

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on November 18, 2008, at 2:30 p.m. in Arts Council Room, Arts 160.

PRESENT: Dean Grant (Chair), Associate Dean Hendren (Vice-Chair), Nicole Allard (Director, Advising Services); Professors M. Baines, A. Baker, S. Breau (replacing J. Unruh), A. Clerk, F. Fabry, A. Hundemer, R. Krahe, B. Nagar, P. Panangaden, D. Ronis, K. Roulet, A. Wechsler, B. Wing; L. Houle; N. Antonov, A. Ashraf, W. Carroll, J. Hwang, V. Khan, K. Raffensperger, M. Smaoui; J. D'Amico.

REGRETS: Professor G.C. Bennett; Associate Dean Hendershot

GUESTS: Professors E. Abouheif and R. Levine, Department of Biology

DOCUMENTS: AC-08-41 to AC-08-59

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

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Prof. Wechsler **moved**, seconded by Prof. Fabry, that the Agenda be approved.

The motion carried.

(2) MINUTES OF OCTOBER 28, 2008

AC-08-41

Minute 209.2, Item 3, should read:

302.1 That over the last few years, the total number of applications to graduate programs had been dropping, and the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc. would provide a means of maintaining numbers and quality of graduate students.

Prof. Wechsler **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ronis, that the amended 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
(for information)**

AC-08-42

304.1 Associate Dean Hendren went through the Report on Minor Course Changes.

(5) COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

305.1 With regard to last year's request concerning better written course descriptions, Associate Dean Hendren said that SCTP had asked that the Faculty provide examples of course descriptions the Faculty would prefer to see, as well as examples of poorly written descriptions. She asked members to watch out for well-written descriptions and poorly written ones.

(6) BIOCHEMISTRY**New Course:**

BIOC 396

Undergraduate Research Project
3 credits**AC-08-43**

After introducing BIOC 396, Prof. Nagar **moved**, seconded by Prof. Baines, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

306.1

Dean Grant said that he was pleased that all four biomedical units would now offer XXXX 396 Undergraduate Research Project courses, in addition to all units in the Faculty of Science.

(7) BIOLOGY/PSYCHOLOGY

BIOL 514(Number change from BIOL 531)/**PSYC 514** (New)
Neurobiology Learning Memory
3 credits

AC-08-44A/B

Prof. Krahe **moved**, seconded by Prof. Wechsler, that the changes to BIOL 514 be approved, and that the new course, PSYC 514 be adopted.

The motion carried.

(8) BIOLOGY**New Course:**

BIOL 436

Evolution and Society
3 credits**AC-08-45****308.1**

Concerns were raised about the method of evaluation. Twenty percent of the final grade was to be based on class participation and a further 10% on "role-playing presentation." Members felt that basing such a high percentage of the final grade on participation was not appropriate for courses, since, among other reasons, this placed shy and non-eloquent students at an extreme disadvantage. It was difficult to evaluate students based on participation, and for courses in the Faculty of Science, participation was normally not higher than 10%.

308.2

In response, it was pointed out that some 500-level courses in Biology involved participation and role-playing, and that both instructors would be present at lectures, which would make grading more objective. Additionally, "bringing out" shy students would be a positive and valuable experience for them.

308.3

Prof. Krahe **moved**, seconded by Prof. Fabry, that the course be adopted pending grading of class participation being structured and based on substantive content, and course feedback being given to students throughout the course.

The motion carried.

(9) EARTH SYSTEM SCIENCE

ESYS 200

Earth System Processes
Changes in teaching unit, prerequisites**AC-08-46**

3 credits

Prof. Wing **moved**, seconded by Prof. Fabry, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

(10) ATMOSPHERIC & OCEANIC SCIENCES

- Honours in Atmospheric & Oceanic Science AC-08-47
- Honours in Atmospheric & Oceanic Science; Atmospheric Chemistry Option AC-08-48
- Diploma in Meteorology AC-08-49

Prof. Fabry **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ronis, that the above program changes be approved.

The motion carried.

Secretary's note: Since there was the potential for confusion as a result of the course Climate Dynamics 2 (ATOC 531) being a Required Course and Climate Dynamics 1 (ATOC 530) being a Complementary Course, Associate Dean Hendren has suggested, and the Department agreed, that the course titles be changed. The new titles for ATOC 530 and ATOC 531 are Paleoclimate Dynamics and Dynamics of Current Climates, respectively.

(11) CHEMISTRY

New Course:

CHEM 520	Methods in Chemical Biology 3 credits	AC-08-50
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Following his introduction of CHEM 520, Prof. Ronis **moved**, seconded by Prof. Krahe, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

CHEM 574	Intro Polymer Chem Changes in number [from CHEM 455], prerequisites, restrictions 3 credits	AC-08-51
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Course Retirement:

CHEM 674	Intro Physical Chem-Polymers 4 credits	AC-08-52
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Prof. Ronis **moved**, seconded by Prof. Krahe, that the above changes be approved.

The motion carried.

Renumbering of the Following Courses Was Postponed (See Minute 311.4).

CHEM 205	World of Chem: Food Changes in number [from CHEM 150], restriction 3 credits	AC-08-53
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CHEM 206	World of Chem: Technology Changes in number [from CHEM 160], restriction 3 credits	AC-08-54
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CHEM 207	World of Chem: Drugs	AC-08-55
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Changes in number [from CHEM 170], restriction
3 credits

CHEM 208

World of Chem: Environment
Changes in number [from CHEM 180], restriction
3 credits

AC-08-56

311.1 Prof. Ronis said that with the exception of the World of Chemistry courses, most general interest Science courses were offered at the 200-level. The proposed renumbering (Documents AC-08-53 to 56) would bring the World of Chemistry courses into line with other general interest courses.

311.2 Associate Dean Hendren suggested that the proposals offered an excellent opportunity to discuss all Science general interest courses and their possible renumbering. She said that all Science general interest courses could be renumbered to either 18X or 00X.

311.3 The first issue was to define a general interest course. Associate Dean Hendren suggested the following definition:

A course that is not part of a regular Faculty of Science program, nor part of the Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List (DMURL).

311.4 After some discussion, it was agreed that 18X was preferable to 00X.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ronis, that all Science general interest courses be renumbered to XXXX 18X.

The motion carried.

311.5 Associate Dean Hendren said she would ask units to renumber their general interest courses to XXXX 18X.

(12) EARTH & PLANETARY SCIENCES

New Course:

EPSC 470D1/D2

AC-08-57

After introducing EPSC 470, Prof. Wing **moved**, seconded by Prof. Fabry, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

(13) MINORS FOR SCIENCE STUDENTS (For Information Only)

(i) Minor in Education for Science Students

AC-08-58

(ii) Minor in Kinesiology for Science Students

AC-08-59

313.1 Associate Dean Hendren mentioned that the above two Minors were administered by Science.

313.2 Regarding the Minor in Education, Ms. Allard said that three of the proposed new courses for the Minor (EDPE 304, EDES 335 and EDES 353) were on the Faculty's list of courses outside the Faculties of Arts and of Science that were not approved for Science students to take for credit.

- 313.3** Associate Dean Hendren said that the Faculty was trying to encourage Science students to become teachers, and suggested that these courses be approved at least for those taking the Minor.
- 313.4** Ms. Allard said that approving the courses in any manner would remove the logic behind the not-approved list.
- 313.5** After some discussion, Dean Grant said that the Faculty's list of not-approved courses would be reviewed.
- 313.6** It was noted that for the Minor in Kinesiology, PHGY 201 and PHGY 202 should be removed since the courses had been retired.

(14) INTEGRATED B.Sc./M.Sc. STREAM

- 314.1** Dean Grant said one objective of creating an Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc. Stream was to ensure that B.Sc./M.Sc. students would not have a heavy course load during their M.Sc. studies. Resources would be made available to units to aid in this worthy project.
- 314.2** There was a lengthy discussion concerning the outline of an Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc. Stream, during which a number of elements became clear:
- Units would not need to modify their M.Sc. programs.
 - Some units were in essence already providing an Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc. Stream.
 - Units should set a minimum GPA requirement for their students to enter the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc. Stream.
 - Non-Honours students could be eligible to enter the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc. Stream.
 - Units could take applications to enter the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc. Stream from U2 students.
 - Units should provide a reasonable path for B.Sc. students to take in order to become part of the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc. Stream.
 - Units should provide special advising in U3 for students in the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc. Stream.
 - Approval for U3 students with a minimum GPA of 3.3 to take one 600- or 700-level course per semester should be facilitated.
 - There would be no requirement that students begin the M.Sc. program during the summer.
 - Students in the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc. Stream should not hold an undergraduate USRA in the same laboratory in which they would be pursuing their M.Sc.
 - Faculty resources would be provided to units based on the number of students entering the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc. Stream, as opposed to the number of students graduating early from the M.Sc. program.
 - If a student wished to pursue a Ph.D. after the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc., the student should be encouraged to spend at least one term in a different research laboratory, at the unit's discretion.
- 314.3** A straw vote was held. All members agreed to the framework, with two members abstaining.
- 314.4** Dean Grant said that during the following semester, the Academic Committee would be examining the possibilities of integrated streams for B.A./M.Sc. (for the Departments of Computer Science, Geography, Mathematics & Statistics and Psychology) and B.Sc./M.Ed. programs.

(15) OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.