

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on October 28, 2008, 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, R. Krahe, B. Nagar, P. Panangaden, D. Ronis, K. Roulet, J. Unruh, A. Wechsler, B. Wing; L. Houle; N. Antonov, A. Ashraf, W. Carroll, V. Khan; J. D'Amico.

REGRETS: Associate Dean Hendershot; J. Hwang, K. Raffensperger, M. Smaoui

GUESTS: Prof. David Green and Ms. Wendy Brett

DOCUMENTS: AC-08-12, AC-08-16 to AC-08-29
AC-08-31 to AC-08-40

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

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

The motion carried.

(2) MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2008 AC-08-16

Prof. Fabry **moved**, seconded by Prof. Baines, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

(3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute 112.1, New DEC in Computer Science and Mathematics AC-08-17

203.1 Associate Dean Hendren said she had circulated a revised version of Document AC-08-17 indicating the courses that would likely cause a delay for students attempting to take various programs with the new DEC. She asked members to check over the revised version.

**(4) REPORT ON MINOR COURSE CHANGES AC-08-18
(for information)**

204.1 Associate Dean Hendren briefly described the Report on Minor Course Changes. She mentioned that many of the changes were housekeeping, and she encouraged other units to review their courses from time to time.

(5) MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS

New course:
MATH 638 Partial Differential Equns AC-08-12
4 credits

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

The motion carried.

(6) MAJOR PROGRAM IN NEUROSCIENCE AC-08-19

206.1 Ms. Wendy Brett, Advisor for the Major Program in Neuroscience and for Cognitive Science Programs, described the various changes in the Neuroscience Program. All the changes had been approved by the three participating units.

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

The motion carried.

(7) BIOLOGY

207.1 Prof. Krahe introduced the following six Biology courses, and answered members' questions.

BIOL 310	Biodiversity and Ecosystems Changes in title, description and prerequisites	AC-08-20
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Prof. Krahe **moved**, seconded by Prof. Fabry, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

New Course:		
BIOL 316	Eukaryotic Cell Biology II 3 credits	AC-08-21

Prof. Krahe **moved**, seconded by Prof. Bennett, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

BIOL 342	Marine Biology Changes in course number [from BIOL 442], course activities and restrictions	AC-08-22
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Prof. Krahe **moved**, seconded by Prof. Wing, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

New Course:		
BIOL 418	Freshwater Invertebrate Ecol 3 credits	AC-08-23

Prof. Krahe **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ronis, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

New Course:		
BIOL 515	Advances in Aquatic Ecology 3 credits	AC-08-24

Prof. Krahe **moved**, seconded by Prof. Fabry, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.**New Course:**

BIOL 451/NRSC 451 Res:Ecol&Development in Africa
3 credits

AC-08-25

Prof. Krahe **moved**, seconded by Prof. Fabry, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.**New Course:**

REDM 405/ Natural History of East Africa
NRSC 405(Revisions–*For information only*) 3 credits

AC-08-29

207.2 Prof. David Green, Director of the Redpath Museum, introduced the above course, and explained the reasons for including the course in the Africa Field Study Semester.

Prof. Krahe **moved**, seconded by Prof. Fabry, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

207.3 In reply to a question concerning the teaching role of the Redpath Museum, Dean Grant said it was important that material that is properly biology should be taught by the Biology Department, while the Redpath Museum should teach material appropriate to its function.

207.4 Prof. Krahe described the changes in the following two Africa Field Study Semester courses and described the changes to the AFSS.

BIOL 428 Biological Diversity in Africa
Change in number [from 328], activities,
prerequisites, corequisites, restrictions

AC-08-26

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

The motion carried.

BIOL 429 East African Ecology
Change in number [from 329], activities, description,
corequisites, restrictions

AC-08-27

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

The motion carried.

28 **Africa Field Study Semester (Program Changes)** **AC-08-**

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

The motion carried.**(8) McGILL SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT**

208.1 Prof. Roulet described the various changes to the following eight MSE domains, and to the Interfaculty Program in Environment, and answered members' questions.

- B.Sc. Program Changes:	
Earth Sciences and Economics	AC-08-31
Biodiversity & Conservation	AC-08-32
Ecological Determinants of Health – Cellular	AC-08-33
Ecological Determinants of Health – Population	AC-08-34
Land Surface processes and Environmental Change	AC-08-35
Renewable Resource Management	AC-08-36
Water Environments and Ecosystems – Biological	AC-08-37
Water Environments and Ecosystems – Physical	AC-08-38
- BA&Sc Program Changes:	
Interfaculty Program in Environment	AC-08-39

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

The motion carried.

- B.Sc.(AgEnvSc) Program Changes:
For Information Only – Documents available upon request

Biodiversity & Conservation
 Ecological Determinants of health – Cellular
 Ecological Determinants of health – Population
 Land Surface processes and Environmental Change
 Renewable Resource Management
 Water Environments and Ecosystems – Biological
 Water Environments and Ecosystems – Physical

- B.A. Program Changes:
For Information Only – Documents available upon request

Ecological Determinants of health in Society
 Environment and Development
 Economics and the Earth's Environment

(9) PROPOSED B.Sc./M.Sc. INTEGRATED STREAM: UPDATE AND FAQ AC-08-40

209.1 Associate Dean Hendren thanked members for all their feedback. She said that much useful information had been obtained. Associate Dean Hendren went through and expanded on each of the questions and answers in Document AC-08-40.

209.2 Among the issues raised were:

- The use of the word "stream" to describe the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc.
- That while the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc. was aimed at the best students (i.e., Honours students), students taking a Major degree would actually have more options and opportunities to take the additional courses envisioned in the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc.
- That over the last few years, the number of applicants to graduate programs had been dropping, and the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc. would provide a means of maintaining numbers and quality of graduate students.
- That rather than try to encourage students already at McGill to take an M.Sc., the focus should be to attract graduate students from outside McGill. However, it was pointed out that the aim of the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc. was to provide students with more options, and that a parallel focus should be to attract graduate students from outside McGill.

- That the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc. would provide students with enhanced qualifications when applying to other graduate schools for Ph.D. studies.
- That the majority of students in the biomedical departments were intending a career in medicine, and not intending to do a graduate degree. Those who were accepted into graduate studies in these units were normally accepted into Ph.D. 1, and supervisors were far more interested in Ph.D. students than in M.Sc. students.
- That the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc. would be sending a message to students in the biomedical units that a career in research was a valid alternative to a career in medicine.
- That at least in the biomedical units, laboratory space, not applications from potential graduate students, was the limiting factor, and that it would be advantageous to the university to allow potential graduate students to apply to more than one unit while paying only a single fee.
- That there were resource implications for the implementation of new programs.
- That a B.Sc. should provide a broad education, whereas the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc. would promote an early specialization.
- That professors in at least one unit felt that the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc. would not be as rigorous as a regular M.Sc. However, it was pointed out that the intent was never to create two classes of M.Sc.
- That some units felt an M.Sc. should require more than, say, three graduate-level courses.

209.3 Associate Dean Hendren said that before the next meeting, she would like to draw up official documents for the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc. to create a general program that would apply to all Science units. She asked members to take Document AC-08-40 as well as the information gained from the current meeting, back to their units as an aid in creating the program.

209.4 Dean Grant said that he had realized that the 45 credits involved in an M.Sc. was more flexible than he had previously thought, and that the 45 credits could involve a variable mix of course work and research. He said that participating in the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc. would probably mean extra resources for units and for students.

(10) OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.