

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on September 27, 2011, at 3:00 p.m. in Arts Council Room, Arts 160.

**PRESENT:** Dean Martin Grant (Chair), Associate Dean Laurie Hendren (Vice-Chair), Nicole Allard, Professors Fiona Bedford, Paul Clarke, Aashish Clerk (in place of Kenneth Ragan), Frédéric Guichard, Galen Halverson, Axel Hundemer, Bettina Kemme, Greg Marczynski, Gillian O'Driscoll, Kathy Roulet, Ann Wechsler; Louis Houle; Alan Blayney, Jan-Marc Lieskovsky, Timothy Tsang, Hardik Vala, Neil Verma, Billi Wun.

**REGRETS:** Professors Lea Berrang Ford, Linda Reven, Julie St-Pierre, Bruno Tremblay; Debbie Wang.

**GUESTS :** Professor Monroe Cohen, Mr. Ryan Bouma, Mr. Victor Chisholm.

**DOCUMENTS: AC-10-73, AC-11-1 to AC-11-13**

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

Associate Dean Hendren thanked everyone in departments and Josie D'Amico for their hard work in preparing and submitting the proposals for the meeting, during the MUNACA strike.

Dean Grant recommended that departments should minimize the work on proposals until the end of the MUNACA strike.

**(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Prof. Clerk **moved**, seconded by Prof. Bedford, that the Agenda be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**(2) ELECTRONIC MEETING RESULTS OF APRIL 19, 2011 AND MAY 10, 2011 S-10-73  
(For Information Only)**

Dean Grant said that Document S-10-73 was just a summary of the proposals that had been approved at two previous electronic Academic Committee meetings, and that had then been approved at the Faculty of Science meeting held on May 24, 2011.

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

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

**(4) MAJOR PROGRAM IN NEUROSCIENCE AC-11-1**

**104.1** Prof. Monroe Cohen, Program Director of the B.Sc. Major Program in Neuroscience, said that in order to provide more course choices and to facilitate fulfilling the requirement of 15 credits at the 400- and 500-level, four new neuroscience courses had been added to Stream C, Cognitive/Behavioural, in the list of Complementary courses. Also, editorial changes had been made to help make the program easier to read and understand.

**104.2** After a short discussion concerning the requirements in Box. #6, Notes on Admission to the Neuroscience Major Program, Dean Grant suggested that it simply read "Please note that enrolment in the Neuroscience Major is limited."

**104.3** Associate Dean Hendren mentioned that one of the newly added courses, PSYC 506, is currently restricted to Psychology and Cognitive Science students. She said that the course would have to also allow students in the neuroscience program, and therefore a course revision form would have to be submitted.

Prof. Cohen **moved**, seconded by Prof. Wechsler, that the program changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**Secretary's Note:** *The instructor of PSYC 506 has agreed that Neuroscience students would be allowed to take the course for the current semester via "permission of instructor."*

**(5) COURSES ON DEAN'S MULTIDISCIPLINARY UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH LIST (DMURL): REVIEW/DISCUSSION**

**AC-11-2**

**105.1** Associate Dean Hendren gave some background information on the DMURL list. She said that Victor Chisholm, the Undergraduate Research Officer for the Faculty of Science, coordinates undergraduate research courses, and in consultation with the Associate Dean (Academic), approves new courses to be added. The following courses were submitted to the current Academic Committee meeting for consideration:

- BIOL 451 (Research in Ecology and Development in Africa Biology) and GEOG 451 (Research in Society and Development in Africa). Both these courses are part of the Africa Field Study (AFSS) Semester.
- AEBI 427 (Barbados Interdisciplinary Project). This course is part of the Barbados Interdisciplinary Tropical Studies (BITS) Field Semester, and BITS courses count toward the Minor in Field Studies.
- MUMT 502 (Senior Project in Music Technology). This course is part of the Minor Program in Musical Science and Technology and is open to B.Sc. students.

**105.2** The issue to be considered was whether courses that are not part of a Science program (MUMT 502 and AEBI 427) should be on the DMURL course list. Should it be an official policy that such courses are eligible for the list? Or should the policy be that only courses that are part of a Science program would be on the DMURL course list, and that if a student wants a course that is not part of a Science program to be considered for the DMURL, the student would submit a request which would then be evaluated on a case-by-case basis?

**105.3** After some discussion, members agreed with the latter policy.

**105.4** It was agreed that BIOL 451 and GEOG 451 should be added to the DMURL course list because these are part of a Science program.

**105.5** Due to retirements or renaming, it was proposed that the following courses be removed from the DMURL course list.

- BIOC 460 Advanced Lab in Biochemistry

- BIOL 377 Independent Reading Project
- BIOL 471 Independent Studies 3
- BIOL 477 Independent Studies 4
- BIOL 478 Independent Studies 5

105.6 Members agreed to remove these courses.

105.7 Associate Dean Hendren asked members to review the courses in the DMURL course list.

105.8 Associate Dean Hendren thanked Victor Chisholm for all his work relating to the DMURL proposal.

**(6) REPORT ON MINOR COURSE CHANGES AC-11-3**

106.1 Associate Dean Hendren explained that course revisions in the Report on Minor Course Changes were considered very minor changes, but that major course revisions would be placed on the main Agenda.

106.2 Associate Dean Hendren briefly described the changes in Document AC-11-3.

**(7) PHARMACOLOGY & THERAPEUTICS**

**- Major in Pharmacology AC-11-4**

**- Honours in Pharmacology AC-11-5**

107.1 Prof. Clarke described the proposed changes in the Major and Honours Programs in Pharmacology. He said that BIOL 202 had been moved from U2 to U1 year, CHEM 203 and CHEM 204 were moved from U1 to U2 year, and in addition, a number of other courses had been added to the list of Complementary courses.

107.2 A member pointed out that moving BIOL 202 to U1 (from U2) would result in a temporary double enrolment for one year in BIOL 202, which could be difficult to accommodate.

107.3 Prof. Clarke made two further changes to the list of Complementary courses during the meeting:

- Removal of CHEM 334, Advanced Materials
- Removal of the asterisk next to PHAR 504 and the associated note, since PHAR 504 and CHEM 504 were no longer considered to be double-prefix courses

107.4 PHAR 504 (and PHAR 503) and CHEM 504 (and CHEM 503) currently have the same course title. Prof. Clarke said that the course titles for the pharmacology courses would be changed in the future.

107.5 Prof. Clarke **moved**, seconded by Prof. Bedford, that the program changes be approved, pending further consultation with the Department of Biology concerning the capacity of BIOL 202.

**The motion carried.**

**Secretary's Note: Prof. Clarke received confirmation from the Department of Biology that BIOL 202 would be able to accommodate the temporary increase in enrolment.**

**(8) COMPUTER SCIENCE - B.Sc. Program Changes:**

- Minor in Computer Science AC-11-6
- Core Science Component in Software Engineering AC-11-7
- Major in Computer Science AC-11-8
- Joint Major in Computer Science and Biology AC-11-9
- Honours in Computer Science AC-11-10

- B.A. & Sc. Program Change:**
- Major Concentration in Computer Science AC-11-11

- B.A. Program Changes (*For Information Only*):**
- Supplementary Minor Concentration in Computer Science
  - Major Concentration in Computer Science

**108.1** Prof. Kemme said that the above changes were due to a number of course retirements, some of which necessitated moving courses from Complementary to Required lists, as well as other minor changes.

Prof. Kemme **moved**, seconded by Mr. Houle, that the above program changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**(9) ZERO ENROLMENT SCIENCE COURSES AC-11-12**

**109.1** Associate Dean Hendren said that as a result of an initiative from the Office of the Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning), all Science units had received a list of courses in which there had been zero enrolment over the last five years. Units had been asked to retire courses as appropriate.

**109.2** Associate Dean Hendren asked members to look the list of the resulting retirements to make sure that everything was in order.

**109.3** Josie D'Amico will follow up with the Departments of Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences, and Chemistry.

**(10) GRADUATE INTEREST GROUPS (FIGI GIG1) AC-11-13**

**110.1** Associate Dean Hendren said the Faculty of Science would like to initiate the first Graduate Interest Groups to graduating undergraduates and beginning graduate students. She said these groups would be similar to FIGs in that small groups of 10-40 students would meet with professors and other experts to discuss topics relevant to the students.

**110.2** Associate Dean Hendren said that the first GIGS, to be named FIGI GIG1. (Unfortunately, the acronym GIGS XXX could not be used due to various administrative reasons.) As is done with FIGs, this would be a zero-credit, non-transcript course, and students would register via the normal course registration in Minerva. She suggested that the first topic (Winter 2012) would be "Entrepreneurship," organized by Dr. Erica Besso, Research Innovations Officer in the Faculty of Science. Associate Dean Hendren asked for feedback on the GIGS concept.

**110.3** Members were enthusiastic with this new initiative, and agreed that the first FIGI GIG1 should be on Entrepreneurship. Some of the other topics mentioned were:

- NGOs, to be organized by Martine Dolmière, Internship and Field Studies Officer
- M.D./Ph.D. Research, to be organized by the biomedical departments
- Science and Society, to be organized by Dr. Joe Schwarcz, Dr. Ariel Fenster and Prof. David Harpp (Chemistry)
- Science and Education, tba

**110.4** Associate Dean Hendren added that GIGS need not necessarily be intended for students in all units of the Faculty, but could be specific to a single unit or a group of units.

**110.5** In response to a member, Associate Dean Hendren said she and Josie D'Amico would send out relevant information to units as appropriate.

**(11) SUS ACTIVITIES**

**111.1** Associate Dean Hendren said that the student members had agreed that at each Academic Committee meeting there would be a student item, called SUS Activities, on the Agenda. This would allow student representatives more input at meetings. Mr. Neil Verma (Vice-President, Academic) would coordinate the topics and submit the documents to Josie D'Amico one week prior to each meeting.

**111.2** Dean Grant said that this initiative would encourage greater student participation in the meetings.

**(12) OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.