Minutes of the meeting held on September 23, 2014 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, Aashish Clerk (in place of Guy Moore), Blaine Ditto, Barbara Hales, Axel Hundemer (in place of Vojkan Jaksic) Daniel Kirshbaum, Michel Lapointe, Craig Mandato, Ana Nyzhnyk, Kathy Roulet, Amy Szuchmacher Blum, Clark Verbrugge, Anthony Williams-Jones; Sara Holder; Simon Bilodeau, Jeremy Goh, Vivian Ku, Laura Lyon, Jessica Quaggin-Smith, Rose Rutherford-Stone; Geralda Bacaj, Josie D'Amico.

VISITORS: Mr. Victor Chisholm, Professor David Green.

REGRETS: Professors Greg Marczynski, Julie St-Pierre.

DOCUMENTS: AC-13-97, AC-14-1 to AC-14-5

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

(1) **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Prof. Williams-Jones moved, seconded by Prof. Hales, that the Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

(2) **RESULTS OF ELECTRONIC MEETING OF 29 APRIL 2014**

Dean Grant outlined the results of the meeting.

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

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

(4) **REDPATH MUSEUM**

*New Course:*

REDM 511 Advanced Museum-Based Science **AC-14-1**

3 credits

104.1

On behalf of Prof. Rowan Barrett, a newly appointed professor in the Redpath Museum, Prof. David Green, Director of the Redpath Museum, introduced the course by saying that REDM 511 builds on an existing course, REDM 400 (Science and Museums). He said that for a number of years, graduate students in the museum had expressed the wish to take a course related to studies in their area, and have had a difficult time finding such course. REDM 511 is designed to be changeable from year to year, and suitable for both senior undergraduate students and graduate students.
In reply to Director Allard who was concerned about the 10% participation in the final grade, and wondered if the grade could be explained in detail if a student challenged it. Prof. Green said that 5% of the grade would come from students’ attendance in class and participation in class discussions, and 5% from attendance of the seminars and asking questions. He said he would be open for suggestions.

Dean Grant suggested, if possible, reducing the total participation mark to 5%. He said that 10% can shift a student’s grade. This could look arbitrary to the student and might be difficult for the professor to explain.

Associate Dean Western said that all consultation reports have been received, except from the Department of Anthropology.

Associate Dean Western moved, seconded by Prof. Mandato, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

Secretary’s Note: The participation grade has been reduced to 5%, with the research project now being 40%, instead of 35%. Also, the prerequisites for REDM 511 have been slightly modified to read REDM 400 and/or permission of instructor.

COURSES ON DEAN’S MULTIDISCIPLINARY UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH LIST (DMURL)

Mr. Victor Chisholm, Undergraduate Research Officer in the Faculty of Science, said that one of the reasons for attending the current meeting was to introduce himself, particularly to the students. He said he would be happy to coordinate with the students in the coming year.

Mr. Chisholm highlighted the requirements for placement on the DMURL at each graduation period. He asked members to review the list of courses in Document AC-14-2, and to check whether any courses should be added or deleted. This is done on an annual basis. He briefly reviewed recent changes to the list, and mentioned that CHEM 490 had been retired and should be removed. Mr. Chisholm said that he would like members to consider a request by a student that GEOG 460 (Research in Sustainability) be added to the DMURL.

Associate Dean Western described the course structure of GEOG 460, and said it is a course where students work in groups. The students are guided by the instructor, who provides brief lectures about different parts of the research process. The students then as a group develop a proposal, collect data, analyze it, and with some guidance every week put together a report (written or poster). Everything is done as a group.

As she was new to the Committee, Associate Dean Western asked Mr. Chisholm if there was a policy on group projects and group final reports versus individual student projects and reports. The issue had come up during the pre-Academic Committee meeting as to whether courses on the DMURL could involve group projects.

Mr. Chisholm said that there was no such policy. The representative of the McGill School of Environment (MSE) mentioned that several MSE courses on the DMURL involved group research projects.
105.6 Director Allard questioned whether the report for GEOG 460 is normally in written or poster form. The Geography representative said it could be either, but if the Committee preferred a written report, the course could incorporate it.

Associate Dean Western moved, seconded by Ms. Roulet, that GEOG 460 be added to the DMURL, Document AC-14-2.

The motion carried.

105.7 Mr. Chisholm said that if MDPH 396 (Undergraduate Research Project) was approved by the Academic Committee at the current meeting, it could be added to the DMURL.

(6) MEDICAL PHYSICS

New Course:
MDPH 396 Undergraduate Research Project AC-14-3
3 credits

106.1 Associate Dean Western introduced the new undergraduate research course, MDPH 396, offered by the Medical Physics Unit, Faculty of Medicine.

Associate Dean Western moved, seconded by Prof. Clerk, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

(7) COMPUTER SCIENCE

- Cotutelle Program (Ph.D. Program) AC-14-4
(for information and for future reference)

107.1 Associate Dean Western said that the program had been approved by former Associate Dean Laurie Hendren over the summer, and that it was now being presented to the Academic Committee for information and also to serve as a basis for future consideration of similar graduate programs.

107.2 Associate Dean Western mentioned that on Page 2 of Document AC-14-4, it was specified that the student should have at a minimum published two papers and submitted another paper at the time of the thesis defense. She said that it was unreasonable to issue specific requirements such as this.

(8) B.Sc. GLOBAL DESIGNATION AC-14-5

108.1 Associate Dean Western introduced the document on the B.Sc. Global Designation, and said that the document had been discussed and approved at a previous Academic Committee meeting (November 20, 2012; Document AC-12-36), and the Faculty of Science meeting on December 4, 2012. The B.Sc. Global Designation is designed to recognize the achievements of students who go beyond the basic McGill B.Sc. The Faculty was currently in the process of implementing the B.Sc. Global. The current document showed information that will be on the B.Sc. Global website. Associate Dean Western described the requirements for the B.Sc. Global Designation:
- **Two Required Elements:**
  - language course - at least 3 credits of a McGill language course, not the student's first language
  - research course - at least 3 credits of any research course on the DMURL list

- **One Complementary Element:**
  - at least one of the following:
    1) field studies course; 2) internship; 3) exchange; 4) global course(s) from Science or other faculties

108.2 Document AC-14-5 contained lists of pre-approved field studies courses and global courses. Associate Dean Western said that she welcomes comments and suggestions for additional courses.

108.3 Also included in the Document was an application form for students.

108.4 In response to a member, Associate Dean Western said that only internships formally approved by the Faculty of Science would qualify for the B.Sc. Global Designation.

108.5 Dean Grant added that the Faculty's idea of the B.Sc. Global Designation was being copied by the rest of the University.

108.6 In response to a member, Dean Grant said that the concept of the B.Sc. Global Designation had caught the attention of the Principal, and would be one more way in which the international experience of McGill was recognized.

108.7 In reply to a member who asked how internships are validated, Associate Dean Western said she would check into it and report back to the Academic Committee at the next meeting scheduled for 28 October 2014.

(9) **SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE SOCIETY ACTIVITIES (SUS)**

109.1 Mr. Jeremy Goh, Vice-President (Academic), SUS, said that Freshman Orientation Week had been a grand success, and had even obtained a positive review in The Gazette newspaper.

109.2 Currently, the SUS was making the transition between the outgoing and incoming executives.

109.3 Mr. Goh announced that Social Sustainability Week will be held on October 20 to 26, 2014. He also announced that the SUS Graduate School Fair will take place on November 5, 2014.

109.4 Dean Grant thanked Mr. Goh for the announcements. He said that at every meeting there will be an update from the SUS on their activities.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.