

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on October 30, 2012, 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, Frédéric Guichard, Barbara Hales, Galen Halverson, Axel Hundemer, Bettina Kemme, Daniel Kirshbaum, Craig Mandato, Greg Marczynski, Guy Moore (in place of Kenneth Ragan), Ana Nyzhnyk, Gillian O'Driscoll, Linda Reven, Kathy Roulet, Julie St-Pierre; Louis Houle; Esther Bogorov, Chandra Curry, Eugene Kang, Kelsi Lix, Kate Zhang; Malek Yalaoui and Josie D'Amico.

GUESTS: Ms. Wendy Brett, Prof. Monroe Cohen, Prof. John Stix

REGRETS: Melissa Xie, Pinkal Patel

DOCUMENTS: AC-12-8 to AC-12-23

In the temporary absence of Dean Grant, Associate Dean Hendren called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Item # 6, Earth System Science, to be considered under Other Business, Item #12.

Ms. Curry **moved**, seconded by Prof. Marczynski, that the amended Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

(2) MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2012

AC-12-8

Ms. Curry **moved**, seconded by Ms. Lix, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

(3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

(4) REPORT ON MINOR COURSE CHANGES

AC-12-9

204.1 Associate Dean Hendren said that the Minor Course Changes involved changing the titles of Mathematics & Statistics courses. These courses will also be unretired, an item to be discussed later on during the meeting.

(5) NEUROSCIENCE

205.1 Prof. Monroe Cohen, Director of the Neuroscience Program, thanked the Committee for being invited to the meeting. Ms. Wendy Brett, Interdisciplinary Programs Advisor, was also present at the meeting.

New Course:

NSCI 430D1/D2

Honours Research Project
9 credits

AC-12-10

- 205.2** Prof. Cohen introduced NSCI 430, a research project course required for students in the proposed Honours Program in Neuroscience, to be considered at the current meeting. He described the course.
- 205.3** There was a discussion concerning hours spent in the lab versus other time required for a lab course (library research, meetings with supervisor, writing reports, etc.), and the relation of hours to credit weight.
- 205.4** Dean Grant said he was concerned that the laboratory performance was worth 50% of the final mark, and that the written report was worth only 30%. His feeling was that the laboratory performance should be worth no more than the written report, and that perhaps the percentages should be reversed.
- 205.5** It was pointed out that, with laboratory performance being subjectively assessed by the supervisor, there was no possibility for appeal.
- 205.6** A member suggested that a number of the criteria under laboratory performance could be moved to the written report, thereby increasing the weight of the written report.
- 205.7** Dean Grant said that he would like Prof. Cohen to give serious reflection to the remarks of the Academic Committee concerning the proposed grades for laboratory performance versus those for the written report. He suggested that the course be approved with this proviso.
- 205.8** Prof. Moore **moved**, seconded by Ms. Zhang, that the course be adopted, with this proviso in mind.

The motion carried, with two members against.

Program Revisions:

- **Minor in Neuroscience**

AC-12-11

- 205.9** Prof. Cohen said that the changes to the Minor Program involved adding an additional course to the list of Complementary Courses; allowing students to take an elective course if they have already taken CHEM 212; and rewriting for clarification purposes.

Director Allard **moved**, seconded by Ms. Curry, that the above changes be approved.

The motion carried.

Program Revisions:

- **Major in Neuroscience**

AC-12-12

- 205.10** Prof. Cohen said that courses were being added to the list of Complementary Courses to provide students with more options. Also, the addition of the Complementary writing course, REDM 410, would allow students thinking of a career in research to develop their science-writing skills.

205.11 In addition, Ms. Brett explained that MATH 150, MATH 151, PHYS 131 and PHYS 142 had been included as additional freshman options for the Major Program.

205.12 In reply to Dean Grant who asked about the need for a writing course in this program, whereas other programs in the Faculty did not list a writing course, Prof. Cohen said that such a course was a worthwhile component of the program.

Ms. Curry **moved**, seconded by Ms. Lix, that the above changes be approved.

The motion carried.

New Program:

- **Honours Program in Neuroscience**

AC-12-13

205.13 Prof. Cohen introduced and described the Honours Program in Neuroscience. He said that students had expressed interest in the creation of an Honours in Neuroscience program, and that the program will be limited in enrolment to 12-15 students. Most or all of the students accepted into Neuroscience Honours will likely come from the Major program, so the new program should add little if any additional registration pressure on courses.

Prof. Mandato **moved**, seconded by Prof. Berrang Ford, that the Honours Program in Neuroscience be adopted.

The motion carried.

(6) EARTH SYSTEM SCIENCE

New Course:

ESYS 480D1/D2

Honours Research Project
6 credits

AC-12-14

206.1 Prof. John Stix said that the new course, ESYS 480, a spanned course, was the capstone course of the proposed Honours program, to be considered at the current meeting.

206.2 After some discussion concerning the potential method of evaluation, course outline, etc., and in view of what had occurred earlier during the meeting about research project evaluations, it was agreed that the final written report will be worth at least 50% of the grade, that the grading scheme will be agreed upon between the supervisor and the student before approval by the ESS advisor, and that permission of instructor will be required for the course.

Secretary's Note: In an updated course proposal the above has been specified under Supplementary Calendar Information.

Prof. Moore **moved**, seconded by Ms. Lix, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

New Program:

- **Minor in Earth System Science** **AC-12-15**

206.3 Prof. Stix introduced the new Minor Program in Earth System Science and said that it consisted of the four core Earth System Science courses, plus two Complementary courses from two of the three ESS Departments, at the 300 level or higher, the Complementary Courses to be chosen in consultation with the ESS advisor.

Mr. Houle **moved**, seconded by Prof. Guichard, that the Minor in Earth System Science be adopted.

The motion carried

Program Revision:

- **Major in Earth System Science** **AC-12-16**

206.4 Prof. Stix described the changes. COMP 202 has been added to give students a greater array of quantitative tools. Courses have been changed to allow students an increased choice and to reduce overlaps. Also, students must now do a societal course to provide breadth.

206.5 In response to a member, Associate Dean Hendren said that COMP 202 would be a better course for the program than COMP 208.

Ms. Curry **moved**, seconded by Prof. Halverson, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried

New Program:

- **Honours in Earth System Science** **AC-12-17**

206.6 Prof. Stix described the Honours program, and said that the new program was the Major Program with an Honours Research Course and an additional Mathematics & Statistics requirement. As well, there is a GPA requirement. The program will provide more choice to advanced students who wish to study ESS.

Ms. Curry **moved**, seconded by Prof. Halverson, that the Honours Program in Earth System Science be adopted.

The motion carried.

(7) MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY

MIMM 212	Laboratory in Microbiology	AC-12-18
	Credit weight change from 2 to 3	
	3 credits	

Program Revisions:

- **Liberal in Microbiology & Immunology** **AC-12-19**
- **Major in Microbiology & Immunology** **AC-12-20**
- **Honours in Microbiology & Immunology** **AC-12-21**

207.1 Prof. Marczynski said that MIMM 212 had changed significantly, and as a result the students' workload had also increased. He said that for the past several years, students have requested that the credit weight of the course should be increased.

207.2 The above program revisions were a direct result of the change in the credit weight for MIMM 212.

Prof. Marczynski **moved**, seconded by Prof. Moore, that the above changes be approved.

The motion carried.

(8) ANATOMY & CELL BIOLOGY

ANAT 315	Anatomy/Limbs and Back Credit weight change from 4 to 3 3 credits	AC-12-22
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208.1 Prof. Mandato said that a component of ANAT 315 had been removed, and therefore the credit weight was being reduced from 4 to 3.

Prof. Mandato **moved**, seconded by Prof. Moore, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

(9) SCIENCE COURSES TO BE UNRETIRED **AC-12-23 (REVISED)**

209.1 Associate Dean Hendren asked members to submit any further courses to be unretired by the end of the week, providing a brief justification. The list will be brought to the next Faculty of Science meeting for information.

Secretary's Note: Two ATOC courses (ATOC 616, ATOC 666) were added to Document AC-12-23 (Revised). The list has been submitted, and the courses unretired.

(10) UPDATE: B.Sc. (GLOBAL) OPTION

210.1 Associate Dean Hendren thanked those members who had suggested courses for the B.Sc. (Global).

210.2 Associate Dean Hendren said she just wanted to review the current situation and to see if the B.Sc. (Global) could be streamlined. The B.Sc. (Global) consisted of three components. The research component had already been agreed on. The requirement for a second language course had also been decided; English could potentially be a second language for some students. The third component had a number of different options: (1) an internship, (2) an exchange term away, (3) a field study course, or (4) a course, in the event that a student could not afford the previous three.

210.3 With reference to (3), the field study course, a member pointed out that there were many field courses in the MSE domains, that were not obviously recognizable as field study courses. She would provide a list of these. Other units could add to this list.

210.4 Regarding (4), a very large number of courses had been submitted, and Associate Dean Hendren wished to reduce this number dramatically. One possibility was to provide a list of about six courses, half in Science and half outside Science. These would be rigorous courses suitable for the B.Sc. (Global). This list could be complemented by a more extensive list of courses that could be taken as electives to further broaden students. Associate Dean Hendren will further pursue this possibility, and will bring a proposal to the next Academic Committee meeting.

210.5 Associate Dean Hendren added that any component specific to the B.Sc. (Global) would be completely double-countable, i.e., would count towards the overall B.Sc. degree as well.

(11) SUS ACTIVITIES

211.1 Ms. Zhang said that members were invited to the **Panel on Physical Sciences Career Paths** to be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on November 5, 2012. The event will offer illuminating presentations from successful women in the physical sciences about their career paths and current work. The panel will feature Professor Brigitte Pientka from the School of Computer Science, and from the Department of Physics, Professor Sabrina Leslie and Professor Tracy Webb. Presentations will be followed by casual conversation and refreshments.

(12) OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.