

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2020 at 3:00 p.m. via the Zoom Conference Application.

**PRESENT:** Vice-Dean David Stephens, Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer, Associate Dean (Student Affairs) Anthony Mittermaier; Professors Amy Blum, Huy Bui, Caroline Dufour, Maxime Denis, Benjamin Forest, Abigail Gerhold, Daryl Haggard, Barbara Hales, Greg Marczynski, Johanna Neslehova, Ana Nyzhnyk, Gillian O'Driscoll, Jeanne Paquette, Kathy Roulet, Tamara Western, Clark Verbrugge, Natalie Waters; Rohan Bhutkar, Shereen Elaidi, Armaan Fallahi, Julia Forestell, Zoya Qudsi, Sneha Shinde; Faye Hughes, Josie D'Amico.

**REGRETS:** Gabriela Moisesescu-Pareja

**DOCUMENTS:** AC-20-8, AC-20-8A, AC-20-9 to AC-20-20

Vice-Dean Stephens called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**1) Adoption of Agenda**

Prof. Haggard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Denis, that the Agenda be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**2) Minutes of 27 October 2020**

**AC-20-9**

Prof. Forest **moved**, seconded by Ms. Bhutkar, that the Minutes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**3) Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

**4) Computer Science**

**New Course:**

COMP 654

Graph Representation Learning  
4 credits

**AC-20-10**

COMP 654 will be a new course in machine learning, previously offered as a topics course.

Prof. Verbrugge **moved**, seconded by Prof. Neslehova, that the course be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

- B.Sc. Major in Computer Science - Computer Games

**AC-20-11**

Proposed Revisions: (i) COMP 308, a Required course, has been moved to the list of Complementary courses because the course is not offered every year; (ii) clarification regarding the minimum and the maximum number of total program credits for students who have been exempted from taking COMP 202.

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

**The motion carried.**

5) **Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences**

- Honours in Atmospheric Science
- Major in Atmospheric Science
- Major in Atmospheric Science and Physics

[AC-20-12](#)

[AC-20-13](#)

[AC-20-14](#)

Proposed Revisions: A Complementary course, PHYS 512, has been added to each stream in the above three programs in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences.

Prof. Dufour **moved**, seconded by Prof. Haggard, that all the above program changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

6) **Mathematics & Statistics**

**B.Sc. Program Revisions:**

- Honours in Mathematics and Computer Science

[AC-20-15](#)

Program Revisions: The Complementary course list has been revised to offer students more choices in Mathematics courses.

Prof. Neslehova **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gerhold, that the program changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

- Major in Statistics

[AC-20-16](#)

Program Revisions: Since the creation of the Major Program in Statistics several years ago, several courses in Computer Science and Statistics have been approved and are now being added to the program. Also, MATH 308 was added as it was mistakenly left out.

Prof. Neslehova **moved**, seconded by Prof. Denis, that the program changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**B.A. Program Revisions (for information only):**

- Major Concentration in Statistics
- Supplementary Minor Concentration in Statistics

[AC-20-17](#)

[AC-20-18](#)

**Graduate Program Retirements:**

- M.Sc. in Mathematics and Statistics (Thesis); Bioinformatics Option
- Ph.D. in Mathematics and Statistics (Thesis); Bioinformatics Option

[AC-20-19](#)

[AC-20-20](#)

Program Revisions: The Bioinformatics Option in the M.Sc. and Ph.D. (Thesis) degrees is being retired because (i) there has been very little interest in the Option and (ii) some courses have not been offered for a long time.

Prof. Neslehova **moved**, seconded by Prof. Forest, that the above program retirements be approved.

**The motion carried.**

Associate Dean Hundemer asked members to consider retiring the Bioinformatics Option offered by their unit if it is no longer offered. Units may reinstate this Option, if they wish to offer it in the next five years.

**7) Faculty of Science**

- (i) Assessment Policy
- (ii) Addendum to Assessment Regulations

[AC-20-8](#)  
[AC-20-8A](#)

Associate Dean Hundemer introduced two special regulations to be added to the existing Faculty of Science Assessment Policy (Document AC-20-8) for the winter 2021 and for potential subsequent remote semesters.

**Addendum to Assessment Regulations**

Special Regulation #3.1, Attendance Grades

Associate Dean Hundemer said that the purpose of the regulation was to limit the assessment weight for attendance to 5% or less. Instructors are encouraged to choose participation grades instead of attendance grades.

There was some discussion concerning the justification for a regulation for attendance grades or whether it should be left up to the instructor. During the discussion, it was suggested that there should be a distinction between attendance and participation in the policy.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Prof. Haggard, that Regulation #3.1, Attendance Grades in Document AC-20-8A, be included in the Faculty of Science Assessment Policy for winter 2021 and subsequent remote learning semesters be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

Special Regulation 3.2, 3.2.1, "No review" myCourses Quiz Option

Associate Dean Hundemer explained that the "no review" option in myCourses Quizzes prevents students from going back and forth through their exam. There have been a lot of negative responses from students because they do not have the opportunity to review their answers or look ahead before submitting their exam. TLS has posted a warning against using this option because it may go against the University Assessment Policy and the Charter of Students' Rights. Associate Provost (Teaching and Academic Programs) Christopher Buddle was amenable for Faculties to design their own regulations. The "no review" option should not be used solely to prevent cheating, but it could be used for pedagogical reasons for a small number of courses in the Faculty of Science. Associate Dean Hundemer proposed that the "no review" option will only be allowed by special permission of a Faculty committee chaired by the Associate Dean (Academic).

A lengthy discussion ensued about the drawbacks of the "no review" option and the negative feedback received from students. Several members were in favour of this option given the research studies shown in the executive document provided by the Department of Psychology.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Mr. Bhutkar, Regulations #3.2, 3.2.1, "No review" option in Document AC-20-8A, be included in the Faculty of Science Assessment Policy for winter 2021 and subsequent remote learning semesters be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**8) OTHER BUSINESS**

**- No Contest Template for Allegations of Cheating or Plagiarism on Written Work**

Associate Dean Mittermaier asked members for their comments concerning new procedures to speed up the process regarding allegations of plagiarism or cheating on written work and the “no contest” option. Some members suggested that the letter should include clear definitions and the wording should be less complicated.

There being no further business, Prof. Forest **moved**, seconded by Prof. Haggard, that the meeting be adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

**The motion carried.**