

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, December 8, 2009, at 2:30 p.m. in Arts Council Room, Arts 160.

**PRESENT:** Dean Grant (Chair), Associate Dean Hendren (Vice-Chair), N. Allard; Professors F. Bedford, A. Clerk, F. Fabry, A. Hundemer, M. Kalacska (in place of J. Unruh), R. Levine (in place of R. Krahe), G. O'Driscoll, D. Ronis, K. Roulet, C. Verbrugge (in place of P. Panangaden), A. Wechsler, B. Wing; A. Ashraf; J. D'Amico.

**GUESTS:** Professors C. de Mazancourt and N. Ramankutty

**REGRETS:** Professors B. Cousineau, B. Hales, B. Nagar; L. Houle; A. Bezborra, A. Dafoe, J. Kanji, V. Khan, E. Lee, M. Smaoui; L. Stanischewski; Associate Dean Hendershot

**DOCUMENTS:** AC-09-45 to AC-09-60

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

**(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

- Proposed Curriculum of the Med-P Year, 2010-2011, to be considered under Item # 11, Other Business.

Prof. Clerk **moved**, seconded by Prof. Levine, that the amended Agenda be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**(2) MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 17, 2009**

**AC-09-45**

Prof. Fabry **moved**, seconded by Prof. Kalacska, that the 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-09-46**

Associate Dean Hendren briefly described the change in the Minor Course Change Report.

**(5) BIOLOGY**

***New Course:***

BIOL 645

Biodiversity Science  
3 credits

**AC-09-47**

**405.1** Prof. Claire de Mazancourt introduced the above course which is funded by the FQRNT Biodiversity Centre. The course is targeted at graduate students working in biodiversity science, and other students if space permits, and will be taught by various professors from different universities. BIOL 645 will be offered at McGill every three years, and it will be taught at the Gault Nature Reserve in Mont Saint-Hilaire Biosphere Reserve. After briefly describing the course content, Prof. de Mazancourt answered members' questions.

Prof. Levine **moved**, seconded by Prof. Wing, that the course be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**(6) GEOGRAPHY & McGill SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT**

ENVR 201	Soc Environ and Sustainability Changes in title & description 3 credits	<b>AC-09-48</b>
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Prof. Wing **moved**, seconded by Prof. Fabry, that the changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

***New Course:***

GEOG 360	Analyzing Sustainability 3 credits	<b>AC-09-49</b>
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Prof. Wing **moved**, seconded by Prof. Fabry, that the course be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

***New Course:***

GEOG 460	Research in Sustainability 3 credits	<b>AC-09-50</b>
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Prof. Wing **moved**, seconded by Prof. Kalacska, that the course be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

***New B.A. & Sc. Program:***

- Interfaculty Program in Sustainability, Science and Society	<b>AC-09-51</b>
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**406.1** Prof. Navin Ramankutty introduced the above new B.A. & Sc. Interfaculty Program in Sustainability, Science and Society, which will be offered in close partnership between the Department of Geography and the MSE. He said that both Concordia and Université de Montréal, as well as other schools in Canada and the US, already offer a similar program in sustainability. Prof. Ramankutty said that the program focuses on three different pillars: (i) Science and Technology, (ii) Economics, Policy, and Governance, and (iii) Ethics, Equity, and Justice. Two new courses, GEOG 360 and GEOG 460, had been created specifically for this program, and ENVR 201, an existing course which already focused on sustainability, had been revised to strengthen this focus. Prof. Ramankutty answered members' questions.

Prof. Wing **moved**, seconded by Prof. Fabry, that the program be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**406.2** The above program and courses will be brought to the next B.A. & Sc. PAC meeting, to be held on December 16, 2009, and then to Faculty of Science and Faculty of Arts meetings.

**406.3** Dean Grant congratulated the Department of Geography and the MSE for taking a huge leadership role in this new venture.

**(7) GEOGRAPHY**

***New Course:***

GEOG 493	Health & Environment in Africa 3 credits	<b>AC-09-52</b>
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**407.1** Prof. Kalacska briefly described GEOG 493, and said that the course will be offered in alternate years in the African Field Study Semester.

Prof. Kalacska **moved**, seconded by Ms. Roulet, that the course be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**407.2** Associate Dean Hendren pointed out that GEOG 493 will be added to the list of Complementary Courses in the African Field Study Semester. Since this is a minor change in the program, the course proposal will serve to change the AFSS.

**(8) SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE**

COMP 361D1/D2	Software Engineering Project Course split, credit weight [from 3 to 6], title, description, course activities, prerequisites, corequisites & restrictions	<b>AC-09-53</b>
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**408.1** Prof. Verbrugge explained that as part of the revision of the Software Engineering Programs, the existing three-credit COMP 361 had been changed into a large introductory and project course. Hence the proposed change from three credits to six credits, and the change to a full-year course.

**408.2** The changes in the programs listed below reflect the changes in COMP 361, as well as other changes.

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

**The motion carried unanimously.**

***New B.Sc. Program:***

- Honours in Software Engineering		<b>AC-09-54</b>
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**408.3** Prof. Verbrugge introduced the new Honours Program in Software Engineering. He said the Honours program was more challenging and research-oriented than the existing Major Program in Software Engineering, and was structured in parallel with the Major.

Prof. Verbrugge **moved**, seconded by Prof. Clerk, that the program be adopted.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**408.4** In response to Dean Grant, Prof. Verbrugge briefly described software engineering.

**B.Sc. Program Changes:**

- Major in Software Engineering

**AC-09-55**

**408.5** Prof. Verbrugge explained the changes in the Major in Software Engineering. He said the changes were aimed at putting the program more in line with other programs in Computer Science.

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

**The motion carried unanimously.**

- Core Science Component in Software Engineering

**AC-09-56**

Prof. Verbrugge **moved**, seconded by Prof. Clerk, that the changes be approved.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**B.A. & Sc. Program Changes:**

- Major Concentration in Software Engineering

**AC-09-57**

Prof. Verbrugge **moved**, seconded by Prof. Kalacska, that the changes be approved.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**408.6** A member pointed that the Department of Mathematics & Statistics had not been consulted, but that he had no objections to the reduced number of Math courses in the revised programs.

**408.7** Another member said that the following note should be added to MATH 222, a Complementary Course in the B.Sc. Major and Honours Programs in Software Engineering:

Students who have successfully completed MATH 150 and MATH 151 are not required to take MATH 222.

**Secretary's Note:** The B.A. & Sc. Major Concentration in Software Engineering will be considered at the next B.A. & Sc. PAC meeting, scheduled for December 16, 2009, and then at the Faculty of Science meeting of January 12, 2010.

**408.8** Dean Grant asked that the Minutes reflect that **all** the above programs were passed unanimously.

**B.A. Program Changes (For Information Only):**

- Major Concentration in Software Engineering

**(9) MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS**

MATH 139

Calculus 1 with Precalculus  
Changes in title, description, restrictions,  
supplementary information  
4 credits

**AC-09-58**

**409.1** Prof. Hundemer explained that MATH 139 was revised because many students did not have the appropriate background for calculus. He answered members' questions.

Prof. Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Prof. Levine, that the changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**(10) GUIDELINES FOR COURSE LEVELS – DRAFT #1**

**AC-09-59**

**410.1** Associate Dean Hendren introduced the above document. She said that in light of discussions at recent Academic Committee meetings, it had been concluded that a short set of guidelines concerning course levels would be useful for units when proposing new courses, renumbering courses, etc. She said that Document AC-09-59 was a draft that members could either approve or change substantially. In the event of major changes, she would bring back the guidelines to the next Academic Committee meeting on January 26, 2010.

**410.2** After some discussion and suggestions for changes, Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Bedford, that the guidelines be approved with the changes suggested by the Academic Committee.

**The motion carried.**

**410.3** Dean Grant said that Draft #2 of the guidelines would be circulated to Academic Committee members for further review.

**Secretary's Note:** Draft #2 of the Guidelines for Course Levels was later circulated to the Academic Committee. Draft #2 included a rewording of the introduction to Section #3, Main Program Courses, to more clearly define prerequisites; a rewording concerning 300-level courses; and an explanation that the guidelines do not apply to courses taught by Science units, but which relate to another faculty's program.

**(11) OTHER BUSINESS**

- **Proposed Curriculum of the Med-P Year, 2010-2011**

**AC-09-60**

**411.1** Ms. Allard introduced the above document on the Med-P Curriculum. She described the current Med-P Curriculum, and said the problem with the current curriculum was that if students were not accepted into Medicine, they were not able to complete a Science degree in a further two years because they didn't have enough Science courses. She said that normally about two or three students do not achieve the required CGPA of 3.5.

**411.2** Ms. Allard said that the proposed curriculum took into consideration timetable, etc., and the GPA requirement remained the same. With the wider choice in courses, students could perhaps become interested in the various courses offered, and would be informed about other available disciplines. She said the curriculum was put together by SOUSA and the Med-P Committee.

**411.3** Ms. Allard answered members questions.

**411.4** Among the points raised were:

- The Department of Physiology was not consulted
- The Departments of Anatomy & Cell Biology, Biochemistry, and Microbiology & Immunology were not represented as tracks
- That the Med-P Committee had vetoed the idea of separate tracks for Anatomy & Cell Biology, Biochemistry, and Microbiology & Immunology on the grounds that

the tracks were too similar, and had instead proposed the two Physiology tracks, Physiology A and Physiology B

- Objections to the structure of the Physiology A and Physiology B tracks
- CHEM 223 had MATH 222 as a hidden corequisite
- That within some tracks more choice could be provided
- That the Med-P Curriculum was on a password-protected Website

**411.5** Dean Grant suggested that the Med-P Curriculum outlined in Document AC-09-60 be approved, and that the Academic Committee's comments be communicated to the Med-P Committee.

**411.6** Ms. Allard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Wechsler, that the proposed curriculum of the Med-P Year, 2010-2011, be approved, incorporating the suggestions of the Academic Committee.

**The motion carried.**

**411.7** Dean Grant and Associate Dean Hendren thanked Ms. Allard for her excellent work in putting together the Med-P Curriculum.

**411.8** In reply to a member who asked if members could receive Academic Committee documents earlier, Associate Dean Hendren said that documents should be submitted at least seven working days prior to each meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.