

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on April 30, 2013 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 Parisa Ariya (in place of Daniel Kirshbaum), Frédéric Guichard, Barbara Hales, Galen Halverson, Axel Hundemer, Bettina Kemme, Greg Marczynski, Ana Nyzhnyk, Kenneth Ragan, Kathy Roulet; Louis Houle; Esther Bogorov, Kelsi Lix, Melissa Xie; Malek Yalaoui and Josie D'Amico.

**GUEST:** Professor Christopher Barrington-Leigh

**REGRETS:** Professor Lea Berrang Ford, Justin Kollman, Gillian O'Driscoll, Linda Reven, Julie St-Pierre; Chandra Curry, Eugene Kang, Kendra Levasseur, Kate Zhang.

**DOCUMENTS: AC-12-72 to AC-12-78**

Dean Grant called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Minor in Computer Science for Engineering Students, Document #AC-12-78, will be considered under Other Business.

Prof. Hales **moved**, seconded by Prof. Guichard, that the amended Agenda be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**(2) MINUTES OF MARCH 26, 2013**

Prof. Marczynski **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ragan, that the Minutes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

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

**Minute 708.6, PHYS 519 (AC-12-62)**

**803.1** At the Academic Committee meeting of March 26, 2013, PHYS 519 had been approved pending submission of a list of prerequisite course numbers. Prerequisite course numbers were now specified for PHYS 519, and permission of instructor will be included in the prerequisites. The prerequisite course numbers were:

(PHYS 333 or PHYS 362) and (PHYS 340 or PHYS 350), or permission of instructor.

**803.2** It was also agreed to remove the restriction that PHYS 519 be restricted to U3 Honours students and graduate students, since the course will also be available to students in the Honours in Biology; Quantitative Biology Option (approved at the March 26<sup>th</sup> Academic Committee meeting). Permission of instructor was removed from the restrictions.

(4) **McGILL SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT**

***New Course:***

ENVR 430/ECON 430 The Economics of Wellbeing  
3 credits

**AC-12-73/AC-12-73A**

**804.1** Prof. Christopher Barrington-Leigh, instructor of ENVR 430/ECON 430, introduced the new double-prefix course. He said that the field of subjective well-being would appeal to students in many disciplines, including students in environment programs. Non-economics students would not necessarily know of this course if it were under only the ECON subject code.

**804.2** In response to Director Allard concerning how students would be assessed for in-class responses and contributions, essentially participation, Prof. Barrington-Leigh agreed to lower the weight of this component from 15% to 5%.

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

**The motion carried.**

**Program Changes:**

**-BSc. Environment; Food Production and Environment Domain**

**AC-12-74**

**804.3** Ms. Roulet explained that the Food Production and Environment Domain was offered to both B.Sc. and B.Sc. (Ag. Env. Sc.) students. The Domain had not been revised for at least five years. Most of the revisions were of minor nature, such as adding new courses, removing courses that had been retired, as well as structuring the domain to provide more focus. In addition, the statement regarding eligibility for membership in the Ordre des agronomes du Québec had been removed, because the requirements for membership had become increasingly awkward to accommodate within the Domain.

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

**The motion carried.**

**804.4** Associate Dean Hendren commented that the details of the changes in the Domain Program Revision Form were very well explained, using superscripts. Members could use this method to describe details.

***For Information Only:***

**-BSc. (Ag. Env. Sc.) Environment; Food Production and Environment Domain**

(5) **PHARMACOLOGY & THERAPEUTICS**

**Program Changes:**

**-Major in Pharmacology**

**AC-12-75**

**-Honours in Pharmacology**

**AC-12-76**

**805.1** Prof. Hales said that the Major and Honours Programs in Pharmacology had been running for several years, and the programs needed to be updated to reflect current reality. A number of courses had been added to the Upper Level Complementary Course List in U3 for both the Major and Honours Programs. Also, the requirement for acceptance into the Honours had now been increased from 3.30 CGPA to 3.50.

- 805.2** At the current meeting, further changes were made to remove ANAT 541 (the inclusion had not been approved by the Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology), and CHEM 352 (course no longer available, since it has been renumbered to CHEM 532) from the Major and Honours Programs.
- 805.3** It was pointed out that under Faculty regulations, students *graduating* with a CGPA of 3.50 receive First Class Honours. Raising the CGPA level for *admission* into the Honours in Pharmacology does not contradict the Faculty regulation, since students would still have to graduate with a CGPA of 3.50 to obtain First Class Honours. However, Associate Dean Hendren suggested that the issue of raising the graduating CGPA requirement for First Class Honours be looked at by the Department.
- 805.4** Prof. Hales **moved**, seconded by Associate Dean Hendren, that the changes be approved, pending receipt of all consultation reports.

**The motion carried.**

**Secretary's Note:** All consultation reports have been received.

**(6) COMPUTER SCIENCE**

COMP 533	Model-Driven Software Develop. Changes in title, description	<b>AC-12-77</b>
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- 806.1** Prof. Kemme described the minor revisions to COMP 533, and said that the changes reflect what is currently being taught.
- Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Kemme, that the changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**(7) TEACHING EVALUATIONS**

- 807.1** Dean Grant said that currently instructors must give explicit permission for their course evaluations to be made public. He would like the default changed to making course evaluations public, with instructors having to explicitly prevent them from being public. He asked members for permission to change the current default.
- 807.2** Dean Grant said that the issue had been discussed at a Chairs' meeting. Evaluation questions should be simplified. He emphasized that teaching evaluations were used for determining merit, tenure, salary and promotion to full professor.
- 807.3** Among the points raised were:
- that evaluations should not be made public if only a low number of students responded
  - that making more course evaluations public would encourage students to fill out the evaluations
  - that instructors are very interested in their evaluations for the purpose of improving their teaching
- 807.4** Members were in agreement that Dean Grant look into changing the default to make course evaluations public.

(8) **OTHER BUSINESS**

**- Minor in Computer Science for Engineering Students (AC-12-78)**

**808.1** Associate Dean Hendren said that three courses (CIVE 320, ECSE 443 and MATH 317), which are equivalent courses to COMP 350 and MECH 309, were being added as alternative courses in the list of Complementary Courses.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Kemme, that the changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**- Physical Space in Courses**

**808.2** In response to a member who asked about Faculty guidelines concerning classroom space, Dean Grant said that one solution for overcrowded classes was to split the class into sections. Another solution, one that is used by several departments in the Faculty, is to have a separate honours version of a course. If overcrowding is an issue, a larger room can be requested from the timetabling office. He added that McGill is pressed for classroom space.

**808.3** Dean Grant and Associate Dean Hendren thanked members for their hard work and diligence during the academic year, and wished everyone a good summer.

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