S-22-38

FACULTY OF SCIENCE
MEETING OF FACULTY
Tuesday , 23 May 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book

DOCUMENTS: S-22-29 to S-22-37

Dean Lennox called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., and welcomed members to the last Faculty of Science meeting of the 2022-2023 academic year.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Prof. Perepichka moved , seconded by Prof. Genest, that the Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

2. Memorial Tribute: Professor Robert Vermes from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics

Professor Christian Genest, Chair of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, read the following Resolution on the Death of Professor Robert Vermes:

It is with a heavy heart that I must inform you of the peaceful passing of Professor Robert Vermes at his home on May 11, 2023, in the presence of his daughter Daphna and surrounded by the books which he loved. He had joined McGill in 1963 and remained close to the Department of Mathematics and Statistics until his death, at the age of 93.

Robert was born on February 16, 1930, to Hungarian Jews living in Budapest. The family was persecuted during World War II. After surviving the Holocaust and finishing high school, Robert immigrated alone to Israel, where he studied mathematics at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He published his first paper in Hebrew in 1956 and completed his MSc in 1959, under the supervision of the famous Hungarian-Israeli mathematician Mihály Fekete (1886-1957).

In April 1954, Robert married Chayah Rosenberg, a student of English literature at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Between 1948 and 1950, Chayah had served in the Haganah, which became the core formation of Israel's Defense Forces in 1948. After Robert completed his own military service, the family moved to Madison, Wisconsin, where he undertook doctoral studies. His advisor was Morris Marden (1905-1991), generally considered to be responsible for developing a research culture and orientation in his department. Robert's PhD thesis, defended in 1963, was entitled "On the Location of the Zeros of Certain Combinations of Polynomials."

Upon graduation,career, producing five solo papers on properties of polynomials, according to MathSciNe
In addition to teaching, he supervised three MSc students, served as an Associate Editor for the Canadian Mathematical Bulletin (1968-70), and helped to organize two winter meetings of the Canadian Mathematical Society (1983, 1994).

On behalf of the Prof. Paul Lasko, Chair, Faculty of Science Excellence Award, Dean Lennox said that these awards recognize outstanding performance and contributions made by members of the Faculty's administribut1(.)-1-8(t)-vdand 1.1(rupp)-2.9(ao)3.1(bu)-e.4(i 1.1(r)-e

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There was no business arising from the Minutes.

8. Report of Committee

a) Scholarships S-22-35

Associate Dean Hundemer reported on the following:

(i) Governor General's Silver Medal has been awarded to Zoe Olivia Wefers , Honours Program in Mathematics & Computer Science. The Governor General's Silver Medal is awarded to a graduating undergraduate student who obtains the highest academic standing in a bachelor's degree program at McGill. There are only two medals given each year for the entire university.

Dean Lennox announced the new Science Senators. He said the terms would begin 1 September 2023, and would end on 31 August 2026.

- Prof. Genevieve Ali (Earth & Planetary Sciences/Geography)
- Prof. Natalya Gomez (Earth & Planetary Sciences)
- Prof. Peter Grutter (Physics)
- Prof. David Stephens (Mathematics & Statistics)
- Prof. Alanna Watt (Biology)

Additionally, the Faculty representatives on the Senate who will continue their service are as follows, along with the remaining years in their terms:

- Prof. Mathieu Blanchette (Computer Science) - one year
- Prof. Anthony Mittermaier (Chemistry) - two years
- Prof. Laura Nilson (Biology) - two years
- Prof. Brigitte Vachon (Physics) - one year

Dean Lennox congratulated the new Senators, and thanked the continuing Senators for their service.