

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on November 22, 2011, at 2:30 p.m. in Arts Council Room, Arts 160.

**PRESENT:** Dean Martin Grant (Chair), Associate Dean Laurie Hendren (Vice-Chair), Director Nicole Allard, Professors Fiona Bedford, Paul Clarke, Jim Cline (in place of Kenneth Ragan), Galen Halverson, Margaret Kalacska (in place of Lea Berrang Ford), Bettina Kemme, Robert Levine (in place of Frédéric Guichard), Greg Marczynski, Linda Reven, Kathy Roulet, Julie St-Pierre; Alan Blayney, Jan-Marc Lieskovsky, Hardik Vala, Timothy Tsang, Neil Verma, Debbie Wang, Billi Wun.

**GUESTS:** Mr. Ryan Bouma, Professors, Navin Ramankutty and Jon Sakata

**REGRETS:** Mr. Louis Houle, Professors Axel Hundemer, Gillian O'Driscoll, Bruno Tremblay, Ann Wechsler

**DOCUMENTS: AC-11-14 to AC-11-21**

Dean Grant called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

**(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Item #8 (B.A. & Sc. Honours in Sustainability, Science and Society) to be considered after Item #3 (Business Arising from the Minutes).

Prof. Halverson **moved**, seconded by Prof. Reven, that the amended Agenda be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**(2) MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2011**

Ms. Roulet **moved**, seconded by Mr. Verma, that the Minutes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

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

**Major and Honours in Pharmacology (AC-11-4, AC-11-5)**

**303.1** Associate Dean Hendren said that at the Faculty of Science meeting of October 18, 2011, a question had been asked as to whether CHEM 503 could be included in the list of Complementary Courses in the Major and Honours Programs in Pharmacology. After consultation, the Departments of Chemistry and of Pharmacology and Therapeutics had agreed to include CHEM 503 in the programs.

**Graduate Interest Groups (GIGS) (AC-11-13)**

**303.2** Associate Dean Hendren said that two GIGS, FIGI GIG1 (entitled Entrepreneurship) and FIGI GIG2 (entitled Science Students on the Move), had been created and were now listed on Minerva for registration, and were filling up quickly. She said that she had announced the information to the Science Chairs, and that the details were on the Web (<http://www.mcgill.ca/science/student/gigs>). Units could link their Web pages to this

address. Associate Dean Hendren said that if anyone was interested in creating more GIGS, they should e-mail her with the information.

- 303.3** In reply to a question, Associate Dean Hendren said that the GIGS were open to both Arts, Science and B.A. & Sc. students, and that if there was room other students would be allowed. However, it would not be a good idea to increase the size of the GIGS too much.

**(4) MINOR IN NEUROSCIENCE AC-11-15**

- 304.1** Mr. Ryan Bouma, Interdisciplinary Programs Adviser, said that the proposed revisions were in line with the recently revised Major Program in Neuroscience, and that the revised Minor now includes more courses from the Major Program, including the key introductory course, NSCI 200. Also, in the revised Minor the number of 400- and 500-level courses were reduced, in line with other Minors.

Mr. Blayney **moved**, seconded by Prof. Bedford, that the program changes be approved, with the addition of ANAT 212 as an alternative to BIOC 212/BIOL 201.

**The motion carried.**

**(5) BIOLOGY**

***New Course:***

BIOL 596	Advanced Experimental Design 1 credit	<b>AC-11-16</b>
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- 305.1** Prof. Jon Sakata introduced the new course, intended for U3 and graduate students. He said that the course would focus on experimental design as it relates to statistical analyses, and prepare students for data collection.

Prof. Levine **moved**, seconded by Prof. Halverson, that the course be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**(6) PHARMACOLOGY & THERAPEUTICS**

PHAR 503	Drug Discovery and Devt. 1 Changes: title, description, and prerequisites	<b>AC-11-17</b>
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PHAR 504	Drug Discovery and Devt. 2 Changes: title, description, and prerequisites	<b>AC-11-18</b>
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- 306.1** Prof. Clarke said that the above courses were originally created as double-prefix courses with CHEM 503 and CHEM 504. However, over the years the courses had diverged and were no longer the same. The changes were therefore necessary to distinguish the Pharmacology & Therapeutics courses from the Chemistry ones.

Prof. Clarke **moved**, seconded by Prof. Bedford, that the course changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**(7) CHEMISTRY**

***New Course:***

CHEM 512	Catalysis, Concepts and App	<b>AC-11-19</b>
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3 credits

**307.1** Prof. Reven introduced the above course, and said that although several courses in the Department dealt with catalyzed reactions, this course would focus on the catalyst itself and the way it works.

Prof. Reven **moved**, seconded by Mr. Blayney, that the course be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**(8) GEOGRAPHY/McGILL SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT**

***New Program:***

- **B.A. & Sc. Honours Program in Sustainability, Science and Society** **AC-11-20**

**308.1** Prof. Navin Ramankutty introduced the above new program. He said that the Honours Program was modeled on the existing B.A. & Sc. Interfaculty Program in Sustainability, Science and Society. In the current program, students are required to complete 54 credits, whereas in the Honours program students would have to complete 60 credits, including a six-credit Honours thesis.

Ms. Roulet **moved**, seconded by Prof. Bedford, that the program be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**(9) GEOGRAPHY**

***Change in Title from Minor in GIS***

- **B.Sc. Minor in GIS and Remote Sensing** **AC-11-21**

**309.1** Prof. Kalacska said that the changes involved the removal of courses no longer offered, and their replacement with others aimed at providing a well-rounded interdisciplinary program. Changes to the Complementary Course list provide a wider range of courses. These changes are reflected in the change in title.

**309.2** Some minor changes were made to the Required and Complementary Course lists for the sake of clarification.

Prof. Kalacska **moved**, seconded by Mr. Blayney, that the changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

- **B.A. Minor in GIS and Remote Sensing (for information only)**

**(10) SUS ACTIVITIES**

Mr. Neil Verma, V.-P. (Academic) Science Undergraduate Society, briefly updated the Academic Committee on the following SUS academic activities:

- The 6th Annual Graduate and Professional Schools Fair was held on November 2, 2011, and was attended by over 600 students. There were over 50 schools in attendance from the United States, Canada and abroad.
- The Health Sciences Careers Seminar was held on November 23 that included speakers from McGill's Faculty of Medicine, Perkin Elmer Inc. and McGill Nursing.

- The Annual Academia Week is a week-long series of lectures and seminars scheduled for January 23- 27, 2012. There will be workshops organized by CaPS, and there will be a variety of speakers from different disciplines in science. All students and faculty members are encouraged to come and attend these events. More information will be made available shortly.

(11) **OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.