

**Meeting of Faculty
Monday, 12 March 2024
Robert Vogel Council Room (L232), Leacock Building**

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book

DOCUMENTS: S-23-24 to S-23-26

Dean Lennox called the meeting to order at 3 p.m., and welcomed members to the seventh Faculty of Science Council meeting of the 2023-2024 academic year. He announced that he and Vice-Dean David Stephens would have to leave the meeting early to attend another meeting.

1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Student member **moved**, seconded by Prof. Halverson, that the Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

2) MINUTES OF 13 FEBRUARY 2024

[S-23-24](#)

President Khamis **moved**

The proposal originated from the Centre de recherche en biologie structurale (CRBS) and aims to establish an interdepartmental and interfaculty Ph.D. Program in Biophysics. Its primary objective is to cultivate a new cohort of structural biologists and biophysicists proficient in employing interdisciplinary methods for biomedical investigations, health research, applied biological sciences, and physical sciences. The proposed Ph.D. Program in Biophysics is intended to provide a unified academic framework for training students among the 47 CRBS investigators spanning thirteen departments in five faculties: Engineering, Science, Medicine and Health Sciences, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, and Dental Medicine and Oral Health Sciences.

The program targets students with backgrounds in physics or engineering, most of whom were expected to have a Master's degree. While exceptional students with a strong publication record might be considered for direct admission to the Ph.D. program with a bachelor's degree, such cases would be rare exceptions.

The management of this inter-faculty program would fall under the purview of inter-faculty studies. Notably, the program proposed a novel approach wherein incoming students would have the opportunity to explore different labs through a lab rotation scheme before selecting a supervisor.

Concerns were raised about potential overlaps with existing programs and the impact on departmental funding. Questions were raised about mechanisms to ensure the proper allocation of resources and mitigate any strains on departmental facilities.

At the conclusion of the meeting, a straw vote was conducted, resulting in a consensus to endorse the proposal. It was agreed that the endorsement would be communicated to the relevant bodies for further consideration and action.

Furthermore, discussions ensued about the lack of formal scrutiny for inter-Faculty studies -

- Minor Concentration in Computer Science

4. Mathematics & Statistics

MATH 454 Honours Analysis 3 [AC-23-141](#)
Changes in descriptions, prerequisites
3 credits

MATH 455 Honours Analysis 4 [AC-23-142](#)
Changes in description
3 credits

MATH 564 Real Analysis and Measure Theory [AC-23-143](#) [3 cr-escd\(C\)-1.5](#)

	members. A thesis, based on original research, is required.
Master of Science (M.Sc.); Geography (Thesis) — Environment (45 credits)	The Master of Science in Geography; Thesis — Environment is a research-based program of 45 credits. This program is offered in collaboration with the Bieler School of Environment (BSE). The program focuses on the role of science in informed decision-making in the environmental sector, and its influence on political, socio-economic, and ethical judgments. The thesis must be on a topic that relates to both the environment and geography.
Master of Science (M.Sc.); Geography (Thesis) — Neotropical Environment (45 credits)	The Master of Science in Geography; Thesis — Neotropical Environment is a research-based program of 45 credits.

<p>Master of Arts (M.A.); Geography (Thesis) — Neotropical Environment (45 credits)</p>	<p>The Master of Arts in Geography; Thesis —Neotropical Environment is a research-based program of 45 credits. The program is offered in collaboration with the Bieler School of Environment and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI-Panama). The program is focused on environmental issues relevant to the Neotropics and Latin American countries including thematic areas such as geography, environment, biology, agricultural sciences, sociology, and political science. The program favours interdisciplinary approaches to research and learning through the participation of researchers from McGill University and from STRI. Some research and teaching is conducted in Latin America and Panama. The thesis must be on a topic that relates to both the neotropical environment and geography.</p>
<p>Master of Arts (M.A.); Geography (Thesis) — Gender and Women's Studies (45 credits)</p>	<p>The Master of Arts in Geography; Thesis — Gender and Women's Studies is a research-based program of 45 credits. The program focuses on interdisciplinary gender and women's studies and issues in feminist research and methods. The thesis must be on a topic that relates to both gender and women's studies and geography.</p>
<p>Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.); Geography</p>	<p>The Doctor of Philosophy in Geography is a research-based program that provides the opportunity to conduct research, including field-based studies, in both the natural (i.e., biophysical) and the social sciences and includes supervision by a faculty member. Research themes reflect the expertise and interests of current faculty members. A thesis, based on original research, is required.</p>
<p>Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.); Geography — Environment</p>	<p>The Doctor of Philosophy in Geography; Environment is a research-based program offered in collaboration with the Bieler School of Environment (BSE). The program focuses on the role of science in informed decision-making in the environmental sector, and its influence on political, socio-economic, and ethical judgments. The thesis must be on a topic that relates to both the environment and geography.</p>
<p>Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.); Geography — Neotropical Environment</p>	<p>The Doctor of Philosophy in Geography; Neotropical Environment is a research-based program offered in collaboration with the Bieler School of Environment and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI-Panama). The program is focused on environmental issues relevant to the Neotropics and Latin American countries including thematic areas such as geography, environment, biology, agricultural sciences, sociology, and political science. The program favours interdisciplinary approaches to research and learning through the participation of researchers from McGill University and from STRI. Some research and teaching is conducted in Latin America and Panama. The</p>

	thesis must be on a topic that relates to both the neotropical environment and geography.
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.); Geography — Gender and Women's Studies	The Doctor of Philosophy in Geography; Gender and Women's Studies is a research-based program that focuses on interdisciplinary gender and women's studies and issues in feminist research and methods. The thesis must be on a topic that relates to both gender and women's studies and geography.

3. Psychology

Full program title (with credit weight)	Description
Master of Science (M.Sc.) Psychology (Thesis) (45 credits)	The M.Sc. program is designed for students who have strong research interests. This program supports the development of advanced intellectual understanding and specialized research skills. The M.Sc. program includes course work and a significant research component, culminating in the submission of a thesis. The program's objective is to equip students with skills in critical reading, data collection, and scientific communication to either continue their studies or pursue professional opportunities. This program typically takes 2 years to complete.
Master of Arts (M.A.) Psychology (Thesis) (45 credits)	The M.A. program is designed for students who have strong research interests. This program supports the development of advanced intellectual understanding and specialized research skills. The M.A. program includes course work and a significant research component, culminating in the submission of a thesis. The program's objective is to equip students with skills in critical reading, data collection, and scientific communication to either continue their studies or pursue professional opportunities. This program typically takes 2 years to complete.

Associate Dean Hundemer said that the program descriptions for the above graduate programs have been revised in anticipation of the transition to the new calendar platform, Course Catalogue, which will take effect starting the 2024-2025 academic year. With the introduction of the new calendar software, program descriptions are now prominently displayed on the front page. This ongoing initiative aims to enhance program

Dean Lennox announced **Professor Courtney Y. Paquette** from the Department of

The SUS Sea Soirée, this year's Gala, took place on 16 February 2024 at the Grand Quai Pavilion, welcoming 800 participants and featuring amenities such as an open bar, catering, photo booth, DJ, and photographers. A bursary was provided to enhance student accessibility.

Internal governance amendments, including updates to the constitution and equity bylaws, were underway. The President and VP Communications collaborated to establish frameworks for departmental edits to governing documents, presenting motions at the General Council. A new funding opportunity, the CTF Tech Fund, was launched in partnership with CTF to facilitate departmental hardware acquisition.

The VP Academic, along with the Academic Events Committee, planned the Open Science Fair for 26 February 2024, collaborating with SRI, TOSI, and UAEM. Additionally, a speaker panel focusing on underrepresented groups in Science was scheduled for March 2024.

The VP Internal spearheaded Grad Ball for 5 April 2024 and Kiki Ball for 22 March 2024, a collaboration with the Science Internal Committee, Queer McGill, Black Students'

The Annual SUS Gala was successfully held on 16 February 2024, accommodating 800 students. The VP Academic organized the Open Science Fair on 26 February 2024, with approximately 600 students attending throughout the evening.

The VP Internal and associated committees are currently preparing for the Grad Ball on 5 April 2024 and the 'Birds of a Feather' Kiki Ball on 13 April 2024, accompanied by workshops aimed at educating students on ballroom history and culture.

In the realm of sustainability, the VP Sustainability and her committee are actively planning events for this month. The Mental Health Committee is organizing an 'Adulting

8) **PROVOST'S ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS ANTI-BLACK RACISM**

Associate Dean Nilson informed members that one of the advancements made over the past year towards the Anti-Black Racism (ABR) plan is the creation and launch of an online learning module addressing systemic racism, particularly anti-Black racism. This module, a commitment under the ABR plan, has been finalized and is expected to be publicly available, although this information is not fully confirmed.

This module is similar to the "It Takes All of Us" module addressing sexual violence, with

The University and board announced that a decision had been made on who the next Chancellor will be (which was later announced publicly to be Pierre Boivin), and Chancellor John McCall MacBain was thanked for his ongoing service to the University with his term ending June 30th.

In terms of Government Relations:

French language and tuition:

The Chair shared that he had met with Premier Legault and Minister Pascale Dery for a frank discussion concerning a number of issues, and especially the tuition fee increase and francization program. No significant progress was made in these discussions, but the chair noted a commitment to maintaining open lines of communication and engaging the government on these matters. In response to questions from Senators, he later emphasized the University's position of asking that government decisions be made based on real evidence and bringing new evidence to the table, sharing his commitment to principles and optimism that evidence and data will get us to where we want to go.

Senator Manfredi later reminded us of the University's view that the 80% intermediate French proficiency requirement laid out by the Provincial government is impractical, and noted that there were currently no available details with respect to how this requirement would be monitored and/or assessed.

Senators asked how broader stakeholders such as students, faculty and staff are being involved in decision making on issues of tuition and French language requirements, and the Chair noted the ways that the Chair is engaging stakeholders in budget planning, including the formation of an Ad hoc group called the Faculty Engagement Consultative Group, and an upcoming university-wide townhall.

International study permits:

The Federal government has announced that it is imposing a cap on the number of new international undergraduate students it will accept into the country, with each province or territory receiving a portion of the study permits based on population size, which they can then distribute to universities and colleges. Quebec's quota was not yet known at the time of the meeting, but the chair said that we would be kept abreast of news on this front.

External Relations, internal events and recognition:

President Saini has recently attended a meeting of the U15 Executive Heads in Ottawa and participated in the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos where he in particular served as a moderator for a panel on Biodiversity.

In this new year, the university has hosted a number of university events, including its second annual International Holocaust Remembrance Day commemoration and a commemoration of the seven-year anniversary of the Quebec City Mosque Attack. There have also been a number of events for Black History Month in February. And the 9th annual McGill24 day of giving will be held tomorrow, March 13th.

Indigenous Education. And how they were being implemented and carried out with respect to the New Vic Project.

Committee and Annual Reports:

Two committee reports were presented to Senate for information: A report of the **Academic Policy committee** was presented by Senator Manfredi, and a report of the **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee** was presented by Senator Leckey. The latter contained, among other things, a discussion of an education module on anti-Black racism and McGill's accessibility strategy – highlighting that widespread focus on this is long overdue since #s of staff with disability have not been increasing like some other groups.