

Minutes of the meeting of the **Academic Policy and Planning Committee** held on Thursday 24th November 2005 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Room 160 (Arts Council Room), Arts Building

Present: M. Mendelson (chairing), L. Butler-Kisber, W. Caplin, V. Errunza, J. Feine, D. Koen (for J. Schmidt), S. McDougall, M. Nahon, I. O'Reilly, T. Rivard, M. Szyf, J. Zucchi,, H.M.C. Richard (Secretary to the Committee)

Regrets: G. Brown, D. Fraser, W. Hendershot, P. Holland, J.C. Hurtubise, D. Jutras, A. C. Masi, J. Nemes, M. Reed, J. Schmidt, D. Thérien, H.F. Upham

Document circulated:

05-APPC-11-26 Ehaz: North American Earth Hazards Consortium Agreement to Promote Mobility of North American Students for Earth Hazards.

03.01 Proposed agenda

The proposed agenda was adopted with one addition: a second SCTP Report on the meeting held on 20th October 2005 (item 03.05 a) which includes a proposal for a B.Eng.; Minor in Biomedical Engineering.

03.02 Minutes of meeting held on 27th October 2005

The minutes were approved with correction of a typographical error on the fifth line of the first paragraph of 02.08 ("Maintaining standards and evaluating... the quality of teaching and learning").

03.03 Business arising

None.

03.04 Reports: Senate approvals - APPC's 374th Report (D05-24, 16th November 2005)

At its meeting on 16th November 2005 Senate approved all new program proposals approved by APPC on 27th October, and received APPC's Statement of Plans and Priorities (see revised 05-APPC-10-16).

03.05 Subcommittee on Courses and Teaching Programs (SCTP)

a) Report on meeting held on 20th October 2005 (05-APPC-11-21 and 05-APPC-11-27)

- *B. Eng.; Minor in Mining Engineering*

The proposed Minor program was **approved** for submission to Senate (375th APPC Report to Senate D05-32, for Senate consideration on 7th December 2005)

- *B. Eng.; Minor in Biomedical Engineering*

The proposed Minor program was **approved** for submission to Senate (375th APPC Report to Senate D05-32, for Senate consideration on 7th December 2005)

The continued trend towards interdisciplinary programs was noted. The phenomenon whereby interdisciplinary fields develop into new disciplines is not new: the emergence of disciplines such as Biomedical Engineering, Cognitive Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Neuroscience, Earth System Sciences, is the continuation of that trend. The question raised is whether faculty boundaries reflecting an artificial compartmentalization of knowledge stand in the way of such developments, i.e., whether it is possible to respond to the needs of interdisciplinary program development without changing University structures. The rigidity may be more at the faculty level than at the departmental level. Interdisciplinarity is one of the strategic academic goals of the University and Deans have requested that the subject be discussed at one of their meetings. The issue will also be raised in academic program review reports. **Dr. Mendelson suggested that the subject could be put on the agenda for a future APPC meeting.**

b) Report on meeting held on 3rd November 2005 (05-APPC-11-22)

The report contained no item for APPC approval.

03.06 Student exchange agreements

a) *North American Sustainability, Housing and Community Consortium (NASHCC) (05-APPC-11-23)*

APPC **approved** the proposed five-year continental exchange program in architecture, developed in the context of the HRSDC (Human Resources and Skilled Development Canada) Program for North American Mobility in Higher Education. It will be reported to Senate (in APPC's 375th Report to Senate - D05-32, for Senate's meeting on 7th December 2005) as having been approved by APPC.

b) *Proposed Agreement for a Bilateral Student Exchange Program between McGill University and the University of Bergen (05-APPC-11-24)*

The difference between an exchange agreement (balance in the number of students from each university, and tuition paid at home university) and a visiting student agreement (balance not expected and visiting students pay tuition at McGill) was clarified. The latter is possible because the Norwegian government offers financial support to Norwegian students who study as visiting students elsewhere.

The proposed student exchange agreement was **approved** and will be reported to Senate (in APPC's 375th Report to Senate D05-32, for Senate's meeting on 7th December 2005) as having been approved by APPC.

c) *EHaz Consortium Agreement to Promote Mobility of North American Student for Earth Hazards (05-APPC-11-26)*

Although the partner universities have not yet approved the version of the agreement that includes McGill's clarifications, the proposed student exchange agreement was **approved** by APPC and will be reported to Senate (375th APPC Report to Senate D05-32, for Senate's meeting on 7th December 2005) as having been approved by APPC.

Asked about the process for generating student exchange agreements, Associate Provost Mendelson stated that it is both a decentralized and a centralized process, much like student admissions. In professional disciplines, such as Architecture, Engineering, Management, Law, exchange agreements are initiated and negotiated at the school or faculty level, whereas a centralized approach suits other exchanges best. A new process for bringing student exchanges forward to APPC is being developed in the context of a review of existing administrative structures and mechanisms that deal with international education at McGill, and in the context of University priorities. APPC questions also dealt with the selection and placement of students taking part in exchanges and with the review of student exchange agreements. **It was agreed that information should be provided APPC regarding the number of McGill students who take part in exchanges and the number of exchange students received by McGill.**

03.07 Review of APPC Subcommittees – mandates, memberships, activities - Subcommittee on Teaching and Learning (SCTL) (05-APPC-11-25)

Associate Provost (Academic Programs and Services) Mendelson, as Chair of the SCTL, presented the document. He also reported on the meeting with Dr. Harry Murray to which APPC members were invited: the University of Western Ontario uses its course evaluations for tenure and promotion purposes only (McGill uses them for three purposes) and designed a single questionnaire for that function.

03.08 Other business

None.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Helen M.C. Richard 2005-11-25