

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on April 22, 2008, at 3:00 p.m. in Arts Council Room, Arts 160.

PRESENT: Associate Dean Hendren (Acting Chair), Associate Dean Leighton; Professors Baines, A. Baker, D. Baker, Bennett, Chmura, Guichard (in place of Prof. Levine), Hundemer, MacKenzie, Moore, Ronis, Stewart; K. Howe, M. Desgroseilliers, A. King; J. D'Amico.

REGRETS: Dean Grant; Professors Panangaden, Ricciardi, Wechsler; Associate Dean Hendershot; L. Houle; L. Shbat, K. Maloney, C.M.C. Tong, N. Winata.

DOCUMENTS: **AC-07-104** to **AC-07-117**

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

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Prof. Moore **moved**, seconded by Prof. MacKenzie, that the Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

(2) MINUTES OF MARCH 25, 2007

AC-07-104

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Stewart, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

(3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minutes 709.1-709.2

803.1 Associate Dean Leighton said that the Committee on Student Affairs had voted in favour of including on course outlines a statement concerning the right of students to submit course work in French. He said that the issue would now be brought to Senate. Associate Dean Leighton said that the faculties of Science, Arts, and Agricultural and Environmental Sciences had voted against including the statement on course outlines. It was felt that course outlines should be reserved for academic content, and that student rights were amply specified elsewhere.

803.2 Associate Dean Hendren said that members could voice their concerns to any of the Science Senators.

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

AC-07-105

Associate Dean Hendren briefly explained the Report on Minor Course Changes.

(5) BIOCHEMISTRY

New Course:

BIOC 462

Research Laboratory in Biochemistry
6 credits

AC-07-106

805.1 Prof. MacKenzie explained the reasons for creating the new course, BIOC 462, and for the modifications to BIOC 460.

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

The motion carried.

805.2 In reply to Associate Dean Leighton concerning the possibility of creating a Biochemistry -396 course, Prof. MacKenzie said that there was not much enthusiasm for it in his department, and that there wasn't enough research space. Associate Dean Hendren mentioned that units were not required to offer -396 courses every semester. The -396 courses provided credit for students, as opposed to summer research. Furthermore, a -396 course could be useful for non-Biochemistry students.

BIOC 460	Advanced Lab in Biochemistry Changes in description & restriction 6 credits	AC-07-107
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Prof. MacKenzie **moved**, seconded by Prof. D. Baker, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

- Honours in Biochemistry	AC-07-108
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Prof. MacKenzie **moved**, seconded by Prof. Moore, that the program changes be approved.

The motion carried.

(6) EARTH & PLANETARY SCIENCES

EPSC 435	Applied Geophysics Changes: course activities, title, description, prerequisites 3 credits	AC-07-109
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806.1 After some discussion concerning appropriate prerequisites for EPSC 435, Prof. D. Baker **moved**, seconded by Prof. Chmura, that the changes be approved pending clarification of the prerequisite issue.

The motion carried.

Secretary's Note: After consultation within the Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences, the prerequisites for EPSC 435 will be: **EPSC 231 or EPSC 320, or permission of instructor.**

(7) GEOGRAPHY

New Course:		
GEOG 511	Advanced Political Geography 3 credits	AC-07-110

807.1 There was some concern about the lack of guidance for students about the background required for the course. Associate Dean Hendren said that under Supplementary Calendar Information, the means of obtaining the permission of the course instructor should be specified.

Prof. Chmura **moved**, seconded by Dr. Hundemer, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

New Course:

GEOG 530	Global Land & Water Resources 3 credits	AC-07-111
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807.2 There was a lengthy discussion concerning whether prerequisites (or at least guidance on required background) should be specified for the course. As well, concerns were expressed about the grading scheme: whether assigning 25% of the grade to "leading and participating in discussions" was unfair to quieter students; whether the "weekly short reflections" should be worth more than 5%; and whether "final class test (take home)" should read "term paper" or "essay."

807.3 It was agreed that Prof. Chmura would inform Associate Dean Hendren of the results of further consultation with the Department of Geography. This information would be circulated to Academic Committee members, and they would then vote on the course.

Secretary's Note: As a result of further consultation, changes were made to GEOG 530. The Academic Committee approved the modified GEOG 530 by an electronic vote on May 6, 2008.

GEOG 523	Global Ecosystems and Climate Changes in title, description, prerequisites 3 credits	AC-07-112
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Prof. Chmura **moved**, seconded by Prof. D. Baker, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

- B.A. & Sc.; Major Concentration in Geography (Physical Geography)	AC-07-113
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807.4 Prof. Chmura **moved**, seconded by Prof. Moore, that the program changes be approved pending clarification of the relationship between ATOC 308 and GEOG 308.

The motion carried.

Secretary's Note: The issue has been resolved.

- B.Sc. Liberal; Core Science Component in Geography	AC-07-114
- B.Sc.; Major in Geography	AC-07-115
- B.Sc.; Honours in Geography	AC-07-116

Prof. Chmura **moved**, seconded by Prof. MacKenzie, that the above program changes be approved.

The motion carried.

- **B.A. Programs (For Information Only):**
Minor Concentration in GIS
Major Concentration in Urban Systems
Honours in Urban Systems

(8) BIOLOGY**New Course:**

BIOL 463

Mammalian Evolution
3 credits**AC-07-117**

Prof. Guichard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Chmura, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

(9) MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS

- Supplementary Minor Concentration in Mathematics (New - For Information Only)

- 809.1** A Supplementary Minor Concentration taken in addition to a Major Concentration would allow students in one of the four Science/Arts units to obtain the equivalent of a Science Major program. Associate Dean Hendren said that there were now two Supplementary Minor Concentrations available, in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and in the School of Computer Science. She said that it would be advantageous to students if the Departments of Geography and Psychology also were able to offer Supplementary Minor Concentrations. The system would then be consistent across the Faculty, making the purpose of Supplementary Minor Concentrations very clear to students.

(10) OTHER BUSINESS

- 810.1** Associate Dean Hendren said that if no major business was submitted in the next few days, the last scheduled Academic Committee meeting would be cancelled. Minor items could be dealt with by e-mail.

- 810.2** Associate Dean Hendren thanked the Committee for their hard work during the year. She announced that Associate Dean Leighton would shortly be finishing his term, and she thanked him for all his efforts on behalf of the Committee. She introduced Nicole Allard, who would be replacing Associate Dean Leighton on the Academic Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.