Academic Committee Minutes, October 29, 2013

FACULTY OF SCIENCE
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, October 29, 2013, at 3:00 p.m. in Arts Council Room, Arts 160.

PRESENT: Dean Martin Grant (Chair), Associate Dean Laurie Hendren (Vice-Chair), Director Nicole Allard, Professors Lea Berrang Ford, Thomas Bureau, Aashish Clerk (in place of Guy Moore), Barbara Hales, Galen Halverson, Bettina Kemme, Daniel Kirshbaum, Justin Kollman, Vojkan Jaksic, Gillian O'Driscoll, Jeanne Paquette (in place of Anthony Williams-Jones), Greg Marczynski, Ana Nyzhnyk, Kathy Roulet, Julie St-Pierre, Amy Szuchmacher Blum; Sara Holder; José Manuel Ceppi, Caitlin Loo, Alexander Norton, Emily Stewart; Josie D'Amico, Malek Yalaoui.

REGrets: Professors Lea Berrang Ford, Barbara Hales; Gregory Johnston, Bill (William) Motsch, Peter (Tian) Zhi.

DOCUMENTS: AC-13-13 to AC-13-28

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

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

The motion carried.

(2) MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2013

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) McGill School of Environment

B.Sc. Environment Program:
- Atmospheric Environment & Air Quality domain

204.1 Ms. Roulet said that the domain was being updated because of the retirement of a required course, thus decreasing domain-required credits. As a result of this, the complementary course credits had been increased by three, and additional Complementary Courses had been added to the domain.

204.2 Associate Dean Hendren suggested that since there were few students enrolled in the above domain, that in the next two to five years, this domain should be reviewed with the aim of wrapping domains together.

Ms. Roulet moved, seconded by Director Allard, that the above changes be approved.
The motion carried.

(5) MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY

New Course:
MIMM 384  Laboratory Course in Microbiology  3 credits  AC-13-15

New Course:
MIMM 385  Laboratory Course in Immunology  3 credits  AC-13-16

Course Retirement:
MIMM 386 D1/D2  Lab in Microbiology & Immunology  6 credits  AC-13-17

205.1 Prof. Marczynski said that MIMM 386D was a two-semester course which had evolved over the years, and had now been reorganized into two new courses, MIMM 384 and MIMM 385. Having two separate courses will accommodate one-semester exchange students, as well as modernize the topics and improve the administration and teaching. Also, splitting the courses into two separate courses will bring them in line with other universities offering separate microbiology and immunology lab courses.

205.2 Prof. Marczynski agreed with a suggestion by Associate Dean Hendren that to make the courses even more flexible, MIMM 384 could be removed as a prerequisite course to MIMM 385.

205.3 Prof. Marczynski moved, seconded by Prof. Clerk, that the two new courses and the retirement, as well as the modification, be approved.

The motion carried.

(6) CHEMISTRY

New Course:
CHEM 332  Biological Chemistry  3 credits  AC-13-18

206.1 Prof. Blum introduced CHEM 332, a new course in biological chemistry, and said that such a course was required in order to maintain accreditation by the Chemical Society of Canada. She said that although the Departments of Biology and Biochemistry offer two-semester courses in this area, there were no one-semester McGill courses. CHEM 332 would be given from a chemistry perspective, and would be appropriate for students without extensive biology background.

206.2 Director Allard suggested, and Prof. Bureau agreed, that since there was some overlap with BIOL 200 and BIOL 201, a restriction should be added to CHEM 332:

"Not open to students who are taking or have taken BIOL 200 or BIOL 201."

206.3 Prof. Blum moved, seconded by Prof. Kollman, that the course be adopted with the above restriction.

The motion carried.
Program Changes:
- Honours in Chemistry  AC-13-19
- Honours in Chemistry – Atmosphere and Environment Option  AC-13-20
- Honours in Chemistry – Materials Option  AC-13-21

206.4 Prof. Blum explained that as a result of the new course, CHEM 332, the above programs were being revised. The total credit weight of the programs would not change.

Prof. Blum moved, seconded by Ms. Holder, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

- Major in Chemistry  AC-13-22
- Major in Chemistry – Atmosphere and Environment Option  AC-13-23
- Major in Chemistry - Materials Option  AC-13-24

206.5 Prof. Blum said the above Major Programs were also being revised as a result of the introduction of CHEM 332.

206.6 Associate Dean Hendren said that, a few years ago during the Program Review, it had been decided that the Science Major programs should include higher-level courses. She suggested revisions to the Major Program in Chemistry to include six credits of Complementary courses at the 400-level or higher, thus increasing the overall program credit weight to 62 (from 59).

206.7 Prof. Blum said that she would take the suggestion to her Department, and report back at the next Academic Committee meeting.

206.8 Prof. Blum moved, seconded by Prof. Paquette, that the above changes be approved, pending approval by the Department of Chemistry regarding the higher-level courses.

The motion carried.

(7) Physiology

New Course:
PHGY 488 Stem Cell Biology  AC-13-25
3 credits

207.1 Prof. Nyzhnyk introduced the new course, PHGY 488, an optional course for U3 students. She said a course on the same topic is taught at the graduate level by Prof. Yojiro Yamanaka from the Department of Human Genetics, and PHGY 488 would now offer to teach Stem Cell Biology at the undergraduate level.

207.2 In reply to Associate Dean Hendren who was concerned about the number of instructors teaching PHGY 488, Prof. Nyzhnyk said that she herself was the main instructor, and the others guest lecturers. The course outline would be updated to reflect this.

207.3 As the consultation report from the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology regarded PHGY 488 as overlapping by 30% with ANAT 416, it was agreed that the following restriction be included:

"Not open to students who are taking or have taken ANAT 416."
207.4 It was pointed out that ANAT 416 should be revised with the reciprocal restriction at the next Academic Committee meeting.

Prof. Nyzhnyk moved, seconded by Ms. Loo, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

Program Changes:
- Honours in Physiology
  - AC-13-26
- Major in Physiology
  - AC-13-27
- Liberal - Core Science Component in Physiology
  - AC-13-28

207.5 Prof. Nyzhnyk explained that the proposed revisions added PHGY 488 to the above programs. Further revisions aimed to provide more choices and flexibility in the list of complementary courses.

207.6 Since many courses had been added to the list of complementary courses, but consultation reports had not been obtained, it was agreed that formal consultation would be sought prior to submitting the proposals to the next level of approval.

207.7 Prof. Nyzhnyk moved, seconded by Ms. Roulet, that the above program changes be approved, pending consultations with the relevant departments.

The motion carried.

(8) SUS ACTIVITIES

Ms. Loo announced that the Physical Sciences Symposium (Life After Undergrad: Academia & Careers in Physical Sciences) will be held on Monday, November 4, 2013, and the Graduate and Professional Schools Fair will be held on Wednesday, November 13, 2013.

(9) Other Business

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