/10_d14-06_report_of_the_nominating_committee.pdf)).**

**7. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Confidential Session**

**8. Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee (D14-07)**

***Professor David Harpp, University Marshal Approval***

Senate adjourned at approximately 4:30 PM.

**(10) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no members' questions.

**(11) OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.