

Professor Gilson retired formally in December 2003, but he continued to come in every day to his office in the Pulp and Paper Building on campus, and was working on density functional calculations on coordination compounds just prior to Christmas 2015. Even when he was in hospital, he was asking about how his calculations were progressing. Denis Gilson was a major contributor to the success of the Department of Chemistry and played a role in the hiring of many of the current faculty members. He also served on the Rhodes Scholar Selection Committee for 20 years and was the Miles Distinguished Lecturer at the University of New Hampshire in 1995. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Patricia, whom he met while at UBC, his two sons Michael (Christine) and Stephen (Karen), and his granddaughters, Kathryn Meagan Gilson and Clara Lanthier-Gilson.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

702.2

Dean Lennox thanked Prof. Damha for the moving resolution.

mcgill.ca/innovation

and she strongly urged members to peruse the website. The innovation website serves as a hub for members of the McGill community and partners of McGill to interact and coalesce in a spirit of innovation, and to jump-start ideas, initiatives and partnerships.

703.5 V.-P. Goldstein pointed out, among other pages:

_____ with which the Faculty of Science has been closely involved.

[Minor Entrepreneurship for Science Students](#)

[Fessenden prizes](#) for undergraduate and graduate students, and professors in the Faculty of Science.

[Fessenden professorships](#) for professors in the Faculty of Science.

703.6 V.-P. Goldstein invited members to send her ideas, suggestions, stories, questions, etc., regarding the website and anything else involving innovation.

703.7 V.-P. Goldstein mentioned that there were a number of guides relating to innovation, for students and for faculty, on the innovation website, and she encouraged members to consult these.

703.8 V.-P. Goldstein then took questions from members of the Faculty.

703.9 In reply to Dean Lennox regarding the new Associate-Vice-Principal position, V.-P. Goldstein said the

faculties contributing to the nodes, but that the details of implementation were still being worked out.

703.15

For Information Only - Documents available upon request

(i) New B.A. Program:

- Minor Concentration in Health Geography

(ii) B.A. Program Changes:

- Minor Concentration in Geography (Urban Systems)

- Major Concentration in Geography (Urban Systems)

(2)

COMPUTER SCIENCE

COMP 202

Foundations of Programming

Change: description

3 credits

AC-15-48

706.4

Associate Dean Western said that the change was simply an expansion of the course description.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Blanchette, that the change be approved.

The motion carried.

COMP 250

Intro to Computer Science

Changes: description, restrictions

3 credits

AC-15-49

706.5

Associate Dean Western explained that the description was being improved to better reflect COMP 250, that a recently retired course was being removed from the Restrictions, and that Supplemental Information will now give more details of the computer science background expected.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Blanchette, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

COMP 322

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an Honours course, but with the change in title and restrictions, it would now be clear that non-Honours students could take the course, provided they obtain permission from the department.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Blanchette, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

COMP 557	Fundamentals of Comp. Graphics Changes: credits [from 3 to 4], description 4 credits	AC-15-52
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706.8 Associate Dean Western said that the change in credits reflects the workload. The description is being made more detailed.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Blanchette, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

COMP 559	Fund. Computer Animation Change: description, prerequisite 4 credits	AC-15-53
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706.9 Associate Dean Western said that the description was being expanded. Because of scheduling conflicts, one prerequisite was being removed.

Associate Dean Western moved, seconded by Prof. Blanchette, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

(3) EARTH & PLANETARY SCIENCES/PHYSICS

New Double-Prefix Course:

EPSC 186 [renumbered from -182]/PHYS 186 (New)	AC-15-54/54A
Astrobiology 3 credits	

706.10 Associate Dean Western

- 706.11** Associate Dean Western said that the enrolment in the Physics portion of CHEM/PHYS 334 had been low, and in fact, PHYS 334 had not been offered since 2008. Hence, PHYS 334 was being retired. CHEM 334 will remain.

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

The motion carried.

Programs Affected by the Retirement of PHYS 334:

- Bachelor of Arts and Science (B.A. & Sc.) - Major Concentration Physics (36 credits)
- Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) - Secondary Science and Technology (120 credits)
- Concurrent Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) and Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) - Major Concentration Physics with Minor Biology for Teachers (135 credits)
- Concurrent Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) and Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) - Major Concentration Physics with Minor Biology for Teachers (135 credits)
- Concurrent Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) and Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) - Major Concentration Physics with Minor Chemistry for Teachers (135 credits)
- Concurrent Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) and Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) - Major Concentration Physics with Minor Chemistry for Teachers (135 credits)

7) DEAN'S BUSINESS

a) Announcements

- 707.1** (i) Dean Lennox reminded members that the **Faculty of Science Excellence Award** nominations had been sent out and the deadline was **30 March 2016**. The award recognizes excellence in administrative and support staff, and cycles among the clerical, technical and managerial categories. The current year will recognize a **managerial** member. Dean Lennox said that it was extremely important for departments to acknowledge the hard work of their support staff, and the Excellence Award are a way of demonstrating that. He urged departments to submit nominations for members of their managerial staff, and said that, as well as winners, nominations themselves were important.
- 707.2** (ii) Dean Lennox updated members on the Canada-Wide Science Festival (CWSF), regarding which there had been a presentation at the 12 January 2016 Faculty meeting. The organization of the CWSF is going well. However, although the Festival has received many volunteers for judging, it is still short a number of judges (>160); hence judging positions will now be opened

(b) **Yasser Gidi**, a graduate student in the Department of Chemistry (supervisor: Prof. Gonzalo Cosa), was awarded the NSERC **Gilles Brassard Doctoral Prize** for Interdisciplinary Research.

707.5 During the day, a room in the Parliament Building had been set up for displays. Prof. Kaspi and Mr. Gidi operated laptop displays of their research. A steady stream of MPs had visited throughout the event. The Minister of Science was there for the full three hours, plus of course the PM for a few minutes. The message is clear: Science is Back!!

707.6 In the evening, there was a reception at the Governor General's residence at Rideau Hall. A number of people who had not been able to attend the day's events did attend the reception, many of those in high-level positions. Dean Lennox had the opportunity to speak to senior officials about the Faculty's concerns including immigration issues. In addition to Parliamentary officials, senior NSERC staff were present. With the election of the Liberal Government, the climate for Science in Ottawa is very different, and NSERC is anticipating both budget increases, and a lack of interference in its operations.

b) Budget

707.7 Dean Lennox said that while he would like to report on the budget, it was still being developed. The Faculty remains in good financial state.

8) REPORTS OF DIRECTOR & ASSOCIATE DEANS

a) Director (Advising Services) Nicole Allard

708.1 Associate Dean Western, on behalf of Director Allard, said that there was no report.

b) Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson

708.2 Associate Dean Nilson announced that in the current week, there would be calls for nominations for two fellowships:

(1) **Richard H. Tomlinson Doctoral Fellowships, \$35,000, renewable twice, one available for 2016-2017**

(2) **Dr. And Mrs. Milton Leong Fellowships in Science, \$25,000, non-renewable, 4 available for 2016-2017**

708.3 Additionally, the as-yet un-awarded **McGill-UAE Fellowship in Science and Engineering** is available to students who are citizens or permanent residents of the United Arab Emirates. The **value is about \$50,000, possibly renewable**. Associate Dean Nilson said that she wanted to mention the Fellowship at the Faculty meeting to make departmental recruiters aware of it.

708.4 Associate Dean Nilson thanked departments for revising their graduate-student recruitment brochures on such short notice.

c) Associate Dean (Research) Doina Precup

708.5 Associate Dean Precup said the deadline for NSERC Strategic Grant applications is about a month away. These are a very good source of funding for basic research. The applications take a great deal of time and she encouraged members to start early, and to pass on the word to their colleagues. Help is available from OSR.

708.6 The CFI Call 9 process is moving along in terms of the selection at McGill. The internal Committee is examining proposals led by McGill. However, there are proposals that are non-McGill-led, some of them in the Faculty of Science, not all of which are known by

Associate Dean Precup. If these proposals require some funding from McGill, the Science people involved should immediately contact Associate Dean Precup for more information, as soon as possible.

708.7 In addition, Associate Dean Precup mentioned the CFI JELF competition. More details later.

708.8 Dean Lennox clarified that money not spent in the JELF is returned to Ottawa, and he assured members that the money would be spent.

d) Associate Dean (Academic) Tamara Western

708.9 Associate Dean Western told members that course evaluations begin on 21 March 2016. She asked members to remind their colleagues to encourage students to fill out course evaluations, and to emphasize that professors do read them and take their comments seriously.

708.10 The default course evaluation term is 21 March to 1 May 2016, and the condensed term goes to 17 April.

708.11 Dean Lennox stressed again that course evaluations are very useful to professors for improving course content, and this should be made clear to students.

708.12 Prof. Mucci said that if students know that course evaluations are very useful in ensuring that good professors are kept, it will encourage them to fill out the evaluations.

708.13 In response to Prof. Fussman who asked who reads comments about the physical state of classrooms, Dean Lennox said instructors and chairs read them, and when necessary they pass them on to the Dean.

9) REPORT ON ACTIONS OF SENATE

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-How does research funding performance in CIHR Operating Grants compare between McGill professors in the affiliated hospitals and those based on campus?

Major changes going on so caution is warranted. Historically, however, there appears to be little difference consistently less than 1% in CIHR success rates when comparing McGill researchers based on campus and those based at its affiliated hospitals. However, McGill-based researchers generate more funding per award on average than the affiliates.

Questions arising included:

- Why is there a size differential on grants for work conducted on and off campus?

Response: No analysis of that.

- What can be done about the poor performance of McGill researchers in the latest CIHR competition?

Response: Assistance will be made available.

-What is our research output relative to level of funding?

Response: Data have not been compiled across faculties.

The Chair also noted that McGill will be ranked internationally in terms of output, but impact is more difficult to evaluate.

In her remarks from the Chair, Principal Fortier mentioned recent meetings of the Administration with several Quebec ministers, including Ministers David,

counter-productive in some instances. Furthermore, professors often use the summer months to redesign their courses based on feedback from students, discussions with colleagues, and newly available pedagogic strategies and tools. On the other hand, every instructor must provide students during the first week of lectures with a written course outline.

The second question was submitted by Senators Noyhouzer, Toccalino and Mills and dealt with Post-Doctoral Fellows Teaching Opportunities at McGill, specifically asking what teaching training programs and teaching opportunities are currently available to PDFs at departments across McGill and whether McGill has any plans to develop a teaching training program for PDFs across McGill?

Response provided by Dean Nalbantoglu:

710.5