

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

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

**DOCUMENTS:** S-14-12to S-14-17

Dean Grant introduced **Professor Sarah Moser**, Department of Geography and **Professor Christie Rowe**, Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences. Before the start of the meeting each gave a short research presentation.

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

**(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**The motion carried.**

**(2) CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES**

- |           |                                     |                |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>a)</b> | <b>Bachelor of Arts and Science</b> | <b>S-14-13</b> |
| <b>b)</b> | <b>Bachelor of Science</b>          | <b>S-14-14</b> |

**602.1** Director (Advising Services) Nicole Allard said there were 28 students graduating with the B.A. & Sc. degree, an increase of 8 students compared to the previous year. She said there were 122 students graduating with the B.Sc. degree, a significant decrease compared to the same time the previous year. Director Allard said that although the enrolment had not decreased, the decrease in graduating numbers could perhaps be due to a new policy allowing students to easily extend graduation. She added that the SGPA cut-offs for both the Dean's Honour List and for Distinction would be set prior to the June graduation.

**602.2** Director Allard **moved**, seconded by Mr. Peter Barry, that the above degree lists be recommended to the Senate Steering Committee for the Bachelor of Arts and Science degree, and for the Bachelor of Science degree

**The motion carried.**

- |           |                               |                |
|-----------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>c)</b> | <b>Diploma in Environment</b> | <b>S-14-15</b> |
| <b>d)</b> | <b>Diploma in Meteorology</b> | <b>S-14-16</b> |

There were no students for the above Diplomas.

**602.3** Director Allard further **moved**, seconded by Prof. Mucci, that the Dean be given discretionary power to make such changes in the degree list as would be necessary to prevent injustice.

**The motion carried.**

**602.4** Director Allard thanked everyone involved with the graduation lists.

(3) **MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2, 2014**

**S-14-12**

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

**The motion carried.**

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

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

(5) **DEAN'S BUSINESS**

- **Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List**

**S-14-17**

**605.1**

Director Allard said 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. She said that four B.Sc. students and two B.A. & Sc. students would be graduating with this honour, and would be listed on the DMURL.

(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/senate-2014-2015/senate-meeting-documents>

**- Senate Meeting of November 4, 2014 - Prof. Jacques Hurtubise**

The annual meeting of the Senate with the Board took place on November 4<sup>th</sup> 2013. These meetings tend to be organised around a theme, and the theme chosen was McGill's innovation and outreach. Various documents were circulated before the meeting, including one on McGill's presence in the Quartier de l'Innovation. The meeting began with brief addresses from the Chancellor, and from the Principal. There then followed a short roundtable, with the six participants each telling their own 'innovation story, and discussing issues such as the academic role of innovation and outreach, the role of innovation in training, the advantages and disadvantages of the exercise.

There followed a half hour or so of discussions, table by table, to come up with helpful suggestions, which were then reported to the group as a whole.

These included:

- 1) The need for more information on what we actually do,
- 2) The need for better publicity on what we do,
- 3) The need for discussion with those being outreached to,
- 4) The importance of experiential learning,
- 5) The importance of a wide definition of outreach,
- 6) The need to avoid disciplinary barriers,
- 7) The importance of Senate and Board in setting guidelines,
- 8) The importance for Senate and Board not to interfere,
- 9) The need to create special committees,
- 10) The need to avoid special committees,
- 11) And so on.

The meeting ended with a reception.

## **- Senate Meeting of December 3, 2014 - Prof. Alfonso Mucci**

Principal Fortier welcomed the assembly to the 4th Senate meeting of the 2014-2015 governance year. It was attended by newly-inducted Chancellor Meighen

The meeting began with Dean Manfredi presenting a memorial tribute for Professor Emeritus David Fate Norton from the Department of Philosophy.

Principal Fortier congratulated Professor Manfredi on his appointment as the next Provost effective July 1, 2015, thanked and recognized Provost Masi for his contributions during his two terms of office, and noted that a number of Advisory Committees for the selection or reappointment of several Deans (Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, Management, Science, and the Trenholme Dean of Libraries) are currently at work.

The Principal noted the Robillard Commission's recommendation that international student fees be deregulated for all programs at all levels; under this model, the government would no longer provide any grants to universities for international students, but universities would be allowed to keep what they charge these students. The Administration continues to advocate for greater flexibility in adding to McGill's revenue base.

-Senator Michael Di Grappa reported on construction on McTavish Street –

Asphalting was to be completed by end of first week of December, weather permitting. The street is slated for landscaping as a Promenade Urbaine Spring/Summer 2016, but design was not finalized at the time.

- Kudos: 2 McGill students were awarded Rhodes scholarships

Noted the glowing review of the McGill Symphony Orchestra by Le Devoir

And congratulated the Provost and his team for being awarded the "Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association" for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year for their work on the 2014-2015 Budget Book

## **SECTION II**

Part "A" – Questions and Motions by Members

1. Question by Senators Greenspon, Rourke, Ibrahim and Stewart-Kanigan regarding McGill's Strategy for Building an Interdisciplinary Learning Community

What concrete measure are currently being undertaken to promote interdisciplinary collaboration (includes, trans-, inter-, multi- or cross-disciplinary collaborations) and to break down barriers faced by students seeking to pursue interdisciplinary studies?

*Answered by Professor Anthony C. Masi, Provost*

He pointed out that the *Achieving Strategic Academic Priorities* (ASAP) document, released in 2012, maps a five-year plan for institutional development that specifically includes the broad goal of "developing and facilitating stronger connections across Faculties, Schools, etc." and "encourage interdisciplinary dialogue and provide additional support for team approaches to addressing large, complex research questions ..." such as the creation of the Institute for Public Life of Arts and Ideas (IPLAI) in 2009.

He also pointed out that approximately 12% of tenured and tenure-track faculty at McGill have joint appointments, with roughly one quarter of these appointments panning two or more Faculties. In FY2015, an \$0.8M interdisciplinary program envelope was set aside to promote interdisciplinary programs, other programs are under consideration (e.g., Bioengineering, Digital Humanities, among many others), with matching funds for the two CERCs in pain genetics and green chemistry, ...

The \$0.8M allocation is to be used for, among a variety of things, administration, release time, and fellowships to students engaged in the interdisciplinary projects. Finally, a physical expansion (65,000 sf) has been proposed to the government

Senator Di Grappa presented the highlights of the annual report on the financial state of the University in a PWP presentation

-Challenges: cuts and timing of these (5 & 7 months into the budget year)

-Revenues are up, but expenses are up due to pay equity adjustment and voluntary retirement programs offset by an adjustment to the pension liability and reduction in benefits to people who left the university.

Main sources of revenue remain the Quebec+Federal governments (55%), then tuition (21%), sales of goods and services (e.g., bookstore: 11%)

Enrolment (Fall 2013) stood at 39,349 students, +1.47% over the Fall of 2012 (76% enrolled in full-time undergraduate and graduate programs; 16% part-time) – 14.5% in Science

International students come mostly from U.S., France and China

Salary and benefits + student aid make up 66% of the expenses

Favorable market performance and contributions reduced last year's deficit by \$12M, at \$29.3M and propped up the McGill endowment fund to \$1.3B.

Presented a table that showed that as of April 2013, McGill had a 287.5M\$ cumulative deficit, sat in the middle of the pack among Quebec universities, with HEC being the only one in the black.

The University must tackle deferred maintenance and IT – (It will be borrowing or issuing bonds for \$400M)

In response to a question by Senator Robaire about the steadily increasing number of faculty members since 2009, Provost Masi responded that the number of professors has climbed because the number of students has climbed, given that McGill tries to maintain target ratios between its students and its tenure-track professors (approximately 15 to one for undergraduates and 4.5 or 5 to one for graduate students). These ratios are a proxy for quality, and the Administration does not want them to get out of balance.

The next agenda item was a presentation by Provost Masi on budget planning for 2015-2016

He reminded Senators that the budget is being developed in alignment with the University's strategic priorities, as laid out in the University's academic plan.

He described the byzantine rules they have to work with in budget planning because the government provides funding figures to universities in three stages (first *orientations*, then *règles budgétaires*, then *calculs définitifs*), often well within the budget year.

*McGill posted a \$15.7M surplus FY2014 surplus because of late transfers, including a \$12.5M decrease in the University's pension liability ("demonstrating that the University is financially prudent")*

McGill adjusted early for further cuts

FY starts May 1<sup>st</sup> but information for planning not always available

Predicted minimum cut 6-10M\$ from Quebec Government are among the identified Risks for FY2015 and a projected \$10M deficit for FY2015

Expect further cuts, but no cut backs on academic renewal

Changes to MERS grant, small loss in enrollment, little or no enrolment change forecasted

Set aside \$9M in special projects

Salary costs commitments +22M\$

Projected interest payments on deferred maintenance

Subsequent discussions focused on enrolment matters and the possible deregulation of international tuition fees and its impact on the University's finances. The Provost indicated that if all international students were deregulated, the University would likely receive less funding than it currently receives given that many international students are studying at the graduate-level, which is relatively costly. He also indicated that the University would not drastically alter its student demographic, as it strives to have a student body from the following origins: 25% Anglophones from Quebec, 25% Francophones from Quebec, 25% Canadians from the rest of Canada, and 25% international.

Senators also discussed deferred maintenance issues and Senator Robaire commented that the buildings at the Royal Victoria Hospital have great of deferred maintenance; he expressed concerns about the possible impact of this problem on the project to acquire the hospital for McGill. Principal Fortier addressed this concern by noting that the Administration is proceeding with this project with great caution and due diligence.

Associate Provost White presented the 460th report of the Academic Policy Committee. Senate approved the proposed revisions to the 2011 Regulations on Cyclical Academic Unit Reviews, streamlining review committees (smaller), clarifying questions, and removing the set-length requirement of the report.

Associate Provost White then proposed Policy on Late Withdrawals, which would allow students experiencing difficult personal circumstances to withdraw from an entire semester without a "W" appearing on their official transcript. This generated a lengthy debate and turned into a circus. Several student Senators argued that the policy should be amended to make it possible for students in such situations to withdraw from some but not all of their courses. In response to the debate, Professor White moved that the Policy proposal be withdrawn from consideration. Senate approved this withdrawal but Senator Benrimoh asked for a reconsideration of this decision with an amendment. The Secretary General informed the Senators that reconsideration of the proposal at the same meeting would require that Senate Standing Rules and Procedures be suspended, so Senator Benrimoh called for a motion to suspend the rule, requiring a 3/4 majority. The motion was defeated so the issue was revisited at the January meeting.

Associate Provost White presented and Senate approved the proposed name change for the McGill Centre for the Study of Host Resistance to the McGill International Tuberculosis Center.

Senate next received for information the annual report of the Senate Committee on Libraries. The discussion focused on the off-site condensed storage system being considered for the Library and its potential impact on McGill researchers. Senator Robaire asked whether there are any plans to scan books that are moved to off-site storage. Dean Cook thanked Senator Robaire for his suggestion and said that she would think about it.

Secretary-General Strople presented for information the report of the Advisory Council on the Charter of Students' Rights There was nothing to report since the committee did not meet.

Senate then moved into confidential session to discuss the report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee and *adjourned at 5:10PM.*

**- Senate Meeting of January 21, 2015 - Prof. Peter Grütter**

Martin Grant chairs Senate (Principal in Quebec City).

Business arising:

Provost Masi: Interdisciplinary programs funding budget 800k\$ in FY 11, 12, 13 and in FY 15. Was reduced to 600k\$ in 2014 due to budget cuts.

Follow up of Joint Board Senate meeting on "Strengthening McGill's Engagement with the External Community through Research and Innovation": 4 themes being studied: integrated messaging, addressing barriers, examining possibilities for extending and deepening experiential learning opportunities and reflections on how to understand community needs.

Principal's remarks:

RVH expecting the feasibility study for the RVH site to proceed in the near Future.

A few other remarks on major prizes etc., but no science 'content'.

Q/A:

Q: Student businesses on campus: are they encouraged? A: yes as part of experiential learning. No additional special support for student businesses; this is part of experiential learning, not different on campus than off campus. No specific policy. (~ 1 minute!)

Q: McGill's stance on deregulation of international student fees?

A: Tuition for international students in undergraduate programs is "regulated" by the Government of Quebec. 30% goes back to student aid – including bursaries to international students. One needs to carefully balance tuition to not price ourselves out of the market without losing money.

APC report:

461st Report: Nothing of interest relevant to science.

Q: will other faculties follow Science in the Creation of a Global designation for the B.Sc.? Chair remarked that statements congratulating Fac. of Science are always welcome.

Answer: it's up to other faculties.

460<sup>th</sup> Report: Proposed Revisions to the Policy on Late Withdrawals needs to be voted on again. Huge discussion at last Senate meeting and somehow one did not vote on it.

The Subcommittee on Student Affairs Policies tasked a working group to reflect on the official transcript implications of late course withdrawal for students who have been granted late withdrawal due to documented, serious mental health issues. The working group was asked to consider making a change to the practice of recording the 'W' on the transcript in these circumstances. The practice of using a 'W' was found to be consistent with the majority of AAU institutions and with many Canadian universities. The recording of a 'W' on the official transcript reportedly leads to problems for McGill students. Students report that the presence of a 'W' on their transcripts creates a permanent artifact of a very difficult time in their lives and the reminder can also act as a trigger for feelings from that period. Others, including Associate Deans, report that the 'W' is sometimes treated negatively when students apply for admission to professional and graduate programs or for fellowships.

Recommendations:

1) The official transcript should reflect accurate information designed for public consumption. Exceptionally, this record need not be as exhaustive as the advising transcript, as some information is necessary for academic advising purposes, but not for other external third parties such as universities, granting agencies, etc.

2) In exceptional cases (those of a physical and mental health nature, family or personal tragedy) where a full term withdrawal is warranted, the courses and grades may be

removed from the official transcript, but will appear in detail on the advising transcript (a note will appear on the official transcript, indicating university withdrawal with the date that the student withdrew). It will be the Associate Dean or Director for the program who will make this withdrawal decision. This will only be considered for a withdrawal of all classes in a term (not for select classes or just a few classes). This need not happen for every full term withdrawal – only in the exceptional cases mentioned above. All withdrawals stay on the advising transcript on Minerva while the courses would be removed from the official transcript.

**Rationale:**

The above, more flexible approach will give advisors and associate deans/directors the tools necessary to provide more options to students and to adjust the student's official transcript to alleviate the anxiety that may arise from the reminder of a difficult time in a student's life. It also ensures that the student record and advising transcript are thorough so that advisors have complete information about the student, necessary when developing effective academic support plans.

Policy should be reviewed in 3 years (friendly amendment).

Motion carries.

Report on Research and Innovation (given by Sarah Stroud):

Executive summary:

1. McGill continues its strong performance in federal and provincial funding programs. Over the past five years, we have maintained or increased our market share in terms of funding from most of the major Canadian and Quebec granting agencies. #2 in the country in research intensity (#1 UofT, we are pulling away from UofA). 465M\$ research income (down from 484M\$ last year, natural fluctuation due to CFI). 11% increase in last 5 years. Breakdown: 55% Fed., 14% Provincial, 13% non-profits, 7% industry. 3<sup>rd</sup> behind UofT and UBC in tri-council funding; no change in position in last 5 years (market share 8.6%, increased slightly).
2. McGill remains approximately average in Canada in terms of revenue from innovation and entrepreneurship. However, through the Quartier de l'Innovation (QI) and the McGill University Business Engagement Centre (MUBEC), we are increasing both our collaborations with community and industry groups as well as revenue generated from these interactions. McGill not very strong in translating discoveries to market/start-up.
3. Through three Principal's Priority projects, Research and International Relations (RIR) will ensure the continued sustainability and success of McGill's world-class research enterprise.

My worry: our growth in research income of 11% between 2008-13 is the lowest of G5, 2-4 times less than Calgary, UBC, UofT, ...

Report Student Life and Learning:

Best FROSH in North America: congratulations from community and police! Thanks to our great students.

Project for new app to track student life style (drink, food sleep, ...) to optimize /monitor performance to be at peak performance during stress full times (such as exams).

QI report:

Living lab to help universities make an impact in local communities. Highlights: 1,500 individuals were reached during McGill innovation week. QI Project Fund (crowd funding) to kick start student led projects in QI. Mapping for social innovations was done – new initiatives started.

2015/16: enrich academic experience for students and profs to find solutions to expressed community needs. Develop new partnerships locally and internationally.  
2015: Launch Salon 1861: a renovated church for e.g. a lab for urban culture and hipsters, community engagement and education. CEIM (incubator/accelerator at QI) is funded to help entrepreneurship, particular for students.

Q Dudek: How much are we paying for the hipsters? Costs and benefits? A: QI is a non-for-profit. But McGill people are being paid to work on it (special project money). Expected that QI will become more independent as time moves on; we are investing in developing this resource.

Annual Advancement report:

Post campaign: still going strong (last campaign ended 2013)

Cash: 86M\$ in 2014 (87M\$ in 2013, 87M\$ in 2012, 2011 60M\$, 2010: 70M\$)

Achievements: 59M\$ (141M\$ in 2013, 85M\$ in 2012, 63M\$ 2011, 67M\$ 2010)

(Donor commitment to be paid out over next year)

2013 anomaly (also end of campaign, transition in leadership): 28M\$ Rossi Family, 24M\$ Master Card Foundation => peak in 2013)

Things looking up this year. DAR is now called University Advancement (to really bring together D and AR (Donors and Alumni Relations)).

Interesting that we are not raising as much from industry as other universities, even compared to other Quebec universities.

Trend: more gifts are direct funding (71%), less are endowments. (Donors want to see direct impact). Most support goes to students. Donors trend is away from bricks and mortar.

Aim next few years:

Raise 100M\$ /year

6 years away from 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021.

Ensure alumni are fully integrated partners in McGill's mission

Strengthen engagement with students and young alumni

New crowdsourcing platform 'seeds of change': to date 10 student inspired projects funded, 260k\$ raised, 900 donors, 50% never gave before.

Help us understand your needs and priorities, and develop exciting projects to engage our donors.

Tell us your success stories: we want to spread the word about what our amazing students, faculty and staff members are doing to improve their communities

Board of Governors report:

The Board of Governors, at its meeting of December 2, 2014, approved the appointment of Professor Christopher Manfredi as Provost and Vice-Principal, Academic, for a five-year term, renewable, beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2020.

In anticipation of the provincial government's confirmation of funding, the Board of Governors, at its December 2nd meeting, approved McGill's participation in the next phase of the Royal Victoria Hospital project, which includes conducting a redevelopment feasibility study for the Royal Victoria Hospital site.

**606.1**

With regard to the QI Report, Prof. Dudek said it was disconcerting that no one knows the numbers, and that it was the second year in a row that there were a number of people working on QI.



(7) **MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no members' questions.

(8) **OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.