

S-11-14

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
Meeting of Faculty  
Tuesday, December 6, 2011  
Leacock Council Room – L232**

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

**DOCUMENTS:** S-11-12, S-11-13

Dean Grant called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

Dean Grant welcomed back the support staff, with the MUNACA strike being over, and said that the Faculty's holiday party will be held in celebration in January 2012.

**(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Two resolutions on the deaths of former Faculty members to be added to the Agenda.

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

**The motion carried.**

**(1A) RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR FREDERICK THOMAS HEDGCOCK**

Prof. Vicki Kaspi, Acting Chair of the Department of Physics, read the resolution on the death of Professor Frederick Thomas Hedgcock.

**The resolution was adopted unanimously.**

**(1B) RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF EMERITUS PROFESSOR ROBERT BRUCE MOORE**

Prof. Vicki Kaspi, Acting Chair of the Department of Physics, read the resolution on the death of Emeritus Professor Robert Bruce Moore.

**The resolution was adopted unanimously.**

**(2) MINUTES OF OCTOBER 18, 2011**

AC-11-12

Prof. Moore **moved**, seconded by Prof. Zuroff, that the Minutes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

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

**Minutes 107.6, 107.7, Pharmacology & Therapeutics**

**403.1** Associate Dean Hendren said that at the October 18<sup>th</sup> Faculty meeting a question had been asked concerning the possibility of including CHEM 503 in the list of Complementary Courses in the Major and Honours Programs in Pharmacology. She said that after consultation with the Department of Chemistry and the Department of

Pharmacology & Therapeutics, it had been agreed to include CHEM 503 in these programs.

**(4) REPORT OF COMMITTEE**

**a) Academic Committee S-11-13**

The Academic Committee approved the following on Tuesday, November 22, 2011:

**SECTION A: NEW PROGRAM**

**Geography/McGill School of Environment**

**- B.A. & Sc. Honours in Sustainability, Science and Society AC-11-20**

**404.1** Associate Dean Hendren introduced the above new B.A. & Sc. Honours program. She said that it was modeled after the existing B.A. & Sc. Interfaculty Program in Sustainability, Science and Society. Students in the proposed Honours program would be required to complete 60 credits as well as a six-credit Honours thesis. The program would also have to be approved by the Faculty of Arts and by the B.A. & Sc. Program Administration Committee.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Moore, that the B.A. & Sc. Honours in Sustainability, Science and Society be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**SECTION B: PROGRAM CHANGES**

**(1) Biology/Physiology/Psychology**

**- Minor in Neuroscience AC-11-15**

**404.2** Associate Dean Hendren said that the current Minor required more 400- and 500-level courses than was the norm for other minors. The revised Minor fits better with the Major Program in Neuroscience, and has a more appropriate set of core courses than previously.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Zuroff, that the changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**(2) Geography**

**- B.Sc. Minor in GIS and Remote Sensing (Renamed from Minor in GIS) AC-11-21**

**404.3** Associate Dean Hendren said that the Minor was being renamed to reflect its broader content. Furthermore, courses no longer offered had been removed, and replaced with a wider range of relevant courses.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Moore, that the changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**SECTION C: NEW COURSES**

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|--------------------|----------|--|-----------------|
| <b>(1) Biology</b> | BIOL 596 | Advanced Experimental Design<br>1 credit | <b>AC-11-16</b> |
|--------------------|----------|--|-----------------|

**404.4** Associate Dean Hendren said BIOL 596 had been designed for graduate students and U3 students. She said BIOL 596 would focus on experimental design as it relates to statistical analysis, and a second course, to be proposed in the near future, would focus on data analysis.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Bell, that the course be approved.

**The motion carried.**

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|----------------------|----------|--|-----------------|
| <b>(2) Chemistry</b> | CHEM 512 | Catalysis, Concepts and App<br>3 credits | <b>AC-11-19</b> |
|----------------------|----------|--|-----------------|

**404.5** Associate Dean Hendren said that CHEM 512 had been proposed by a new faculty member with specific expertise in the area. She said that no course focusing specifically on the topic currently exists in the Department of Chemistry or the Department of Chemical Engineering.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Moore, that the course be approved.

**The motion carried.**

#### **SECTION D: COURSE CHANGES**

##### **Pharmacology & Therapeutics**

PHAR 503	Drug Discovery and Devt. 1 Changes: title, description, and prerequisites	<b>AC-11-17</b>
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PHAR 504	Drug Discovery and Devt. 2 Changes: title, description, and prerequisites	<b>AC-11-18</b>
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**404.6** Associate Dean Hendren said that PHAR 503 and PHAR 504 had originally been designed as double-prefix courses with CHEM 503 and CHEM 504. She said that the courses had evolved separately and were no longer considered double-prefix courses.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Harpp, that the changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

#### **SECTION E: OTHER (For Information Only)**

##### **Geography – B.A. Minor in GIS and Remote Sensing**

Associate Dean Hendren said that the above B.A. Minor in GIS and Remote Sensing was for information only, and was to be approved by the Faculty of Arts.

- (5) DEAN'S BUSINESS**

**405.1** Dean Grant encouraged student members present to participate in proposing new courses and programs, and teaching innovations. Students could contact professors in their units, unit curriculum committees, and the Faculty's Academic Committee. He said student participation was highly welcomed in the Faculty of Science.

**- Principal's Awards for Administrative and Support Staff**

**405.2** Dean Grant said he would like to congratulate two members of the Faculty's advising group, Nicole Allard, Director of Advising Services, and Peter Barry, Chief Academic Adviser, for having won the 2010-2011 Principal's Awards for Administrative and Support Staff in the Team Projects Category, for their excellent and diligent work with Service Point.

**(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/senate2011-2012>.

**Senate Meeting of September 22, 2011**

Prof. Gale will report on the Senate meeting of September 22, 2011 at the next Faculty meeting.

**Senate Meeting of October 19, 2011**

Prof. John Gyakum read the Report prepared by Prof. Peter Grütter on the Senate meeting of October 19, 2011.

Dean Grant presented resolutions on the death of Emeritus Professors Andreas P. Contogouris, Edward J. Stansbury and Jal Choksi.

In her remarks from the Chair, Principal Munroe-Blum recapitulated some of the official announcements previously made by the Administration regarding the MUNACA strike. A discussion evolved concerning the strike, including the email entitled "We are all McGill" which she sent to the McGill community on October 18.

Several questions were asked, answered and discussed in depth.

The first question dealt with revised thesis procedures and if the Graduate Studies Office agrees to suspend the policy until Senate has reviewed and passed the policy.

Dean Kreiswirth opened his response by stating that procedures relating to graduate and postdoctoral studies have never come before Senate, nor should they. He added that there had been extensive consultation on the new procedure, and explained that the changes were intended to help graduate students complete their degree in a more timely fashion. Senator Gold stated that the changes involve matters of academic integrity and therefore fall under Senate's jurisdiction. Provost Masi observed that Senator Gold's question raised legitimate concerns; the Provost indicated that he would be glad to take the matter to the Academic Policy Committee for review and then report back to Senate.

The second question dealt with disciplinary measures as a result of teaching off campus or virtually in non-MUNACA space on campus.

Associate Provost White responded that the policy imposes no disciplinary measures other than loss of salary.

The next question, posed by Senator Han, concerned academic freedom in relation to the strike. Provost Masi began by referring to McGill's interpretation of academic freedom. He noted that academic freedom does not absolve academic staff from performing their academic duties, nor does it confer on professors the freedom to determine where and when their classes will be scheduled.

The final item was a motion from Senator Clare regarding academic amnesty for students. Academic Amnesty includes the right to abstain from participating in academic commitments for reasons of conscientious objection and/or cases of ethical or moral conflict without penalty, such as crossing a picket line. Much discussion and time was spent on debating this motion and various amendments. Deputy Provost Mendelson felt that Senate should not wade into these matters. He considered the motion fundamentally flawed on several counts. First, it confounds what is and is not a right. Second, it cannot be implemented, since the University does not have the capacity at the moment to keep track of this. Third, it would create a serious precedent. Fourth, the motion does not define what a strike is, so it could in principle be used by the students in the course of a strike called by the students themselves. In the end the motion was struck down.

Senate then moved into confidential session to consider the report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee.

Due to lack of time, 2 agenda items were postponed until a later meeting and 2 reports were listened to and duly adopted.

#### 406.1

Members were interested in whether or not revisions to thesis review procedures would be brought to Senate. However, the issue has apparently not yet been resolved.

#### **Senate Meeting of November 1, 2011 - Prof. John Gyakum**

The focus of this meeting was 'to raise awareness of what undergraduate research and scholarship are and how they can contribute to the student experience for all undergraduates at McGill University'.

Prior to the official start of the meeting, a student poster session was held to showcase undergraduate student research from various Faculties, including Science! These projects had been conducted as a part of either coursework, research projects, or internships.

Introductory remarks were delivered by Chancellor Arnold Steinberg, and by Professor Rose Goldstein, Vice-Principal (Research and International Relations). She reported that 21% of McGill's undergraduate students had been involved in research, and that one of the objectives for this meeting would be to encourage means to increase this percentage.

Ms. Marcy Slapcoff, Teaching and Learning Services, provided an overview of existing research opportunities for McGill's undergraduates, including internships, funded and unfunded projects, course work, and publications. She then introduced four individuals to discuss various paths to facilitating undergraduate research.

Sophie Splawinski, a U3 Science student in Atmospheric Sciences, discussed her life-long passion for meteorology. Her McGill research experience has included two summers of NSERC-sponsored undergraduate research, presentations at workshops in the US, and publishing a paper in MSURJ (McGill Science Undergraduate Research Journal).

Mr. John Watson, a U3 Arts student in English and Art History, discussed his Arts Undergraduate Research Internship Award that provided the opportunity to study impacts of technology on Canadians living in rural areas.

Professor Richard Chromik, Engineering, discussed means of enhancing student engagement in his courses, either through a research project, or with a short paper.

Professor Chris Buddle, Agricultural and Environmental Science, discussed the benefits of providing students with hands-on experience in a field research project, in his Environmental Biology course.

Roundtable discussions followed, with each table addressing the following questions: 1) What indicators should we use to measure progress to our goal of making research a hallmark of the McGill undergraduate experience? 2) What will we have to do differently? How do we make this happen? What are some practical steps that each of us could take? 3) What messages and by what mechanisms can we better communicate to students, faculty, and the community regarding the value of an undergraduate research experience?

Professor Cynthia Weston, Teaching and Learning Services, served as a moderator for each table's input to the discussion.

Provost Anthony Masi synthesized the discussion by linking it to the university's mission as a student-centered educational institution. He pointed out the importance of curiosity-based learning, and that a broad range of undergraduate research opportunities is an important component of students' disciplinary and interdisciplinary experience. The Principal provided closing remarks, and thanked all participants.

- 406.2** Dean Grant said he was pleased about the progress the Provost's office was making on the issue of undergraduate research. The "best practices" being followed were established by the Faculty of Science five years previously. The Faculty of Science was the first to offer undergraduate research. This is now being followed by universities across Canada and the United States.

#### **Senate Meeting of November 16, 2011 - Prof. David Harpp**

Prof. Harpp gave an abbreviated report of the meeting (below). A more extensive report (Appendix A) will be attached to the permanent copy of the Minutes.

#### **(7) MEMBERS' QUESTION PERIOD**

- 407.1** In reply to a member who asked whether MUNACA members would be entitled to the four extra days vacation after the holiday break that was being awarded to managers, Dean Grant said that MUNACA members (unless absolutely needed) could take any or all of the four extra days, but they would have to come from vacation days. He said that since managers would not normally be present during the four days, this did raise the possibility of there not being supervision.
- 407.2** In response to another member, Dean Grant said that professors were certainly welcome to attend to their research during the first week of January. He added that he hoped managers and MUNACA staff would take advantage of the extra time off.

#### **(8) OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

