FACULTY OF SCIENCE
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on March 25, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. in Arts 230, Arts Building.

PRESENT: Dean Martin Grant (Chair), Associate Dean Laurie Hendren (Vice-Chair), Director Nicole Allard, Professors Lea Berrang Ford, Thomas Bureau, Vojkan Jaksic, Bettina Kemme, Daniel Kirshbaum, Greg Marczynski, Guy Moore, Ana Nyzhnyk, Gillian O'Driscoll, Amy Szuchmacher Blum; Sara Holder; Josie D'Amico, Geralda Bacaj; José Manuel Ceppi, Alexander Norton.

VISITORS: Professors John Gyakum, Russell Steele

REGRETS: Professors Barbara Hales, Justin Kollman, Kathy Roulet, Julie St-Pierre, Anthony Williams-Jones; Gregory Johnston, Caitlin Loo, Emily Stewart, William (Bill) Motsch, Tian (Peter) Zhi.

DOCUMENTS: AC-13-83 to AC-13-92

Dean Grant called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Dean Grant said that the final Academic Committee meeting of the year may be held electronically in the event that there is little business.

Dean Grant said that he would like to take the opportunity to thank Laurie Hendren for her diligent service as Associate Dean (Academic) over the past nine years. He enjoyed working with her very much. She set the bar very high, and has done a fantastic job. Laurie reinvigorated the undergraduate curriculum, including the introduction of undergraduate research courses, and it was now time for her to move on to other challenges.

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

The motion carried.

(2) MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 25, 2014

There being no objections, the Minutes were adopted.

(3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute 602.2, Revisions to the Policy on Course Evaluations (Document AC-13-59)

703.1 Associate Dean Hendren said that the proposed changes to the Policy on Course Evaluations had been brought to a recent APC meeting. She said that most of the Faculty’s concerns had been addressed, but that there was not much improvement on the questions related to teaching assistants. She hoped that this issue will be resolved when the Policy is brought to Senate for approval.

Minutes 603.2 to 603.4, Honours, Major, Liberal Programs in Physiology (AC-13-26 to 28)
 Associate Dean Hendren said that the above programs had been approved at a previous Academic Committee meeting, pending receipt of consultations from various units offering courses included in the programs. All consultations had now been received, and the programs had been approved at the Faculty of Science meeting held on March 18, 2014.

**Minutes 604.1 to 604.4, Participation Trends in Undergraduate Research Course (AC-13-62)**

**Minutes 605.6, 605.7, Honours in Mathematics & Physics (AC-13-75)**

**COMPUTER SCIENCE**

- B.Sc. Major in Computer Science

**Mathematics & Statistics**

- Ph.D. in Mathematics & Statistics (Thesis)

**Physiology and Physics**
Prof. Nyzhnyk said that the proposed changes were basically housekeeping, to remove inconsistencies and to fix course requirements.

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

The motion carried.

Prof. Moore said he was concerned about the number of credits required in the U1 year, and also that the program should be reviewed with the aim of reducing the total number of credits from 80. Associate Dean Hendren said that about 75-76 credits would bring it in line with other joint Major programs.

(7) **CHEMISTRY & ATMOSPHERIC & OCEANIC SCIENCES**

CHEM 519/ATOC 519 Advances in Chem of Atmosphere
Changes in restrictions; renumbering [from -419]
3 credits

**Course retirement:**

CHEM 619/ATOC 619 Advanced Atmospheric Chemistry
3 credits

Prof. Szuchmacher Blum explained that the above courses were offered jointly by the Departments of Chemistry and of Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences, as double prefix courses. She said that after some discussion, it had been decided that it would be best to clean up the courses by offering one course at the 500-level (CHEM 519/ATOC 519), so that both senior undergraduate students and graduate students could take the course.

Prof. Szuchmacher Blum moved, seconded by Prof. Kirshbaum, that the above changes be approved.

The motion carried.

(8) **ATMOSPHERIC & OCEANIC SCIENCES**

Program Changes:
- Honours in Atmospheric Science
- Major in Atmospheric Science

Prof. Kirshbaum said the program changes came about in order to subdivide the Complementary courses into core courses and streams - three specialized streams and a general one. The three specialized streams are "Weather Analysis and Forecasting," "Climate Science," and "Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics." The streams would provide structure to the program, without the requirement for extensive consultation/advising. Prof. Gyakum added that the proposed revisions would also attract more students.

Prof. Kirshbaum moved, seconded by Mr. Norton, that the above changes be approved.

The motion carried.
(9) GEOGRAPHY

**B.A. and B.A. & Sc. (Arts Programs) - For Information**
Program Changes and Name Change [from Urban Systems]
- Honours in Urban Studies *(B.A. only)*
- Major Concentration in Geography; Urban Studies
- Minor Concentration in Geography; Urban Studies

709.1 Prof. Berrang Ford said that renaming the above programs from Urban Systems to **Urban Studies** would bring the programs in line with other geography departments, as well as better reflect the program descriptions. The other changes were mostly housekeeping in nature.

(10) SUS ACTIVITIES

710.1 There was no report on activities from the SUS.

710.2 Dean Grant mentioned that he and the associate deans will be meeting with the SUS Executive and discussing SUS activities.

710.3 Prof. Kirshbaum pointed out that there had been a very low turnout at the SUS Open House, and Dean Grant said he would raise the issue at his meeting with the SUS Executive. Director Allard said that when the Freshman Fair was held, there had also been a very low turnout. Associate Dean Hendren asked whether it made more sense to hold Open Houses in the Fall or in the Winter. Mr. Norton said that in the first semester, freshman students may not yet know the area in which they want to major. Some members said there should be more publicity and signage for such events.

710.4 Prof. Kemme said that the timing of events was very important. Director Allard said that SOUSA felt it was best to hold events between mid-term exams and final exams in the Winter term. Other faculties favoured holding them before mid-terms. Director Allard noted that in recent years a lot of freshman students had been attending the external Open House.

(11) OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.