Minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2015, at 3:00 p.m. in Arts Council Room, Arts 160.

PRESENT: Dean Bruce Lennox (Chair), Associate Dean Tamara Western (Vice-Chair), Director Nicole Allard, Professors William Coish, Thomas Duchaine, Irene Gregory-Eaves, Axel Hundemer (in place of Vojkan Jaksic), Daniel Kirshbaum, Michael Langer, Craig Mandato, Greg Marcynski, Anthony Mittermaier, Caroline Palmer, Jeanne Paquette, Kathy Roulet; Natalie Waters; John Lin, Joanna Liu, Matthew Rowe, Matthaeus Ware, Mackenzie Webber.

REGRETS: Professors Barbara Hales, Michel Lapointe, Ana Nyzhnyk; Mr. Alvin Qiu, Megan Fothergill.

DOCUMENTS: AC-14-87, AC-15-1 to AC-15-10

Dean Lennox welcomed everyone to the first Academic Committee meeting of the year, and called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. He asked members to introduce themselves.

Dean Lennox emphasized that the Academic Committee was a very important Committee, where important ideas are aired and, hopefully, are passed on through the University. He said that although there is a formal agenda, it was important for members to say what they wanted to say, and to speak with frankness. Students have a very important role to play, and their input is valuable. Student members should consult with their constituents for input.

Dean Lennox said that perhaps in a Spring AC meeting, at a less busy time, it would be good to have an open discussion on change in general.

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Prof. Mandato moved, seconded by Prof. Paquette, that the Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

(2) MINUTES OF 28 APRIL 2015

Director Allard 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) MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS
- Request for Approval of a Joint Ph.D./Cotutelle-France AC-15-1

104.1 Associate Dean Western reminded members that the Academic Committee reviews both undergraduate and graduate programs, including ad hoc programs. The above program was a request for an ad hoc joint program for a Cotutelle student.

104.2 Prof. Palmer asked if the number of credits for the ad hoc Joint Ph.D./Cotutelle program was the same as the number of credits for a regular Ph.D. degree in Mathematics & Statistics. She said that the Department of Psychology may be
interested in such a program. Prof. Hundemer said that he wasn’t aware of the credit requirements for an ad hoc program versus a regular Ph.D. in Mathematics & Statistics. Associate Dean Western said that it would be a good idea to get in touch with the new Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson, who has for the past number of years been an Associate Dean in the Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies.

Associate Dean Western moved, seconded by Prof. Mandato, that the ad hoc Joint Ph.D./Cotutelle program be approved.

The motion carried.

Secretary's Note: In her reply, Associate Dean Nilson said that while course requirements for Cotutelle students are determined on a case-by-case basis, they usually conform closely to McGill requirements, and she doubted that McGill would approve one markedly different from the normal McGill program. Although joint Ph.D./Cotutelle programs are still in their infancy, it seems that usually the student follows a program similar to that of McGill, with time abroad spent largely doing research.

In the interest of retaining as much flexibility as possible for future Cotutelle programs, Associate Dean Nilson has asked that the following be appended to the above Secretary's Note.

Upon reflection, I think the language I used might sound more restrictive than I had intended. What I should have said is that the programs vary by student, but that they are usually a hybrid of the two programs that is decided based upon mutual agreement. When I said that I doubt we’d approve one that was markedly different, I meant not something unrecognizable (i.e., the goal is that it should be as balanced a mix as possible between the two).

(5) BIOLOGY

- Program Changes

Major in Biology, Quantitative Biology Option

Honours in Biology, Quantitative Biology Option

Joint Major in Biology and Mathematics

AC-15-2

AC-15-3

AC-15-4

105.1 Prof. Gregory-Eaves introduced the changes to the above programs.

105.2 In both the Major and Honours in Biology, Quantitative Biology Options, Prof. Gregory-Eaves said some courses no longer offered were removed; courses were added to Complementary course lists; other courses were rearranged and replaced.

105.3 Prof. Gregory-Eaves said that in the Joint Major in Biology and Mathematics, the changes involved adding more Complementary courses in the Ecology and Neurosciences streams, and removing courses that were no longer offered as well as courses with substantial overlap.

105.4 Prof. Gregory-Eaves said that consultation reports for the added courses from other units were forthcoming.

105.5 A member pointed out that PSYC 415 was an incorrect number, and should be corrected.

105.6 Dean Lennox asked if it was really feasible, giving prerequisite requirements, for students in the programs to actually take the bioengineering courses. Prof. Gregory-Eaves said she would look into it.
105.7 Associate Dean Western moved, seconded by Prof. Coish, that the above changes be approved, pending relevant consultations.

The motion carried.

Secretary’s Note: All consultation reports have now been received.

(6) PHYSICS

PHYS 101 Intro Physics Mechanics Change in description 3 credits
PHYS 102 Intro Physics-Electromagnetism Change in description 3 credits
PHYS 131 Mechanics and Waves Changes: description, restrictions 3 credits
PHYS 142 Electromagnetism & Optics Changes: description, restrictions 3 credits

106.1 Prof. Coish described the changes. He said that due to the sequence of teaching wave optics and geometric optics in PHYS 101/102 and PHYS 131/142, students were not able to simply switch between the PHYS 101/102 and PHYS 131/142 streams. The changes coordinated the teaching of wave optics and geometric optics in the two streams, and allowed students to switch between them. The descriptions and restrictions reflect these changes.

106.2 In response to a question from Dean Lennox about making it even easier to switch between Physics streams, as is done in the Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Prof. Coish said he would bring the issue to his Department.

Associate Dean Western moved, seconded by Director Allard, that the above changes be approved.

The motion carried.

(7) ANATOMY & CELL BIOLOGY

- ANAT 381 Experimental Embryology Changes: title, restrictions 3 credits

107.1 Prof. Mandato explained the reasons for the changes.

107.2 Associate Dean Western said that students were already being advised not to take both ANAT 381 and BIOL 303, since there is considerable overlap, although the courses are not equivalent. With the addition of the restriction for ANAT 381, Associate Dean Western advised the Department of Biology to institute its own equivalent restriction.

Associate Dean Western moved, seconded by Prof. Kirshbaum, that the changes be approved.
The motion carried.

(8) **BIOCHEMISTRY**

For Information Only:
- BIOC 670  Biochemistry of Lipoproteins  AC-15-10
  Changes: renumbered from BIOC 570; administering faculty, prerequisites, restrictions

108.1 Associate Dean Western said that the renumbering of BIOC 570 to BIOC 670 was due to the creation of BIOC 470.

108.2 Issues were raised:
- that the title and description of BIOC 670 are very similar as the title and description of BIOC 570
- that because of restrictions, students who have taken BIOC 470 would not be able to take BIOC 670

108.3 Associate Dean Western said she had discussed the issues regarding BIOC 470/570/670 with the Department of Biochemistry, and she would send the e-mail trail to Prof. Duchaine. Since this was a graduate course in the Department of Biochemistry, it was not for approval by the Academic Committee, but the AC representative said he would take the Academic Committee's concerns back to the Department.

*Secretary's Note:* Following e-mail discussions with Professors John Silvius and Robert Kiss of the Department of Biochemistry, regarding the issues raised during the AC meeting:

- the title and description of BIOC 670 are similar to those of BIOC 570 because BIOC 670 will be replacing BIOC 570, which will be retired. However, it is made clear in the Rationale of the course revision form that BIOC 670 will be taught at a level appropriate to graduate students.
- the restriction regarding students who have taken BIOC 470, taking BIOC 670 has been lifted. Additionally, undergraduate students may now take BIOC 670 with special permission.

(9) **SUS ACTIVITIES**

109.1 Mr. John Lin, V.-P. (Academic Affairs), of the Science Undergraduate Society (SUS), said that the SUS in collaboration with Chemistry graduate students has started an initiative to consolidate tutorial sessions for first year/freshman students. The tutorials offered are for CHEM 110, CHEM 212, CHEM 222, PHYS 101 and PHYS 131.

109.2 Mr. Lin also announced that the McGill Science Graduate Fair will be held on 2 November 2015.

(10) **OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.