

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, October 17, 2006, at 3:00 p.m. in Arts Council Room, Arts 160.

PRESENT: Dean Grant (Chair), Associate Dean Hendren (Vice-Chair), Associate Dean Leighton; Professors Baines, Baker, Drury, Hermo (replacing Prof. Bennett), Jensen (replacing Prof. Martin), Moore, Precup (replacing Prof. Kemme), Ronis, Silvius, Wechsler, Yau, Zetka (replacing Prof. Levine); Associate Dean Hendershot; L. Houle; C. Haakonsen, N. Budd, A. Coutinho, S. Ng, L. Crawford; J. D'Amico.

REGRETS: Professors Chmura, Ricciardi; Associate Dean Hendershot; M. Osborn, M. Retrouvey.

GUESTS: Mr. Gregg Blachford and Ms. Linda Cicuta

DOCUMENTS: AC-06-15(Rev), AC-06-17/17A AC-06-18 to AC-06-22

Dean Grant called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Since there were a number of replacement members, Dean Grant asked members to introduce themselves.

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Prof. Moore **moved**, seconded by Prof. Drury, that the Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

(2) MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2006

AC-05-18

Prof. Ronis **moved**, seconded by Mr. Ng, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

(3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

(4) IYES (Internship Year Program for Engineering & Science)

204.1 Associate Dean Hendren introduced Gregg Blachford, Director of CAPS (Career and Placement Service), and Linda Cicuta, CAPS Career Advisor, Science.

204.2 Associate Dean Hendren said that the previous year the IYES had been opened to all units in the Faculty of Science, and that Mr. Blachford and Ms. Cicuta were attending the current Academic Committee meeting to inform members about internships and the services provided by CAPS.

204.3 Mr. Blachford said that CAPS was the overview career centre for McGill, was funded by Student Services, and dealt with all faculties at McGill. He said that Associate Dean Hendren had been working to raise the profile of the Faculty of Science within the IYES.

- 204.4** Ms. Cicuta described some of the ways in which CAPS has assisted students in the Faculty of Science, and passed around handouts illustrating these.
- 204.5** Mr. Blachford said that the IYES was founded in 1991 as a program involving the Faculties of Engineering and of Science, and was intended to provide students with practical knowledge by way of employment.
- 204.6** Mr. Blachford said that CAPS was attempting to increase internship participation by Science students. When the IYES was first introduced the periods involved were 8, 12, and 16 months. It was mostly Engineering students who participated. Part of the imbalance was due to the type of companies that recruited on campus, and CAPS was working to increase recruitment by companies that would hire Science students. However, another problem was that the 8, 12, and 16 month periods were unsuitable for Science students. Consequently, three years previously a four-month internship program (the course FACC 200) was introduced, enabling students to have FACC 200 and "Industrial Practicum" listed on their transcripts. (Students doing the IYES have the designation "Internship Option" listed on their transcripts.) The four-month Industrial Practicum (IP) has proven to be better suited for Science students.
- 204.7** Mr. Blachford said that attempts to further increase participation by Science students would involve increasing the number of companies offering internships and turning more summer jobs into IP, as well as the Dean, academic staff and student societies providing more publicity for internships. Also, CAPS would increase its promotion of IYES and IP.
- 204.8** Associate Dean Hendren encouraged members and their units to promote IYES and IP.
- 204.9** Mr. Blachford and Ms. Cicuta answered members' questions.
- 204.10** Dean Grant thanked Mr. Blachford and Ms. Cicuta for appearing at the Academic Committee and for an informative session.

(5) REDPATH MUSEUM

REDM 399

Science Writing
1 credit

AC-06-15 (Rev)

- 205.1** Associate Dean Hendren said that the concerns regarding REDM 399 that had been raised at the previous Academic Committee meeting, had now been satisfactorily addressed.
- 205.2** A member was still concerned about the degree of overlap that could exist between the report to be used in REDM 399 and the report to be handed in for the research project course.
- Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Mr. Haakonsen, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

(6) PROPOSED B.Sc. LIBERAL DEGREE PROGRAM

AC-06-19/20

- 206.1** Associate Dean Hendren went over the main points of the proposed B.Sc. Liberal program. She suggested that the discussion refer to the principle of the program.
- 206.2** Several members said that the B.Sc. Faculty programs were often used as a backup for Major students who ran into problems. These members were concerned that the B.Sc.

Liberal program would not have this flexibility, particularly if the problems occurred in a student's final term.

206.3 Associate Dean Hendren said advisers should watch out for students with potential problems and advise them to take enough Science credits to be able to change to the B.Sc. Liberal program if necessary. She added that the Associate Dean (Student Affairs) would have the flexibility to make exceptions to the B.Sc. Liberal program.

206.4 A member was concerned that advisers could be overwhelmed by all the options for the B.Sc. Liberal. Associate Dean Hendren said that only the General Breadth option should require significant support from the advisors.

206.5 In response to a member who said that the Core Science Components (CSCs) would be even weaker scientifically than a Faculty program, Associate Dean Hendren said that the CSCs would be stronger than the Major Concentrations in the B.A. & Sc., and she suggested units could consider creating more than one CSC, each with a degree of specialization.

206.6 Associate Dean Hendren said that the B.Sc. Liberal should be better for premed students than the Faculty programs, since the B.Sc. Liberal would allow the option of more breadth. A member added that the possibility of doing a Minor within the B.Sc. Liberal was a strength of the program.

206.7 In response to a member, Associate Dean Hendren said that the B.Sc. Liberal should not affect total admissions, but may attract some students currently interested in the B.A. & Sc.

206.8 A member suggested that a Faculty of Science B.Sc. program could be instituted on an ad hoc basis for students who run into problems.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hermo, that the B.Sc. Liberal program be approved in principle.

206.9 Prof. Jensen, seconded by Prof. Ronis, proposed an amendment that there be an acceptable alternative form for items (b) and (c), General Science Breadth, Page 5, namely

- (b) at least 12 credits are at the 300-level or above
- (c) at least 6 credits are from an area outside of the CSC

206.10 The amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion carried.

206.11 Associate Dean Hendren asked that units put together the Core Science Components in time for the next Academic Committee meeting scheduled for November 21, 2006. She said she would send a formal request to Academic Committee members, with copies to the heads of units, and would be available to meet with units if necessary.

(7) PROPOSED B.SC. FRESHMAN PROGRAM

AC-06-21

207.1 Associate Dean Hendren introduced and described the proposed modified B.Sc. Freshman Program.

207.2 During the long discussion that followed, several objections were raised:

- that with the choice available in List A, students may not cover all areas, for example, biology.
- the above point could mean that the flexibility of the proposed program in the Freshman year could result in students closing off options and thus having less flexibility in later years
- that the current Freshman Program was a broad, well-balanced program that should be maintained

- 207.3** A student member said that many students would appreciate the flexibility that the proposed Freshman Program offers.
- 207.4** Another student member said that the new requirements would allow Computer Science students to take MATH 133 and COMP 202 in their freshman year.
- 207.5** A member suggested that MATH 133 be moved from List A to List B of the proposed new Freshman Program, and that students be required to do at least one course from List B. This would not affect the essence of the proposed new program, but would encourage the introduction of Freshman students to Computer Science, Earth System Science, and Psychology.
- 207.6** Because of the potential for mistakes in advising, it was suggested that, while Lists A and B should remain valid, units should also define appropriate course lists for students intending to major in their disciplines; other course lists could be defined for students who wished to keep their options open.
- 207.7** As was mentioned in the proposal, Associate Dean Hendren would like members to devise required freshman courses for their units.
- 207.8** Due to time constraints the discussion was ended, and Dean Grant asked members to consult with their units on the proposed Freshman Program, and to bring back opinions to the next Academic Committee meeting in November.

DUE TO TIME CONSTRAINTS, THE FOLLOWING ITEMS (DOCUMENTS AC-06-17 AND AC-06-22) WERE POSTPONED TO THE NEXT ACADEMIC COMMITTEE MEETING.

- (8) MINI-THEME: THE DELIVERY & EVALUATION MECHANISMS OF UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE COURSES, POINT #2, EVALUATION THROUGHOUT THE TERM VERSUS EVALUATION VIA A 100% FINAL EXAM AC-06-17
- (9) MID-TERM EXAMINATIONS AC-06-22
- (10) RENAMING B.A. & SC. FACULTY PROGRAMS TO INTERFACULTY PROGRAMS

- Faculty Program in Environment
- Faculty Program in Cognitive Science

- 210.1** Associate Dean Hendren explained that the above two programs were really interfaculty programs, and the names should be changed to reflect this.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ronis, that the above Faculty Programs be renamed Interfaculty Program in Environment, and Interfaculty Program in Cognitive Science.

The motion carried.

- (11) OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.