

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2019 at 3:30 p.m. in Arts Council Room, Arts 160.

**PRESENT:** Vice-Dean David Stephens, Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer, Director (Advising Services) Nicole Allard; Professors Amy Blum, Huy Bui, Oliver Coomes (in place of Ben Forest), Paul François, Barbara Hales, Greg Marczynski, Timothy Merlis, Johanna Neslehova, Ana Nyzhnyk, Jeanne Paquette, Tamara Western, David Zuroff (in place of Gillian O'Driscoll) Kathy Roulet, Clark Verbrugge; Emily Dinunzio, Keerth Raveendra, Dylan Wong; Josie D'Amico.

**REGRETS:** Professors Maxime Denis, Abigail Gerhold, Natalie Waters; Thea Lee, Julia Morales-Aguirre, Andrew Nguyen, Samantha Pritchard, Juliann Wray.

**DOCUMENTS:** AC-19-17, AC-19-20 to AC-19-31

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

**1. Adoption of Agenda**

Prof. Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Coomes, that the Agenda be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**2. Minutes of 29 October 2019**

**AC-19-20**

Ms. Roulet **moved**, seconded by Prof. Western, that the Minutes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

- Item #6, BIOL 314, Molecular Biology of Cancer

**AC-19-17**

At the last Faculty of Science meeting that was held on 12 November 2019, a member pointed out that, although the rationale for the changes to BIOL 314 stated that the scope of the course would now be broader, the course description had not been updated accordingly. Members suggested that the course be brought back to the Academic Committee for review. The course description has now been revised to reflect the broader scope.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Prof. Western, that the revised course description be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**4. Biology  
BIOL 363**

Mammalian Evolution

**AC-19-21**

Changes: number [from -463], prerequisites, restrictions  
3 credits

On behalf of Prof. Gerhold, Prof. Western described the proposed changes to BIOL 363 (from -463). The reason for the course renumbering is to encourage enrolment and to complement other courses offered by members in the Redpath Museum. The prerequisites have been modified to reflect the change in course level and the course will now be offered in the Fall to reduce conflicts with courses taught at the Redpath Museum.

Prof. Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Paquette, that the changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

5. **Earth & Planetary Sciences**

*New Course:*

EPSC 503	Advanced Structural Geology	<b>AC-19-22</b>
	3 credits	

Prof. Paquette introduced a new course, EPSC 503. The course has been offered for several years as a selected topics course; therefore, the instructor would like to offer it as a formal course.

Prof. Paquette **moved**, seconded by Prof. Blum, that the course be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

Program Revisions:

- Minor in Geochemistry	<b>AC-19-23</b>
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Prof. Paquette explained that the changes in the above Minor include the removal of several courses. In addition, a more appropriate course for the Minor in Geochemistry has been added.

Director Allard pointed out that Minor programs are available to Arts students and to students in the Major in Environment programs, and therefore, the Program Description should be modified. Associate Dean Hundemer also suggested removing the statement referring to the Minor program not overlapping with a Majors or Honours program, in case there are changes in the policies in the future.

Prof. Paquette **moved**, seconded by Prof. Blum, that the changes be approved, as described above.

**The motion carried.**

- Minor in Geology	<b>AC-19-24</b>
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Prof. Paquette said that the changes involve the addition of two new courses and the deletion of one course because it is no longer recommended for the Minor in Geology.

Prof. Paquette **moved**, seconded by Prof. Western, that the changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

Graduate Program Option Retirements:

- M.Sc. in Earth & Planetary Sciences: Environment	<b>AC-19-25</b>
- Ph.D. in Earth & Planetary Sciences: Environment	<b>AC-19-26</b>

Prof. Paquette said that the Environment Option in the above two graduate programs was being retired since there has been zero enrolment since the introduction of these programs.

Prof. Paquette **moved**, seconded by Prof. Coomes, that the above retirements of the Option be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**6. Microbiology & Immunology**

Program Revisions:

- Honours in Microbiology & Immunology

**AC-19-27**

Prof. Marczynski said that courses are being added to the Complementary list in the Honours Program in Microbiology & Immunology in order to bring them in line with the courses available to students in the Major and Liberal programs. Moreover, the research courses listed under the Complementary courses are being removed because Honours students are required to take Honours Research Project courses.

Prof. Marczynski **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hales, that the changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**7. Mathematics & Statistics**

Program Revisions:

- B.Sc. Liberal; Core Science Component (CSC) in Mathematics

**AC-19-28**

- B.Sc. Major in Mathematics

**AC-19-29**

In view of the discussion about the Liberal programs at the last Academic Committee meeting on 29 October 2019, Prof. Neslehova said that the Liberal; CSC in Mathematics was reviewed. She said that, although the number of students registered in the program is small, the program serves the students well. With reference to MATH 222 in the program outlines for both the Liberal and the Major Programs in Mathematics, students must replace MATH 222 with a Complementary course as opposed to an elective, as erroneously stated.

Prof. Neslehova **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hales, that the above changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**8. Chemistry**

Program Revisions:

- B.Sc. Honours in Chemistry; Bio-Organic

**AC-19-30**

Prof. Blum explained that the only change is to remove a course that was mistakenly listed twice in the program.

Prof. Blum **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hales, that the change be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**9. Faculty Designation**

- Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List (DMURL)

**AC-19-31**

Vice-Dean Stephens said that there had been several discussions about revising the DMURL designation at the Academic Committee meetings held on 24 September 2019

and 29 October 2019. A draft proposal for a new research graduation designation (Document #AC-19-31) had been circulated to members for discussion at the current meeting.

Associate Dean Hundemer introduced the draft proposal. The proposal is to replace the current DMURL designation, which is based on multidisciplinary research and quantity of research, with a "Dean's Undergraduate Research List (DURL)" designation that would be based solely on the quality of undergraduate research for Majors and Honours students. As previously discussed, each year every department in the Faculty of Science would receive their quota of DURL recipients, in addition to their quota of NSERC and SURA recipients. The departments would select the recipients and submit the names of the recipients to the Associate Dean (Academic) by the end of the summer or early in the Fall term. The selection process could be done by way of a poster competition, a selection/awards committee, or by the undergraduate affairs committee. Associate Dean Hundemer added that, like the DMURL designation, the DURL designation would be recorded on the students' transcripts.

Associate Dean Hundemer reminded members of the reasons that the DMURL is no longer working. The draft proposal will be brought to the Dean of Science and to a future meeting of Chairs and Directors. Associate Dean Hundemer asked members for their opinions on the draft proposal.

Members' comments, suggestions, and questions were:

- whether the DURL would be a graduation designation or a yearly designation given that a graduation designation is based on the students' entire program
- that the Department of Biology is in favour of measuring quality of research versus quantity
- that in the Department of Psychology, there are approximately 100 theses per year, and it would be extremely challenging to rank them
- that the Department of Mathematics & Statistics is in favour of maintaining the DMURL, and is in favour of the DURL, but the DMURL and the DURL should be two distinct designations
- that the DMURL and the DURL designations serve two different purposes
- that there is no longer an Undergraduate Research Conference to hold a poster competition, and the URC has been replaced with the Undergraduate Poster Showcase, which is not a competition
- that it would be unfair to rank students that do research in a different department from their majors, i.e., life sciences students
- that B.A. students registered in the four departments offering both B.A. and B.Sc. degrees are disadvantaged because B.A. students are ineligible for Science designations
- that there are not many NSERC holders in the biomedical departments; consequently, students in the life sciences would be ineligible for an NSERC summer award
- that if the DMURL is continued, it would be extremely important that there be an appropriate assessment process in place
- that eligibility for students in the Neuroscience program, and three programs in the B.A. & Sc.; Interfaculty in Environment, Interfaculty in Cognitive Science and Interfaculty in Sustainability, Science and Society, would have to be considered since B.A. & Sc. students are currently eligible for the DMURL

Summing up the discussion, Vice-Dean Stephens said logistics issues are very important, but even more significant is the issue of whether the Faculty would favour a graduation designation or a yearly designation appearing on the transcript, to award research excellency. He asked members to discuss these two issues with their departments, and to submit any comments to Associate Dean Hundemer. The logistics would be determined at a later time.

*Secretary's Note:* The DURL is a working title; the formal title is to be determined.

10. **SUS Activities**

There was no report from the SUS.

11. **Other Business**

There being no further business, Prof. Blum **moved**, seconded by Prof. Marczyński, that the meeting be adjourned.

**The motion carried.**