FACULTY OF SCIENCE ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on January 26, 2010, at 3:00 p.m. in Arts Council Room, Arts 160.

- PRESENT: Dean Grant (Chair), Associate Dean Hendren (Vice-Chair), N. Allard; Professors F. Bedford, A. Clerk, F. Fabry, B. Hales, A. Hundemer, R. Levine, J. McKenzie (in place of B. Wing), B. Nagar, P. Panangaden, G. O'Driscoll, D. Ronis, K. Roulet, J. Unruh; L. Houle; A. Ashraf, V. Khan; J. D'Amico. M. Yalaoui.
- GUESTS: Prof. David Green, Redpath Museum
- **REGRETS:** Professors M. Bourqui, J. Coulton, A. Wechsler; A. Bezbora, A. Dafoe, J. Kanji, E. Lee, M. Smaoui; Associate Dean Hendershot

DOCUMENTS: AC-09-60 to AC-09-67

In the temporary absence of Dean Grant, Associate Dean Hendren called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

501.1 Six items were added to the Agenda under Item #10, Other Business.

Prof. O'Driscoll **moved**, seconded by Prof. Levine, that the amended Agenda be approved.

The motion carried.

(2) MINUTES OF DECEMBER 8, 2009

AC-09-61

AC-09-62

Prof. Clerk **moved**, seconded by Ms. Roulet, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

(3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

(4) <u>REDPATH MUSEUM</u>

New Program: - Minor Program in Natural History

504.1 Prof. David Green, Director of the Redpath Museum, said that there had been a resurgent interest in natural history, and that natural history expands the breadth of understanding of the natural world. He said that the Minor in Natural History would complement a number of other programs, including those in the Departments of Biology, Natural Resource Sciences, Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences, Earth & Planetary Sciences, Geography, and Plant Science. REDM 400, Science and Museums, whose enrolment had been increasing, would

cement the program. Prof. Green thanked the Department of Biology for numerous helpful suggestions.

504.2 In reply to Ms. Allard, Prof. Green agreed to limit the number of courses students could take outside the Faculties of Arts and Science, to assist students in remaining within the Faculty of Science's regulation that students may take no more than 18 credits outside of the Faculties of Arts and Science. The following would be added to the Minor:

"A maximum of 9 credits outside the Faculties of Arts and Science."

504.3 In response to Associate Dean Hendren, Prof. Green confirmed that REDM 400 would be offered every year, in order to accommodate the needs of students taking the Minor. Also, Prof. Green said that the advisor for the Minor in Natural History will be the Head of the Redpath Museum's Curriculum Committee, Prof. Claire de Mazancourt. As well, Prof. de Mazancourt would be responsible for graduation approvals for the Minor. Associate Dean Hendren pointed out that the name of the advisor should be listed in the Calendar.

Prof. Levine **moved**, seconded by Ms. Roulet, that the Minor Program in Natural History be adopted.

The motion carried.

(5) PHARMACOLOGY & THERAPEUTICS (Program Changes):

- Minor in Pharmacology

505.1 Prof. Hales said that PHAR 301 was moved from the Complementary Course list to the list of Required Courses. The recently approved course PHAR 558 was added to the list of Complementary Courses. The total number of credits for the Minor remained the same.

Prof. Hales **moved**, seconded by Prof. Levine, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

- Major in Pharmacology - Honours in Pharmacology

505.2 Prof. Hales said that the revisions were mainly housekeeping changes.

Prof. Hales **moved**, seconded by Prof. Levine, that the above changes be approved.

The motion carried.

(6) <u>CHEMISTRY</u>



Modern Inorganic Chem 1 3 credits Course retirement AC-09-66

AC-09-64

AC-09-65

AC-09-63

506.1 Prof. Ronis said that CHEM 201 had previously been taught to Mining and Metallurgy students, but that the course had been dropped from the program. He said that CHEM 201 and CHEM 281 were identical, so the course content would still exist.

Prof. Ronis **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hales, that the course retirement be approved.

The motion carried.

(7) <u>COMPUTER SCIENCE</u>

Program Changes:

- Major in Computer Science: Computer Games Option AC-09-67

507.1 Prof. Panangaden said that at the previous Academic Committee meeting on December 8, 2009, the credit weight for COMP 361 had been increased from 3 to 6, making it a full-year course, and that this change had affected the Major in Computer Science: Computer Games Option. In order to avoid increasing the total number of credits for the program, the program had been reorganized.

Prof. Panangaden **moved**, seconded by Prof. McKenzie, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

(8) PROPOSED CURRICULUM OF THE MED-P YEAR AC-09-60(Version 2)

- **508.1** Ms. Allard, Director of Advising, went through the above document and highlighted the recommendations made by the Academic Committee at the December 8, 2009 meeting.
- **508.2** Dean Grant said it would be preferable that students whose GPAs were not high enough to be admitted to medical school, be able to continue in the B.Sc. without losing a year. He suggested that the proposed Curriculum of the Med-P Year (Document AC-09-60 Version 2) be subjected to Science's approval process, in order for Science to take a degree of ownership of the program. He said the curriculum should be approved by the Academic Committee and then brought to the next Faculty of Science meeting.
- **508.3** It was agreed that MATH 314, Advanced Calculus, should be added to the Mathematics list under "One of."

Ms. Allard **moved**, seconded by Associate Dean Hendren, that the proposed Curriculum of the Med-P Year be approved with the above modification.

The motion carried.

(9) HOW TO COMMUNICATE TO FRESHMAN STUDENTS ABOUT OPTIONS?

- **509.1** Associate Dean Hendren said that a little over half of Science undergraduate students came from the Freshman Program, and often these students were unaware of the different B.Sc. programs available. She said that many U0 students were from Canada outside Québec, and about 90% of those eventually registered in the BBL (Biological, Biomedical & Life Sciences) group. It would be preferable for U0 students to have good exposure to the potential of the PEMC (Physical, Earth, Math & Computer Science) group. She said she would like ideas from the Academic Committee on how to do this. Associate Dean Hendren reminded members that <u>any</u> B.Sc. program prepares students for medical school.
- **509.2** Dean Grant added that it was important for students to know what options they had in a B.Sc. degree. This represented what they would do with the rest of their lives.
- **509.3** Among the points raised were:
- **509.4** That many students ask what they could do with, for example, a Geography or Earth & Planetary Sciences degree, whereas the answer was quite obvious with, say, a Chemistry degree.
- **509.5** That it was important to target U0 students at the beginning of their first term.
- **509.6** Whether the Faculty of Science should indeed be targeting U0 students with regard to specific program groups.
- **509.7** That Freshman Fair Day (scheduled for February 9, 2010 from 12 noon to 2 p.m.), when freshman students go to departments and pick up informational material on possible majors, would be a good time to provide information on the various groups.
- **509.8** That Judgment Day (March 19, 2010) would be another good opportunity to make available information regarding the different Science groups.
- **509.9** That information could be available in each department to specifically target U0 students.
- **509.10** That departmental program information could describe the career possibilities for various programs.
- **509.11** That in the Department of Geography, an announcement about majoring in Geography is made in 200-level courses.
- **509.12** That an event in Thompson House for graduate students had been very successful. A similar event could be held for undergraduate students.
- **509.13** That students who have graduated could post on the Web information about their programs and outcomes.

509.14 That Nicole Allard will prepare information on how to transfer between groups.

(10) OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Professor Nick de Takacsy, Special Advisor to the Faculty of Science

510.1 Dean Grant announced that Associate Dean (Academic) Laurie Hendren will be taking a well-deserved one-year sabbatical leave in Oxford, England. Prof. Nick de Takacsy will be a Special Advisor to the Faculty of Science. Dean Grant said that Nick de Takacsy had been a former Chair, former Acting Dean, former Associate Dean (Academic & Student Affairs), and had held various university administrative posts.

Associate Dean Hendren will return to her position in the 2011-2012 academic year.

(ii) New Administrative Coordinator, Ms. Malek Yalaoui

510.2 Associate Dean Hendren introduced the new administrative coordinator, Malek Yalaoui, who will be taking over Lisa Stanischewski's position for one year. Malek graduated from McGill, and worked in various units at McGill before joining the Faculty.

(iii) <u>Computer Science B.A. Program Changes (for information)</u>:

- Supplementary Minor Concentration in Computer Science

510.3 Associate Dean Hendren said that the above program currently was open only to students in the Major Concentration in Computer Science. The change would open the Minor Concentration to students in the Major Concentration in Software Engineering.

(iv) <u>Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List (DMURL)</u>:

510.4 The following two courses should be added to the DMURL: AGRI 519 Sustainable Development Plans (6 credits) PHAR 599 Research Projects in Pharmacology (6 credits)

(v) <u>Orphan Courses</u>:

510.5 Dean Grant reminded members that orphan courses were courses with no prerequisites, and not themselves prerequisites for other courses. Departments should submit these to Josie D'Amico in time for the next Academic Committee meeting, scheduled for February 16, 2010. The courses will be collated along with their descriptions, and examined at the next Academic Committee meeting. If any representative wished to provide a justification for an orphan course they would be welcome to do so.

(vi) <u>B.Sc./M.Sc. Application Form</u>

510.6 Associate Dean Hendren informed members that the application form for students wishing to apply to the B.Sc./M.Sc. track will be ready in February. She said that there will be a fee, and that the B.Sc./M.Sc. track will be available only to McGill students. There were still a few wrinkles to work out in the acceptance process. Associate Dean Hendren said that she will e-mail members the link for the application form.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.