

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2020 at 3:00 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, Ben Forest, Abigail Gerhold, Barbara Hales, Timothy Merlis, Johanna Neslehova, Ana Nyzhnyk, Gillian O'Driscoll, Jeanne Paquette, Kathy Roulet, Clark Verbrugge, Tamara Western, Natalie Waters; Emily Dinunzio, Thea Lee; Josie D'Amico.

REGRETS: Professors Maxime Denis, Paul François, Greg Marczynski, Julia Morales-Aguirre, Andrew Nguyen, Samantha Pritchard, Keerth Raveendra, 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

Under Item #11, Other Business, the M.A.Sc. Graduate Degree Program will be discussed.

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

The motion carried.

2. Minutes of 19 November 2019

AC-19-32

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

The motion carried.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

- Item #9, Page 3, Faculty Designation (Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List - DMURL)

Vice-Dean Stephens said that there are ongoing consultations about the DMURL and it will be discussed at a future meeting of the Academic Committee.

4. Anatomy & Cell Biology

ANAT 214 (Changes: course activities, description, restrictions, calendar info) **AC-19-33**

Prof. Bui said the changes were made to reflect the current content of the course.

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

The motion carried.

ANAT 314 (Supplementary Calendar Information)

AC-19-34

Prof. Bui said that the purpose of the changes is to provide information about the course structure and semester offered in the eCalendar.

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

The motion carried.

ANAT 321 (Changes: course activities, Supplementary Calendar Information) **AC-19-35**
ANAT 365 (Changes: course activities, Supplementary Calendar Information) **AC-19-36**

Prof. Bui explained that the instructors of the above courses modified the course activities a number of years ago. The proposed revisions were necessary to formalize the current format of the course.

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

The motion carried.

In view of the above course changes that were made informally many years ago, Associate Dean Hundemer emphasized that course revisions must not be made prior to the approval of the Academic Committee. Instructors should not make such changes because it misleads students if incorrect information is included in the eCalendar.

Program Changes:

- Honours Program in Anatomy & Cell Biology **AC-19-37**

Prof. Bui described the changes to the above Honours program. The changes involved replacing a course with another one, and adding three courses to the list of Complementary courses.

Prof. Bui **moved**, seconded by Prof. O'Driscoll, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

5. **Biology**

B.A. Program Revisions:

- Minor Concentration in Science for Arts Students **AC-19-38**

Prof. Gerhold said that the changes consisted of removing the names of the program advisor and the program director and replacing them with generic titles, as well as updating and adding Complementary courses in three areas of concentrations.

Corrections to the program revision form:

- (1) include the location of the program advisor and program director
- (2) include a note about the equivalent courses, BIOL 201 or ANAT 212 or BIOC 212, stating that students may choose only one of these for credits
- (3) include consultation reports for those courses offered by other units that have been added to the program.

Prof. Gerhold **moved**, seconded by Prof. Paquette, that the changes be approved, pending consultation reports.

The motion carried.

Secretary's Note: The consultation reports were received from the relevant departments.

6. **Chemistry**

CHEM 392 (Changes: title, 2-semester option removed, course activities, description, prerequisites)

AC-19-39

Prof. Blum said that the upper-level laboratory courses in Chemistry were being completely revised in order to remove divisions between traditional subdisciplines of Chemistry, thereby making the laboratory experience more similar to how modern Chemistry is done. The course title, description, and prerequisites have all been revised to reflect these changes. Furthermore, CHEM 392 (3 credits) will no longer be taught as a spanned course, which caused logistical issues for students, and a drop-in lab has been added.

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

The motion carried.

CHEM 532 (Changes: course activities, Calendar info)

AC-19-40

Prof. Blum said that students in CHEM 532 have been dropping into the laboratory to gain experience with the instruments. Therefore, the Department of Chemistry has decided to include the drop-in laboratory component of CHEM 532 so that it can be reflected in the eCalendar.

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

The motion carried.

7. **Chemistry/Pharmacology**

New Course:

CHEM 540/PHAR 540

AC-19-41

Prof. Blum introduced a new course, CHEM 540 and PHAR 540 (cross-listed). The course will be taught by a new professor who is jointly appointed by the Department of Chemistry and the Department of Pharmacology. As a cross-listed course, students in Pharmacology and Chemistry will gain training and practice in communicating research findings and biotechnology concepts to a broad audience.

The Curriculum Committee in the Faculty of Medicine has requested that the rationale be shortened and the style of the description be modified.

As indicated in the course proposal form for CHEM 540 and PHAR 540, this course will be added to the lists of Complementary Upper Level courses both in the Major and Honours Programs in Pharmacology.

Following a short discussion concerning the assessment of the presentation in the course, Prof. Blum **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hales, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

8. **Mathematics & Statistics**

MATH 122 (Change in restrictions)

AC-19-42

MATH 133 (Changes in description, restrictions)

AC-19-43

MATH 140 (Change in restrictions)

AC-19-44

MATH 141 (Change in restrictions)

AC-19-45

MATH 150 (Change in restrictions)

AC-19-46

MATH 151 (Change in restrictions)

AC-19-47

Prof. Neslehova said that the purpose for all of the above course changes was to remove two courses (MATH 130 and MATH 131) from the restrictions due to their retirements many years ago. In addition to the restriction changes for MATH 133, the course description was updated to reflect current teaching.

Prof. Neslehova **moved**, seconded by Prof. O'Driscoll, that the above changes be approved.

The motion carried.

MATH 423 (Changes in title, description, restrictions)

AC-19-48

MATH 523 (Changes in description, prerequisites, restrictions)

AC-19-49

MATH 533 (Changes in title, description, restrictions)

AC-19-50

Prof. Neslehova described the changes to the above courses. The course description for MATH 523 has been updated along with the prerequisites and restrictions. MATH 423 and MATH 533 were being taught together due to a lack of faculty, but this method was no longer working. However, with the increase in faculty in Statistics, these two courses could be separated into two independent courses. These changes made it necessary to update the course content of both MATH 423 and MATH 533.

The following restriction was added to MATH 423: Not open to students who are taking or have taken MGSC 372.

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

The motion carried.

9. **Psychology**

New Course:

PSYC 443

AC-19-51

Prof. O'Driscoll described a new lecture course, PSYC 443, which will be taught in the professor's research area. The projected enrolment in the course is 100 students, and consultation has been conducted with the various units for possible overlap.

PSYC 443 will be added in the following programs as a Complementary course to List A:

- B.A. Honours in Psychology
- B.A. Major in Psychology
- B.A. Minor in Behavioural Neuroscience
- B.A. Joint Honours in Psychology
- B.A. & Sc. Major in Psychology
- B.Sc. Honours in Psychology
- B.Sc. Major in Psychology
- B.Sc. Liberal – Core Component in Psychology

Prof. O'Driscoll **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gerhold, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

New Course:

PSYC 539

AC-19-52

Prof. O'Driscoll explained that currently there was only one topics course in social psychology. The proposed course, PSYC 539, will allow professors to offer another topics courses in the same semester.

PSYC 539 will be added in the following programs as a Complementary course to List B:

- B.A. Honours in Psychology
- B.A. Major in Psychology
- B.A. Minor in Behavioural Neuroscience
- B.A. Joint Honours in Psychology
- B.A. & Sc. Major in Psychology
- B.Sc. Honours in Psychology
- B.Sc. Major in Psychology
- B.Sc. Liberal – Core Component in Psychology

Prof. O'Driscoll **moved**, seconded by Prof. Neslehova, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

10. Computer Science

COMP 251 (Change in corequisite, Supplementary Calendar Information) **AC-19-53**

Prof. Verbrugge said that the change in corequisite for COMP 251 was necessitated by the retirement of MATH 363 in the previous year. MATH 363 was administered by the Faculty of Engineering, and COMP 251 is included in a number of programs.

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

The motion carried.

COMP 302 (Change in prerequisites) **AC-19-54**

Prof. Verbrugge said that prerequisites have been added to COMP 302 to ensure students have sufficient mathematical background.

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

The motion carried.

11. Other Business

New Master of Arts and Science Graduate Degree Program (Draft):

Vice-Dean Stephens said that a draft proposal for a new M.A.Sc. graduate degree program between the Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Science was being brought to the Academic Committee meeting for general discussion. He said that the proposal was being discussed in the Faculty of Arts as well.

Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson introduced the proposal. She said that the inspiration behind this program was the historic large gift presented to McGill by the McCall MacBaine Foundation. Following the announcement of this gift, there was a mention in the press that McGill would be developing a new Master of Arts and Science degree program that could potentially be of interest to the Foundation. Vice-Dean Stephens, Associate Dean (Research and Graduate Education) Tabitha Sparks, Faculty

of Arts, and Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson have initiated a process of reflection about what this program would look like and how it could be made into a meaningful program that would be interesting not only to the McCall MacBaine Scholars, but also to a broader audience. With contributions from Associate Dean Sparks, the decision was made to step away from the idea of tying the disciplines together and instead explore issues that lie at the intersection of Arts and Science and questions that benefit from contributions from both Arts and Science. With that in mind, this proposal was developed. The program will be structured in such a way that students will earn most of their credits (33 credits out of 45) as a cohort; this structure is intended to strengthen students' identity as a group and to allow for peer-to-peer support among a group with diverse backgrounds to help facilitate the integration of concepts from both arts and science. The remainder of their credits will be taken from a list of existing Complementary courses; this element of the program structure results from practical considerations, in that it makes use of existing courses, but there is also an intentional side to it in that students will benefit by having connections across the university. Also, this element will be valuable to the program because ideas from the Complementary courses, as well as ideas the students are developing, will spill over into the cohort. A support mechanism has been built into the program, in recognition of the fact that students will have diverse backgrounds. For example, there will be additional tutorial sessions for the courses to provide background material. The project course sequence is also very intentionally designed to have the first semester address a topic that could potentially be inspiration for a project. In the second semester, the students will develop proposals for their final research projects, which will be carried out during the summer semester.

Vice-Dean Stephens said that some departments will be contacted for consultations in relation to the Complementary courses and the new core courses in the program. Vice-Dean Stephens then opened the floor for discussion.

In response to a member, Associate Dean Nilson said that it has not yet been determined who will be teaching the core courses, but gave some examples. She added that because of the scope of the McCall MacBaine gift, it is anticipated that there will be resources. Responding to another member, Vice-Dean Stephens said that the list of Complementary courses is by no means exhaustive. Another member remarked that the proposed program was very appealing.

In closing, Vice-Dean Stephens said that it may be necessary to hold a special meeting of the Academic Committee, during which a formal proposal will be brought for approval, or at the very latest, a proposal will be brought to the next scheduled Academic Committee meeting on 25 February 2020.

There being no further business, Prof. Hales **moved**, seconded by Prof. Western, that the meeting be adjourned at 4 p.m.

The motion carried.