Minutes of the meeting held on April 28, 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, Blaine Ditto, Daniel Kirshbaum, Michel Lapointe, Craig Mandato, Greg Marczynski, Guy Moore, Kathy Roulet, Julie St-Pierre, Amy Szuchmacher Blum, Clark Verbrugge; Sara Holder; Emilie Bruneau, Jacqueline Chan (in place of Vivian Ku), John Lin (in place of Jeremy Goh); Geralda Bacaj, Josie D'Amico.

VISITOR: Professors Julia Freeman, Sylvie De Blois

REGRETS: Professors Barbara Hales, Vojkan Jaksic, Ana Nyzhnyk, Anthony Williams-Jones; Simon Bilodeau, Kai Hong, Laura Lyon, Rose Rutherford-Stone,

DOCUMENTS: AC-14-74 to AC-14-86

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

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

The motion carried.

(2) MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 24 FEBRUARY 2015 AC-14-63

Prof. Mandato moved, seconded by Ms. Roulet, that the Minutes be adopted.

The motion carried.

(3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute 610. 1, Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur, de la Recherche et de la Science (MESRS) Online Survey Concerning CEGEP Science Courses

803.1 Associate Dean Western said she had been in contact with Chairs of departments regarding the online survey from MESRS asking about CEGEP-level program prerequisites, in particular for statistics and computer science courses. She said she had received a list of the people MESRS had sent the survey to. It didn’t include three of the Science departments (Geography, Psychology and the McGill School of Environment). In some cases the survey was sent to Chairs (all Chairs in the biomedical units received the survey and submitted it), and in some cases it was sent to a junior administrator and perhaps not forwarded. Although the Departments of Mathematics & Statistics and the School of Computer Science were on the list, the Chairs did not receive the survey. Since the prerequisites concerned statistics and computer science courses, it would have been particularly relevant for these units to have received it. She said that by the time MESRS replied, the survey had ended. She hoped that in future, MESRS would know who to contact for surveys.

(4) McGill School of Environment
New Course:
ENVR 421  Mtl Envr Hist & Sustainability*  3 credits  AC-14-75

Secretary’s Note: *Title was changed (from Unearthing Montreal) at the meeting. The course description and syllabus were modified after the meeting. Associate Dean Western has approved the latter changes.

New Course:
ENVR 422  Mtl Urban Sustainability Anal  3 credits  AC-14-76

804.1 Prof. Julia Freeman and Prof. Sylvie De Blois attended the meeting to introduce the above courses and answer members’ questions. ENVR 421 and ENVR 422 are concurrent courses to be given during the summer.

804.2 Approval had previously been granted by Provost Masi to offer the above courses as Summer topic courses to see if there would be interest in them. Prof. Freeman said there had been a lot of interest in the courses across the University, and the courses had been filled to the cap limit. The courses offer both experience and applied work, and are accessible alternate field courses for students who are unable to go outside Montreal.

804.3 In reply to Director Allard who asked to elaborate on the grading for the journal, and the 10% grade for class participation, Prof. Freeman said it was very important to sensitize and motivate students to attain full participation. There is a rubric for instructors, worth 5%, and a rubric for the student groups, also worth 5%.

804.4 Regarding the journals, students will keep one journal for both courses, and document their progress, learning experience, ideas, and findings for ENVR 421 and ENVR 422. The journals are to reflect and integrate information and to go beyond the course material to formulate insights about broader issues related to sustainability, etc.

804.5 In reply to Associate Dean Western, Prof. Freeman said that she had not prepared a formal rubric for the journal. Associate Dean Western said it was important to be able to justify a grade in case of a student challenge.

804.6 Prof. De Blois pointed out that the course title had changed, and that the course description and outline would be modified in the interest of greater clarity. She added that the courses were associated with Les Amis de la Montagne.

Prof. Lapointe moved, seconded by Prof. Mandato, that the above courses be adopted.

The motion carried.

ENVR 421/ENVR 422 Added to ENVR Programs  AC-14-77

804.7 Ms. Roulet said that ENVR 421 and/or ENVR 422 were being added to almost all Environment programs except for the Major in Environment; Water Environments and Ecosystems – Physical Option.
Ms. Roulet moved, seconded by Director Allard, that the above courses be added to Environment programs as specified in Document AC-14-77.

**The motion carried.**

(5) **GEOGRAPHY**

**New Course:**
GEOG 384  Principles of Geospatial Web  AC-14-78
3 credits

805.1 Prof. Lapointe described the proposed new course, GEOG 384. He said that feedback had been previously obtained and all issues had now been addressed. The course will be included in the Minor in Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing as a Complementary course.

Prof. Lapointe moved, seconded by Prof. Bureau, that the course be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

(6) **EARTH & PLANETARY SCIENCES**

EPSC 549  Hydrogeology  AC-14-79
Change in course activities
3 credits

806.1 Associate Dean Western said that the laboratory portion of the course was being removed since it had not been given for the last several years. The credit weight was not affected because there are already three hours of lectures per week.

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

**The motion carried.**

(7) **BIOLOGY**

BIOL 352  Vert Evol: Dinosaurs & Mammals  AC-14-80
Changes: title, description, prerequisites
3 credits

807.1 Prof. Bureau explained that the new title and description better reflected the content of the course. An additional choice of prerequisite was being added.

Prof. Bureau moved, seconded by Prof. Mandato, that the changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

(8) **CHEMISTRY**

- Program Revisions:
B.A. & Sc. Major Concentration in Chemistry  AC-14-81
808.1 Prof. Szuchmacher Blum explained that CHEM 203 did not serve as a prerequisite for additional chemistry courses. CHEM 204 serves as a prerequisite to CHEM 214, and the two courses provide sufficient background in Physical Chemistry to allow students to take additional chemistry courses requiring background in Physical Chemistry. The changes to Complementary courses give students the ability to take any 400+ chemistry courses, expanding their options.

Prof. Szuchmacher Blum moved, seconded by Prof. Moore, that the program changes be approved.

The motion carried.

B.Sc. Liberal – Core Science Component Chemistry – Biological

AC-14-82

808.2 Prof. Szuchmacher Blum said the changes rectified a previous mistake in credit count. The changes to Complementary courses allow students more flexibility.

Prof. Szuchmacher Blum moved, seconded by Prof. Moore, that the program changes be approved.

The motion carried.

B.Sc. Liberal – Core Science Component Chemistry – General

AC-14-83

808.3 Prof. Szuchmacher Blum said that MATH 315 was being made a Complementary course to reflect changes previously made to the Majors and Honours Programs in Chemistry. Another Complementary course change will allow students more flexibility.

Prof. Szuchmacher Blum moved, seconded by Director Allard, that the program changes be approved.

The motion carried.

B.Sc. Minor in Chemistry

AC-14-84

808.4 The replacement of CHEM 203 by CHEM 204 allows students to expand their options.

Prof. Szuchmacher Blum moved, seconded by Prof. Mandato, that the program changes be approved.

The motion carried.

- Program Retirement:

B.Sc. Liberal – Core Science Component Chemistry – Physical

AC-14-85

808.5 Since the above program is not serving any students, it is being retired.

Prof. Szuchmacher Blum moved, seconded by Prof. Kirshbaum, that the program retirement be approved.

The motion carried.

(9) BIOCHEMISTRY
809.1 Prof. St-Pierre said that the title and description changes better reflect the content of the course. Since CHEM 404 no longer exists, the restriction is no longer relevant.

Prof. St-Pierre moved, seconded by Ms. Roulet, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

(10) SCIENCE GRADES - UPDATE

810.1 Associate Dean Western said that at the last Academic Committee meeting she had said she would be striking a sub-committee to look into the increase in the number of students with an SGPA of 4.00. She now had some preliminary results.

810.2 The Sub-committee members are:
Associate Dean Tamara Western
Prof. Craig Mandato, Anatomy & Cell Biology
Sarah Holder, Schulich Library of Science & Engineering
Prof. Axel Hundemer, Mathematics & Statistics
Prof. José Correa (Statistician), Mathematics & Statistics

810.3 All courses at all levels were examined, and the results were also broken down by level (U0 = 100 level, U1 = 200 level, U2 = 300 level, U3 = 400 and 500 levels).

810.4 For in-course students, in 2009-2010, there were 90 SGPA of 4.00, and 2013-2014, there were 160. While the number of students had increased slightly from 2009-2010 to 2011-2012, it had not gone up since then, so the increase in the number of students with SGPA of 4.00 could not be accounted for by an increase in enrolment. Nor had there been a large increase in admission standards. In future, both the mean and the median will be calculated to further assist comparison. The U3 level has a higher percent of As than other levels, but overall, the percent As by course level show an upward trend.

810.5 The preliminary results will be examined in more detail by extending the coverage to include years 2007-2008, 2008-2009, and 2014-15; by removing the 18X general interest courses from other 100-level courses; by analyzing the 400- and 500-level courses separately; and by removing graduate students from the 500-level results. After this is done, departments will be examined individually.

810.6 Associate Dean Western will be reporting back to the Academic Committee on the issue in Fall 2015, with the more detailed analysis.

(11) Other Business

811.1 Director Allard said that she wanted to warn members of the Academic Committee that the exemptions were being reduced for students with a French Baccalaureate. Essentially, rather than being exempted for all U0 courses, the students would now be exempted only from the Fall term, meaning that there
would be an increase in enrolment in the Winter term of U0. This amounts to about 50 students across Arts and Science.

811.2 Director Allard said since this would be Dean Grant's last Academic Committee meeting as Chair, she would like on behalf of the Committee to thank him for being the best Chair on the best Committee in the University.

811.3 Associate Dean Western said she would like to thank Dean Grant for his outstanding work as Chair of the Academic Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.