

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on February 7, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. in Arts Council Room, Arts 160.

**PRESENT:** Associate Dean Laurie Hendren (Acting Chair), Director Nicole Allard, Professors Fiona Bedford, Paul Clarke, Frédéric Guichard, Axel Hundemer, Bettina Kemme, Alex Maloney (in place of Kenneth Ragan), Greg Marczynski, Gillian O'Driscoll, Linda Reven, Kathy Roulet, Ann Wechsler; Louis Houle; Alan Blayney, Jan-Marc Lieskovsky, Timothy Tsang, Debbie Wang, Billi Wun.

**REGRETS:** Dean Martin Grant; Professors Galen Halverson, Julie St-Pierre, Bruno Tremblay, Jon Unruh; Hardik Vala, Neil Verma.

**DOCUMENTS: AC-11-34 to AC-11-43**

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

**(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

A new item, PSYT 400 (AC-11-43), to be added to Item 9, Other Business, for discussion and input.

Prof. Clarke **moved**, seconded by Director Allard, that the amended Agenda be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**(2) MINUTES OF JANUARY 17, 2012**

**AC-11-34**

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

**The motion carried.**

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

**- Minute 507.3, Ad Hoc Joint Honours in Computer Science & Biology**

**603.1** Director Allard said that at the January 17<sup>th</sup> Academic Committee meeting, the GPA requirement for the ad hoc had not been decided. She said it had been agreed to use the Faculty requirements: for Honours, the CGPA at graduation must be at least 3.00; for First-Class Honours, the CGPA at graduation must be at least 3.5.

**(4) REPORT ON MINOR COURSE CHANGES**

**AC-11-35**

Associate Dean Hendren briefly described the changes in the above Report.

**(5) MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS**

**New Course:** Original Title Proposed:  
MATH 134                      Linear Alg & Geo for Phys Sci  
   Title Suggested at the Meeting:

**AC-11-36**

**Enriched Linear Alg & Geo**  
3 credits

- 605.1** Prof. Hundemer introduced the new course, MATH 134, and said that over the last several years, the enrolment had increased substantially in the existing Linear Algebra and Geometry (MATH 133). However, since many students had difficulty coping with MATH 133, the material normally covered in the course had been reduced, to the detriment of students who required a strong background in linear algebra for their programs. Prof. Hundemer said MATH 134 will be taught at a slightly higher level than MATH 133, and will cover more material.
- 605.2** After some discussion concerning the proposed title for MATH 134 (Linear Algebra and Geometry for Physical Sciences) and the existing course title for MATH 133 (Linear Algebra and Geometry), it was suggested that the title for MATH 134 should be "**Enriched Linear Algebra and Geometry.**"
- 605.3** A member asked if the restriction for MATH 133 "Not open to students who are taking or have taken MATH 134" can be placed in the Box "Program Change Form Submitted" for MATH 134 in order to avoid submitting another course change form. Josie D'Amico will look into this.
- 605.4** Prof. Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Prof. Maloney, that the above course be adopted, pending approval by the Department of Mathematics & Statistics regarding the suggested title.

**The motion carried.**

**Secretary's Note:** The Department of Mathematics & Statistics approved the suggested title, Enriched Linear Algebra and Geometry, for MATH 134.

***New Course:***

MATH 545	Intro to Time Series Analysis 4 credits	<b>AC-11-37</b>
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***Associated Course Changes:***

MATH 681	Time Series Analysis Changes in description & prerequisite 4 credits	<b>AC-11-38</b>
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- 605.4** Prof. Hundemer explained that MATH 545 was being introduced as an introductory course to time series analysis for U3 and graduate students, and that MATH 545 would become a prerequisite course for the more advanced course MATH 681.
- Prof. Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Prof. Maloney, that the above new course and the associated course changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

- 605.5** Mr. Houle mentioned that a Print on Demand service was offered by Springer-MyCopy (<http://www.springerlink.com/>). This service allows users to order a personal POD soft-cover copy of Springer e-books from 2005 for only US \$24.95, which is much cheaper than buying from any bookstore.

**(6) BIOLOGY**

**New Course:**

BIOL 320

Evolution of Brain and Behav  
3 credits

**AC-11-39**

**606.1** Prof. Guichard introduced BIOL 320, a new undergraduate course in neurobiology requested by many students. He said that this course will be taught by Prof. Jon Sakata and will build on principles taught in neuroscience courses such as BIOL 306, as well as complement the only available neuroanatomy course (ANAT 321) at McGill.

**606.2** After some discussion, Prof. Guichard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Bedford, that the new course be adopted, pending further consultation with the Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology, and the provision of a more detailed course outline requested by the Department of Physiology.

**The motion carried.**

**Secretary's Note:** After further consultation, the Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology supports the introduction of BIOL 320.

- **Joint Major in Biology and Mathematics**

**AC-11-40**

**606.3** After briefly explaining that the changes were mainly for clarification purposes and for the sake of the addition of courses, Prof. Guichard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Bedford, that the changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**(7) CHEMISTRY**

CHEM 532 [from CHEM 352]

Structural Organic Chemistry  
Changes in number, title, description, restriction  
3 credits

**AC-11-41**

**607.1** Prof. Reven briefly described the changes. CHEM 532 would now be available to both undergraduates and graduates. As a result of the renumbering, the course description had been modified. CHEM 532 will remain in the list of courses for the Major and Honours Programs in Biochemistry, as well as the Core Science Component in Biochemistry.

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

**The motion carried.**

**(8) SUS ACTIVITIES**

**AC-11-42**

Mr. Blayney said that the SUS had held Academia Week during the week of January 23<sup>rd</sup> to January 27<sup>th</sup>. He said that the event had been a huge success.

**(9) OTHER BUSINESS**

**609.1** In reply to a question from Mr. Blayney concerning the amount of bureaucracy required in order for undergraduates to obtain permission to take a 600-level course, as opposed to allowing the student's department to give permission, Director Allard said that the

requirements and restrictions for 600- and 700-level courses were the responsibility of the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. She also said that the process had been simplified over the years. The form to request approval will be made available online on the SOUSA Webpage.

**PSYCHIATRY – For Discussion Only**

PSYT 400

Res. Project in Psychiatry  
6 credits

**AC-11-43**

- 609.2** Associate Dean Hendren introduced the above new research course proposed by the Department of Psychiatry for undergraduate students, including Science students. The course proposal had been sent to Victor Chisholm, Undergraduate Research Officer, for consultation, and he had written a detailed reply (included in Document AC-11-43). The Academic Committee was considering the proposal for input and discussion only.
- 609.3** Associate Dean Hendren pointed out that she strongly agreed with Mr. Chisholm's recommendation that the course be administered by the Faculty of Science, in order to allow for broader exposure.
- 609.4** There was some discussion regarding possible prerequisites for the course. A statistics course should be a prerequisite. The course should be restricted to students who have completed a certain number of 300-level courses. As well, there could be a broad statement concerning the possible requirement of prerequisites tailored to individual research projects.
- 609.5** There was a long discussion about the possibility of students submitting the same research report to two different supervisors. It must be made clear to supervisors that work done for PSYT 400 must not be used in any other course.
- 609.6** The Academic Committee recommended that the course be revised, taking into account Mr. Chisholm's concerns and the above recommendations regarding prerequisites, and, following consultation with the Department of Psychology, then be resubmitted to the Faculty of Medicine's Curriculum Committee and the Faculty of Science's Academic Committee.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.