

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on February 24, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. in Arts Council Room, Arts 160.

**PRESENT:** Dean Martin Grant (Chair), Associate Dean Tamara Western (Vice-Chair), Director Nicole Allard, Professors Thomas Bureau, Barbara Hales, Daniel Kirshbaum, Craig Mandato, Greg Marczynski, Guy Moore, Sarah Moser (in place of Michel Lapointe), Ana Nyzhnyk, Jeanne Paquette (in place of Anthony Williams-Jones), Kathy Roulet, Julie St-Pierre, Amy Szuchmacher Blum, Clark Verbrugge; Sara Holder; Simon Bilodeau, Vivian Ku, Laura Lyon, Olivier Melançon (in place of Jeremy Goh), Emilie Bruneau, Rose Rutherford-Stone; Geralda Bacaj, Josie D'Amico.

**VISITOR:** Professor John Silvius

**REGRETS:** Professors Blaine Ditto and Vojkan Jaksic; Kai Hong

**DOCUMENTS:** AC-14-63 to AC-14-73

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

**(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

- Item #6, Biochemistry, to be considered after Item #3, Business Arising from the Minutes.
- Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur, de la Recherche et de la Science (MESRS) to be considered under Other Business, Item #10.

Prof. Moore **moved**, seconded by Ms. Roulet, that the amended Agenda be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**(2) MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 25 NOVEMBER 2014**

**AC-14-63**

Prof. Mandato **moved**, seconded by Prof. Verbrugge, that the Minutes be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**(3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

- **Minutes 211.1 to 211.4, Meeting of October 28, 2014, Proposal to Modify M.D., C.M. Prerequisites:**

**603.1** Director (Advising Services) Allard said the proposal to modify the requirements for entrance to medical school had been brought back to the Committee on Enrolment and Student Affairs (CESA). She said there was some discussion at CESA, and the concerns were similar to those of the Academic Committee at the October 28, 2014 meeting. She said a student member had said that while other medical schools were not requiring prerequisites and were allowing students to major in any program, McGill seemed to be requiring that students major in the biomedical programs. The response from the Faculty of Medicine was that

students can still take any programs, provided they have all the prerequisites. Experience with the curriculum adopted in 2012 had shown that students without the prerequisites were not as successful as those with the prerequisites. The proposal was passed by CESA, and will next be considered by Senate. Director Allard said the new curriculum prerequisites will be implemented for the 2017 admissions cycle, giving the Faculty more time to prepare.

**(4) MINOR COURSE CHANGES (for information) AC-14-23**

**604.1** Associate Dean Western described the following Minor Course Changes.

**Biology**

**- Changes in title, description**

BIOL 316 Biomembranes and Organelles (3 credits)

**Earth & Planetary Sciences**

**- Change in Restrictions**

EPSC 180 The Terrestrial Planets (3 credits)

EPSC 181 Environmental Geology (3 credits)

EPSC 182 Astrobiology (3 credits)

EPSC 185 Natural Disasters (3 credits)

EPSC 501 Crystal Chemistry (3 credits)

**Earth System and Science**

**- Change in Restrictions**

ESYS 104 The Earth System (3 credits)

**Anatomy & Cell Biology**

**- Change in Restrictions**

ANAT 182 Astrobiology (3 credits)

**Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences**

**- Change in Restrictions**

ATOC 185 Natural Disasters (3 credits)

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

- Honours Immunology (Interdepartmental) Program Changes

**AC-14-64**

**605.1** Prof. Marczyński said that the program was offered by the Departments of Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology, and Physiology, and administered by the Department of Microbiology & Immunology. The program is co-directed by Prof. M. Cohen, Physiology, and Prof. C. Piccirillo, Microbiology & Immunology. This was a program with high requirements, and students go on to become immunologists, research scientists or MDs. The changes were to add PHGY 488, Stem Cell Biology, as a U3 Complementary course; as well, the program requirements have been reworded for clarity purposes. Prof. Nyzhnyk added that immunology students had expressed great interest in the course.

Prof. Marczyński **moved**, seconded by Prof. Nyzhnyk, that the changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**(6) BIOCHEMISTRY**

**New Course:**

BIOC 220

Laboratory in Biochemistry 1  
3 credits**AC-14-65****New Course:**

BIOC 320

Laboratory in Biochemistry 2  
3 credits**AC-14-66****606.1**

Prof. John Silvius, Undergraduate Program Director, Department of Biochemistry, said that the two courses, BIOC 220 and BIOC 320, were being proposed to replace a full-year laboratory course, BIOC 300D1/D2, offered in U2. Students felt that they needed a laboratory course at the same time as the lecture course, BIOC 212. BIOC 220 will be offered in Winter U1, and BIOC 320 will be offered in Fall U2. Prof. Silvius also answered members' questions.

Prof. St-Pierre **moved**, seconded by Prof. Mandato, that the above courses be adopted.

**The motion carried.****New Course:**

BIOC 470

Lipids & Lipoproteins in Dis.  
3 credits**AC-14-70****606.2**

Prof. Silvius said that BIOC 470, a new U3 Complementary Course in the Major and Honours Programs in Biochemistry, had been previously taught at the 500-level.

Prof. St-Pierre **moved**, seconded by Prof. Mandato, that the above course be adopted.

**The motion carried.****Program Changes:**Liberal Core Science Component in Biochemistry  
Major in Biochemistry  
Honours in Biochemistry**AC-14-67****AC-14-68****AC-14-69****606.3**

Prof. Silvius said the program changes reflected the above new courses, as well as moving two analytical chemistry courses (CHEM 287, CHEM 297) from U1 to U2 and U3 in the Major and Honours, and adding these chemistry courses to the Liberal Program. The total credit weight of the programs remain unchanged.

Prof. St-Pierre **moved**, seconded by Prof. Mandato, that the above changes be approved.

**The motion carried.****(7)****SCIENCE GRADES****AC-14-71****607.1**

Associate Dean Western said that the Scholarships Committee had noted that there has been an increased number of students with a 4.00 SGPA, but not an increase in scholarships available. She said that she herself, Ms. Malek Yalaoui and Associate Dean (Research and Graduate Education) Vicky Kaspi had

collected data on this. She said that the first graph showed the percent of 4.00 SGPA students for all Science departments, as well as for U0s. For U0 students, the percent of 4.00 SGPA's had been fairly constant but recently had increased significantly. Regarding the biomedical departments, the increase was particularly noticeable for Neuroscience, although it should be noted that Neuroscience is a very selective program, with high admission standards. Associate Dean Western had taken the data to a Chairs meeting, and the Chairs had suggested that the issue deserved further study. She was therefore going to strike a subcommittee of the Academic Committee to look further into the matter, and would be contacting people in the near future. The Chairs had suggested in particular to see if there was a correlation between grades and course evaluations, and this would be an interesting topic to examine.

- 607.2** In response to a member, Director Allard said that the admission requirements to the Faculty of Science had not increased by much over the last 10 years.
- 607.3** A student member said that her experience was that U1 was significantly more difficult than U0, and it would be worthwhile to see whether the increase in U0 grades carried over into U1.
- 607.4** Dean Grant said it was important to find out the reasons for the increase in grades.

**(8) INFORMATION FOR INSTRUCTORS RE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AC-14-72**  
**POSTED ON WEB (For information only)**

- 608.1** Director Allard summarized the information in Document AC-14-72. She emphasized that course content was the intellectual property of the instructor, and outlined the "take-down" procedure to follow for infringing websites. She said that some websites make this easy to do and readily comply with take-down notices, while others are more difficult to contact. She said that instructors should place copyright notices on their material, and inform students about copyright and its infringement. Web links are:

Instructors:

<http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/staff/protecting-your-intellectual-property-instructors>

Students:

<http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/students/test/ugrad/posting-instructors-intellectual-property-course-materials-public-websites>

- 608.2** A member pointed out that instructors themselves should not infringe the copyrights of others, such as using copyrighted images in course materials.
- 608.3** Director Allard invited members to contact her with any questions.

**(9) SUS ACTIVITIES AC-14-73**

- 609.1** Mr. Olivier Melançon read the Report of the SUS activities, in place of Mr. Jeremy Goh, but he said he would be unable to answer any questions:

The Science Undergraduate Society Executive Council has been incredibly active across all of its portfolios over the course of the past month. Our President has made significant progress on our Memorandum of Agreement and our VP

Academic has just wrapped up an extremely successful Academia Week, with great turnouts from the faculty and fascinating speakers. Our Vice-President External is working on numerous projects such as Green Week, Science Career Day, ECOuture (a sustainable fashion show) and has been collaborating with our VP Internal and the Arts Undergraduate Society on a joint graduation ball to be held at Le Windsor on March 21st. Our VP Internal has also been working on our annual Appreciation Night, known as SUSAN, which will be held exactly one week after Grad Ball. Finally, our VP Communications has been hard at work, making amendments to the constitution with the newly formed Constitutional Affairs Committee. In addition, our nomination period has been extended for three positions – VP Finance, SSMU Representative, and VP Internal.

- 609.2** In reply to Dean Grant, Mr. Melançon said that the new SUS Executive would be elected the following week, and would take office in May 2015.

**(10) OTHER BUSINESS**

**- Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur, de la Recherche et de la Science (MESRS)  
Online Survey Concerning CEGEP Science Courses**

- 610.1** Associate Dean Western said that Prof. Monroe Cohen, Director of the Neuroscience Program, had received an online survey from MESRS asking about CEGEP-level program prerequisites, in particular what requirements the Neuroscience Program might like for statistics and computer science courses. She asked if any other members had received the same survey from MESRS. Two members had received the survey. Associate Dean Western said she had not heard of any changes through Enrolment Services, but that members should check with their departments to see if any other surveys had been received. This was important in case of potential changes by MESRS that could affect Science.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.