



MEMORANDUM

TO: Ms. Malek Yalaoui
Administrative Coordinator, Science

FROM: Professor Laurie Hendren
Faculty of Science Associate Dean (Academic)
Chair, B.A. & Sc. Program Administration Committee (PAC)

DATE: April 13, 2012

RE: **Interfaculty Program Requirements**

Dear Ms. Yalaoui,

As per the March 27, 2012 decision of the PAC, I am writing to request that the rule regulating credit-counts in the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Science be amended as follows (section 6.5.4 Interfaculty Program):

An Interfaculty program is an approved selection of courses constituting a concentration in an intellectually coherent and inter-faculty field of studies. These courses must include approved selections from the Faculties of Arts and of Science and possibly other faculties. See section 10.2: Interfaculty Programs for a list of approved programs. Students in the B.A. & Sc. who complete an approved Interfaculty program must also complete an approved minor concentration or a minor in the Faculties of Arts or of Science. You must complete at least ~~30~~ 21 credits in the Faculty of Arts and at least ~~30~~ 21 in the Faculty of Science as part of your Interfaculty program and your Minor concentration or Minor program.

Rationale: The BA&Sc Interfaculty program requires the student to complete an Interfaculty Major or Honours program, plus a Minor or Minor Concentration. Currently there is an additional constraint that students must include at least 30 credits in Arts and 30 credits in Science as part of their combined program. This additional constraint has proved to be quite inconvenient both for students and for advisors. Students often have good academic reasons for choosing a specific minor to complement their Interfaculty program, but may then fall slightly short on the 30 credit rule. Advisors have the very difficult job of counting the 30 credits and sometimes find themselves in the difficult position of finding that a student has completed all of their programs but is slightly short on the 30 credit rule. Given that the Interfaculty programs are already 54 (Major) or 60 (Honours) credits, with programs that naturally combine both Arts and Science, it seems that the choice of Minor should be free for the student, and that the 30 credit rule is too constraining. Reducing the requirements from 30 to 21 credits will provide more flexibility for the students, it will allow students to choose the most academically sound choice of minor, and it will reduce the burden on the advisors.

Effective term of implementation: 201209

Please note, as per the Associate Dean Gillian Lane-Mercier's signature below, the Faculty of Arts has also approved this change.

Thank you,

Professor L. Hendren,
Faculty of Science Associate Dean (Academic)

Gillian Lane-Mercier
Faculty of Arts Associate Dean (Academic Administration & Oversight)