

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on December 13, 2011, at 2:30 p.m. in Arts Council Room, Arts 160.

PRESENT: Dean Martin Grant (Chair), Associate Dean Laurie Hendren (Vice-Chair), Director Nicole Allard, Professors Fiona Bedford, Paul Clarke, Paul François (in place of Kenneth Ragan), Frédéric Guichard, Galen Halverson, Axel Hundemer, Greg Marczynski, Gillian O'Driscoll, David Ronis (in place of Linda Reven), Kathy Roulet, Julie St-Pierre; L. Houle; Alan Blayney; Malek Yalaoui, Josie D'Amico.

GUESTS: Prof. Joaquin Madrenas and Prof. Ciriaco Piccirillo

REGRETS: Professors Lea Berrang Ford, Bettina Kemme, Bruno Tremblay, Ann Wechsler; Jan-Marc Lieskovsky, Hardik Vala, Timothy Tsang, Neil Verma, Debbie Wang, Billi Wun.

DOCUMENTS: AC-11-14 to AC-11-23

Dean Grant called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

EDTL 520, a new course offered by the Faculty of Education to be considered under Other Business, Item 9.

Prof. Halverson **moved**, seconded by Prof. Bedford, that the amended Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

(2) MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 22, 2011

Mr. Blayney **moved**, seconded by Prof. Clarke, the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

(3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

(4) MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY

New Course:

MIMM 214

Intro Immun: Elem. of Immunity
3 credits

AC-11-15

404.1

Prof. Marczynski introduced MIMM 214, a new course to be offered by the new chair, Prof. Joaquin Madrenas, Department of Microbiology & Immunology. It was felt that students currently learn very little immunology in the first year of Microbiology & Immunology Programs, and MIMM 214 would fill that gap.

404.2 Prof. Marczynski said that in order to not increase the credit weight for the programs in Microbiology & Immunology, CHEM 203/204, a U1 Required Course, would be moved to the list of Complementary Courses.

404.3 Associate Dean Hendren said that members should note which programs would be affected by MIMM 214, since it will replace MIMM 314 in many programs. She wanted to ensure that everyone was made aware of the many programs affected (the programs are listed in the Course Proposal Form in Box "Program Change Form Submitted?").

Prof. Marczynski **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ronis, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

MIMM 314	Intermediate Immunology Changes in title, description, prerequisites 3 credits	AC-11-16
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404.4 Prof. Marczynski said that the new prerequisite for MIMM 314 will be MIMM 214. Also, since MIMM 214 would be the new introductory course in immunology, MIMM 314 will become an intermediate immunology course, enabling a more in-depth coverage of immunology for second year students in Microbiology & Immunology Programs.

404.5 Prof. Bedford asked that MIMM 314 be included in the Anatomy & Cell Biology Programs (as well as MIMM 214). (Changes to programs are listed in the Box titled "Program Change Form Submitted?" in the Course Proposal Form for **MIMM 214**.)

404.6 Prof. Marczynski **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ronis, that the changes be approved with the proviso that units can add MIMM 314 to their programs if they choose. (Prof. Marczynski will coordinate this.)

The motion carried.

MIMM 211	Introductory Microbiology Change in description 3 credits	AC-11-17
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404.7 Prof. Marczynski said that MIMM 211 currently has eight lectures dealing with immunology. With the creation of MIMM 214, the immunology section of MIMM 211 will be replaced by eight lectures on introductory concepts in microbiology.

Prof. Marczynski **moved**, seconded by Prof. Guichard, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

Program Changes:

- Major in Microbiology & Immunology	AC-11-18
- Honours in Microbiology & Immunology	AC-11-19
- Core Science Component in Microbiology & Immunology	AC-11-20

404.8 Prof. Marczynski said the above program changes were the result of the creation of MIMM 214.

Prof. Marczynski **moved**, seconded by Mr. Houle, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

(5) **BIOCHEMISTRY/MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY/PHYSIOLOGY**

Program Changes:

- Honours Immunology (Interdepartmental)

AC-11-21

405.1 The above program changes were also the result of the creation of MIMM 214.

Prof. Marczynski **moved**, seconded by Associate Dean Hendren, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

(6) **GEOGRAPHY**

New Course:

GEOG 420 Memory, Place, and Power
3 credits

AC-11-22

406.1 Associate Dean Hendren introduced GEOG 420, and gave some background information. She reminded members that in creating a new course it was simpler and better to start from scratch with a New Course Proposal Form, rather than completely revamp an existing course.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Guichard, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

(7) **INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS**

407.1 Associate Dean Hendren said that APC had mandated a workgroup to look at interdisciplinary programs at McGill. The workgroup carried out a survey, which resulted in an approximately 50% response rate. As a member of APC, she had received the Report on Interdisciplinary Programs. She said that she felt it would be better if Science came up with its own list of Science interdisciplinary programs. Associate Dean Hendren asked members for feedback on trying to describe the different Science programs and whether they should be considered interdisciplinary.

407.2 There was a long and inconclusive discussion on what should constitute interdisciplinarity. It became clear that the issue was complex and that interdisciplinarity was not easily defined. A few examples:

- should programs involving more than one discipline that contain courses integrating the disciplines be distinguished from programs without the integrating courses?
- while completely different programs such as English and Physics might not at first glance seem to have an "interdisciplinary interaction," in fact students taking this particular program were generally interested in communicating physics to a lay audience, which indicates that English and Physics could be looked on as interdisciplinary.
- the terms "interdisciplinary," "multidisciplinary," "transdisciplinary" and "cross-disciplinary" were raised.
- was neuroscience interdisciplinary or was it an individual field in itself?
- how would a "discipline" actually be defined?

- 407.3 APC was concerned about advising, administration, checking of graduation records and similar issues for interdisciplinary programs. It was pointed out that the Faculty of Science was very well organized in these areas.
- 407.4 Dean Grant emphasized that Science should take great care in addressing the issue of defining interdisciplinary programs.
- 407.5 Associate Dean Hendren will put together a document suggesting appropriate definitions of interdisciplinarity in the Faculty of Science. The document will be circulated to members of the Academic Committee.

(8) **PROGRAMS WITH LOW ENROLMENT**

- 408.1 Associate Dean Hendren said she had a chart with a list of different programs and their enrolment over the last five years. At the January Academic Committee meeting these programs will be reviewed with regard to leaving them as is, modifying or retiring them.

(9) **OTHER BUSINESS**

New Course offered by the Faculty of Education:

EDTL 520

Persp on Knowl in Math and Sci
3 credits

AC-11-23

- 409.1 Associate Dean Hendren said that the Faculty of Education had asked for a consultation regarding a new course, EDTL 520, and had provided the course proposal. She said that she had requested a course outline, but that it was in development.
- 409.2 Prof. Hundemer said he had received the course description, that it was very vague, and did not have an outline.
- 409.3 Dean Grant said that without a course outline, it would be difficult to assess the course.
- 409.4 Associate Dean Hendren said she would reply with the following:
- a) that the course does not overlap with any courses in science
 - b) that there should be prerequisites, since students taking EDTL 520 should have some background in science and mathematics
 - c) that if EDTL 520 was to be offered to B.Sc. and B.A. & Sc. students, a course outline would be required
 - d) how would it be ensured that the level of the course is appropriate?
- 409.5 Dean Grant thanked members of the Academic Committee and wished them a happy holiday season.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.