

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on January 27, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. in Arts Council Room, Arts 160.

**PRESENT:** Dean Grant (Chair), Associate Dean Hendren (Vice-Chair), Nicole Allard (Director, Advising Services); Professors M. Baines, A. Baker, G.C. Bennett, A. Clerk, F. Fabry, A. Hundemer, M. Kalacska (in place of J. Unruh), R. Krahe, P. Panangaden, D. Ronis, K. Roulet, B. Wing; Natalie Waters (in place of L. Houle); N. Antonov, A. Ashraf, W. Carroll, J. Hwang, V. Khan, K. Sun; J. D'Amico.

**REGRETS:** Professors B. Nagar and A. Wechsler; M. Smaoui; Associate Dean Hendershot.

**DOCUMENTS:** AC-08-60 to AC-08-92

Dean Grant called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

**(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Prof. Panangaden **moved**, seconded by Prof. Bennett, that the Agenda be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**(2) MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18, 2008 AC-08-60**

Prof. Clerk **moved**, seconded by Prof. Bennett, 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 AC-08-61  
(for information)**

**504.1** Associate Dean Hendren described the change in the Report on Minor Course Changes.

**(5) BIOLOGY/PHYSICS**

**New Course:**

BIOL 319/PHYS 319 Introduction to Biophysics  
3 credits

**AC-08-62/62A**

**505.1** Prof. Krahe introduced the new Biology and Physics double-prefix biophysics course to be jointly taught by a professor in Biology and a professor in Physics.

**505.2** After some questions, which were satisfactorily answered, Prof. Krahe **moved**, seconded by Prof. Clerk, that the course be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**(6) Science General Interest Courses: Course Number Change to 18X**

ANAT 182 <i>Astrobiology</i> (from ANAT 205; restriction)	<b>AC-08-63</b>
ATOC 181 <i>Introduction to Atmospheric Science</i> (from ATOC 210; restriction)	<b>AC-08-64</b>
ATOC 182 <i>Introduction to Oceanic Sciences</i> (from ATOC 220; restriction)	<b>AC-08-65</b>
ATOC 183 <i>Climate and Climate Change</i> (from ATOC 230; restriction)	<b>AC-08-66</b>
ATOC 184 <i>Science of Storms</i> (from ATOC 240; restriction)	<b>AC-08-67</b>
ATOC 185 <i>Natural Disasters</i> (from ATOC 250; restriction)	<b>AC-08-68</b>
CHEM 181 <i>The World of Chemistry: Food</i> (from CHEM 150; restriction)	<b>AC-08-69</b>
CHEM 182 <i>The World of Chemistry: Technology</i> (from CHEM 160; restriction)	<b>AC-08-70</b>
CHEM 183 <i>The World of Chemistry: Drugs</i> (from CHEM 170; restriction)	<b>AC-08-71</b>
EPSC 180 <i>The Terrestrial Planets</i> (from EPSC 200; restriction)	<b>AC-08-72</b>
EPSC 181 <i>Environmental Geology</i> (from EPSC 243; restriction)	<b>AC-08-73</b>
EPSC 182 <i>Astrobiology</i> (from EPSC 205; restriction)	<b>AC-08-74</b>
EPSC 185 <i>Natural Disasters</i> (from EPSC 250; restriction)	<b>AC-08-75</b>
PHYS 180 <i>Space, Time &amp; Matter</i> (from PHYS 200; restriction)	<b>AC-08-76</b>
PHYS 181 <i>Everyday Physics</i> (from PHYS 202; restriction)	<b>AC-08-77</b>
PHYS 182 <i>Our Evolving Universe</i> (from PHYS 205; restriction)	<b>AC-08-78</b>
PHYS 183 <i>The Milky Way Inside and Out</i> (from PHYS 206; restriction)	<b>AC-08-79</b>
PHYS 184 <i>Energy and the Environment</i> (from PHYS 228; restriction)	<b>AC-08-80</b>

- 506.1** Associate Dean Hendren thanked units for their cooperation in renumbering their Science General Interest Courses. She said that now that the Faculty of Science had paved the way, she would ask other faculties to renumber their general interest courses.

*Secretary's Note: Generally speaking, Science General Interest Courses are those listed in Section 12.13.15 of the 2008-2009 Undergraduate Calendar under the heading General Science. However, any of these courses designed for students in another faculty (i.e., EPSC 221, General Geology, EPSC 225, Properties of Minerals [for Engineering students only], PHYS 224, Physics and Psychophysics of Music [for Music students]) or required for a B.Sc. or B.A. & Sc. Major or Major Concentration (EPSC 201) are not considered to be Science General Interest Courses.*

- 506.2** Associate Dean Hendren said that with the renumbering of Science General Interest Courses, it was now obvious that UNIT 18X courses in the Faculty were General Interest Courses. These General Interest Courses have no prerequisites.

- 506.3** It was agreed that all double-prefix courses be indicated as such in the Calendar:

This is a double-prefix course and is identical in content with UNIT XXX.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Fabry, that the renumbering of the above courses be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**(7) EARTH & PLANETARY SCIENCES**

EPSC 201	Understanding Planet Earth Addition of corequisites	<b>AC-08-81</b>
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	3 credits	
EPSC 210	Introductory Mineralogy Addition of restriction 3 credits	<b>AC-08-82</b>

**Program Changes:**

- Minor in Geochemistry		<b>AC-08-83</b>
- Minor in Geology (renamed from Minor in Earth & Planetary Sciences)		<b>AC-08-84</b>
- Major Program in Earth & Planetary Sciences		<b>AC-08-85</b>

**507.1** Prof. Wing described the above changes, and said that they were a consequence of the renumbering of Science General Interest Courses.

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

**The motion carried.**

**(8) ATMOSPHERIC & OCEANIC SCIENCES AND EARTH & PLANETARY SCIENCES**

**- B.A. & Sc. Major Concentration in Earth, Atmosphere & Ocean Sciences AC-08-86**

**508.1** Prof. Fabry went over the changes, and said they were a combination of housekeeping changes and changes due to renumbering of Science General Interest Courses.

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

**The motion carried.**

**(9) BACHELOR OF ARTS & SCIENCE**

**New Course:**

BASC 396	Undergraduate Research Project 3 credits	<b>AC-08-87</b>
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**509.1** Associate Dean Hendren said that B.A. & Sc. students were interested in doing Arts 396 research courses, in addition to Science 396 courses. BASC 396 was intended to meet that need by being aimed at students wishing to take an interdisciplinary course involving Science, but involving a professor(s) in the Faculty of Arts.

**509.2** Concerns were raised regarding the responsible instructor for BASC 396 being listed as "Coordinated by Undergraduate Research Officer" in the Course Proposal Form. Concerns were also raised about consultation with the Faculty of Arts, and about how much control Science would have with regard to Arts professors supervising students.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ronis, that the course be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**(10) GEOGRAPHY**

GEOG 217	The Canadian City Changes in title and description 3 credits	<b>AC-08-88</b>
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- 510.1** Prof. Kalacska, on behalf of Prof. Unruh, explained the changes, and said that these would take advantage of the expertise of a new faculty member.

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

**The motion carried.**

**(11) PANAMA FIELD STUDY SEMESTER AC-08-89**

- 511.1** Associate Dean Hendren said that the Panama Field Study Semester was being revised due to the retirement of a faculty member, and that a new course, HIST 510, would be offered for the Semester.

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

**The motion carried.**

***(New Course for information only)***

HIST 510	Enviro. Hist. of L. Am (Field)	<b>AC-08-90</b>
	3 credits	

**(12) INTEGRATED B.Sc./M.Sc.**

- 512.1** Associate Dean Hendren apologized for not having circulated a document for the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc., and said she would circulate it after the meeting. She said that those units (Computer Science, Mathematics & Statistics, and Physics) requiring more than four courses for their M.Sc. program should submit program changes. The GPSO had agreed that students selected for the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc. could take two graduate-level courses (two 600-level courses or one 600-level and one 700-level).

- 512.2** Dean Grant said that funding was still under negotiation. He said that he had proposed that funding would be similar to NSERC USRA for the first summer. Also, students in the program would not pay international differential fees.

- 512.3** Associate Dean Hendren said she would like the M.Sc. program changes to be submitted in time for the next Academic Committee meeting. Dean Grant added that work would soon start on the B\*/M.Sc. and B.Sc./M.Ed. programs.

**(13) DISCUSSION OF DISTINCTION AND DHL**

- 513.1** Associate Dean Hendren said that recent changes would mean that effective 2010, students graduating in the top 10% would receive the notation "Dean's Honour List" and those in the next 15% would receive the notation "Distinction," i.e., Dean's Honour List students would not graduate with Distinction. She said that a far better system would be to award Distinction to all students in the top 25% and Dean's Honour List to the top 10%, i.e., students in the top 10% would obtain both Distinction and Dean's Honour List. Under the system that would come into effect in 2010, it was not clear that Dean's Honour List was a greater honour than Distinction. The system she was proposing would remove ambiguity.

- 513.2** Associate Dean Hendren said that she would like the Academic Committee to pass a motion endorsing her proposed system. The motion would then go to the Faculty of Science, and from there to the Committee on Student Affairs.

- 513.3 After some discussion, Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ronis, that all graduating students in the top 25% receive the notation "Distinction" with those in the top 10% receiving in addition the notation "Dean's Honour List."

**The motion carried.**

(14) **CALENDAR NOTE FOR B.A. & Sc. AND B.A. MAJOR CONCENTRATION IN SOFTWARE ENGINEERING** *(for information)* **AC-08-91**

- 514.1 Associate Dean Hendren said that the Faculty of Engineering objected to the use of the words "Software Engineering" in the B.A. and the B.A. & Sc. Major Concentration in Software Engineering. Accordingly, the program description would now contain the following statement:

This major concentration provides a program of study that covers the subject commonly known as "Software Engineering". This program may be used to satisfy part of the requirements for a B.A. & Sc degree. This program does **not** lead to certification as a Professional Engineer.

(15) **B.A. & Sc. CALENDAR ENTRY: MINIMUM ARTS/SCIENCE CREDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR ARTS/SCIENCE MAJOR/MINOR CONCENTRATIONS AND MINORS** *(for information)* **AC-08-92**

- 515.1 Associate Dean Hendren explained that for the B.A. & Sc. degree, it was important that students take a balance of Science and Arts courses. The regulations described in Document AC-08-92 were designed to ensure this.

(16) **OTHER BUSINESS**

- 516.1 (i) Prof. Baker from the Department of Psychology said he would like to raise the issue of his Department providing courses for students from other faculties. In particular, some Psychology courses were required courses for Nursing and Physical and Occupational Therapy students. The numbers of such students were in the hundreds, which meant that in some cases Psychology students were not able to register in a Psychology course. Furthermore, the Department of Psychology had to pay for teaching assistants for these courses.
- 516.2 Prof. Baines from the Department of Microbiology and Immunology said that his Department had experienced pressure to change the time and content of a course to suit students from another faculty.
- 516.3 Dean Grant said that funding for units was no longer FTE-driven. He asked members to e-mail him with similar concerns to those expressed. He said he would use input from units in asking for funding for the Faculty of Science.
- 516.4 (ii) Prof. Krahe, Department of Biology, said problems were being caused in lab courses by the Course Change period lasting for two weeks. If students missed the first two weeks of a lab course, they were unable to make up the missing lab periods, whereas for lecture courses, the problem was not as severe. He wondered if the Course Change period for lab courses could be reduced to one week.
- 516.5 It was also pointed out that a number of students were registering for more credits than they would eventually take, in order to be able to pick and choose the courses that suited them. This clogged the system and could potentially result in a course being cancelled without compensation for a contract lecturer.

**516.6** Ms. Allard said that she was currently working with Enrolment Services to attempt to limit the number of credits students could register for. She said she would look into the possibility of reducing Course Change period to one week for lab courses.

There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.