

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, December 11, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. in Arts Council Room, Arts 160.

**PRESENT:** Dean Grant (Chair), Associate Dean Hendren (Vice-Chair), Associate Dean Leighton; Professors Baker, Bartello (in place of Prof. Stewart), Bennett, Chmura, Cousineau (in place of Prof. Baines), Hundemer, Levine, Moore, Panangaden, Ronis, Wechsler; L. Houle; M. Tycon (in place of A. King), K. Maloney; J. D'Amico, L. Stanischewski.

**REGRETS:** Professors Jensen, MacKenzie, Ricciardi; Associate Dean Hendershot; K. Howe, L. Shbat, M. Desgroseilliers, C.M.C. Tong, N. Winata.

**DOCUMENTS: AC-07-55 (REV 2) AC-07-64 to AC-07-71**

Dean Grant called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

**(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

- Ad hoc Joint Honours Program in Physics and Computer Science, Item #7, to be considered after Business Arising from the Minutes, Item #3.

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

**The motion carried.**

**(2) MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2007 AC-07-64**

Prof. Chmura **moved**, seconded by Prof. Bennett, that the Minutes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

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

**403.1** There was no business arising from the Minutes.

**(4) REPORT ON MINOR COURSE CHANGES AC-07-65  
(for information)**

**404.1** Associate Dean Hendren briefly described the Report.

**(5) GEOGRAPHY**

**New Course:**

GEOG 310                      Development and Livelihoods  
3 credits

**AC-07-66**

**405.1** Prof. Chmura introduced the course. There was some concern about the course outline with regard to medical and similar situations. Associate Dean Leighton would look into University and Faculty policies and report back to the Academic Committee in January

2008, and would consult with the course instructors to rework the wording of the course outline.

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

**The motion carried.**

**New Course:**

GEOG 403	Global Health & Envir. Change 3 credits	<b>AC-07-67</b>
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- 405.2** There was some discussion concerning the possibility of PARA 410, Environment and Infection, which had been recommended as a complement to GEOG 403, being made a pre/co-requisite for GEOG 403. It was decided this was not desirable.

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

**The motion carried.**

**(6) JOINT MAJOR IN PHYSIOLOGY AND PHYSICS **AC-07-68****

- 406.1** Prof. Wechsler described the reasons for the proposed changes.

- 406.2** Since the Departments of Physics, and of Mathematics and Statistics had not been consulted on the proposed changes, Dean Grant suggested that the proposal be tabled to a future meeting.

**(7) AD HOC JOINT HONOURS PROGRAM IN PHYSICS & COMPUTER SCIENCE **AC-07-69****

- 407.1** Associate Dean Leighton introduced the proposed ad hoc Joint Honours Program. Concern centered around the large number of credits (90) in the program and the imbalance between Physics (42) and Computer Science (33) credits. However, as a fall back option, students would be able to obtain an Honours Degree in Physics or a Joint Major in Physics and Computer Science. It was agreed that if a formal Joint Honours Program in Physics and Computer Science was designed, its credit weight would be lower than that proposed for the ad hoc program.

- 407.2** It was questioned whether the students involved had already taken MATH 222.

Associate Dean Leighton **moved**, seconded by Prof. Panangaden, that the ad hoc program be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**(8) FIELD PRACTICUM**

**New Course:**

FSCI 400	Field Practicum 0 credits	<b>AC-07-70</b>
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- 408.1** Ms. Martine Dolmière, Science Office for Global Opportunities, introduced the new course.

- 408.2** There was a long discussion. Among the points raised were:

- ◆ The precise definition of "field."
- ◆ Whether there should be credit for the Field Practicum.
- ◆ Whether "mentor" was too broad a term.
- ◆ The precise scope of the student report.
- ◆ The type of work that would qualify for the Field Practicum.
- ◆ The status of a large number of issues such as safeguarding that students were fed, housed, could return in an emergency, etc.
- ◆ That for the first year or two the Field Practicum should be limited in order to monitor successes and pitfalls.
- ◆ Whether it should be specified that the Field Practicum related only to the Africa, Barbados and Panama Field Semesters.
- ◆ That the Field Practicum should be focussed in order to define a "brand."

**408.3** Dean Grant suggested that the course be approved with the specification that "field" referred to outdoor work, and pending consultation with the Directors of the Africa, Barbados and Panama Field Semesters. He said that the course would be taken to the January Faculty meeting, which would allow time for the consultation.

**408.4** Prof. Levine **moved**, seconded by Prof. Moore, that the course be adopted, with the above provisos.

**The motion carried.**

**(9) UNIQUE TITLES FOR COURSES**

**AC-07-55 (Rev2)**

**409.1** Associate Dean Hendren briefly highlighted Document AC-07-55 (Rev2), listing the Faculty of Science's preferred titles for its courses, as opposed to the SCTP-suggested titles.

**409.2.** Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Levine, that the Academic Committee support the Faculty of Science's preferred titles for the Faculty's courses, as opposed to SCTP's recommended titles.

**The motion carried.**

**(10) ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW**

**AC-07-71**

**410.1** The above item was postponed to a future meeting.

**(11) OTHER BUSINESS**

**411.1** Dean Grant thanked members of the Academic Committee, and wished them a pleasant holiday.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.