

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2021 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, Eric Galbraith, Abigail Gerhold, Daryl Haggard, Barbara Hales, Greg Marczynski, Johanna Neslehova, Ana Nyzhnyk, Gillian O'Driscoll, Kathy Roulet, Clark Verbrugge, Natalie Waters; Rohan Bhutkar, Shereen Elaidi, Armaan Fallahi, Julia Forestell, Gabriela Moisescu-Pareja, Zoya Qudsi, Sneha Shinde; Faye Hughes, Josie D'Amico.

DOCUMENTS: AC-20-65 to AC-20-75

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

1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Item 8, Computer Science, COMP 611, new course, will be considered after Item #5, Microbiology & Immunology.

Prof. Forest **moved**, seconded by Mr. Bhutkar, that the amended Agenda be approved.

The motion carried.

2) MINUTES OF 16 FEBRUARY 2021

AC-20-65

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

The motion carried.

3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

4) BIOLOGY

Graduate Option Retirements:

- M.Sc. in Biology (Thesis), Bioinformatics Option

AC-20-66

- Ph.D. in Biology (Thesis), Bioinformatics Option

AC-20-67

Prof. Gerhold explained that the Bioinformatics Option for the M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Biology (Thesis) was being retired because some of the Option courses have not been offered for several years.

Prof. Gerhold **moved**, seconded by Prof. Haggard, that the retirement of the Option be approved.

The motion carried.

5) MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY

New Course:

MIMM 390

SEA-PHAGES: Phage Discovery
3 credits

AC-20-68

New Course:

MIMM 391

SEA-PHAGES: Genome Annotation
3 credits**AC-20-69**

Prof. Marczynski described the above two new Complementary courses in virology techniques and bioinformatics. MIMM 390, a hands-on laboratory course, and MIMM 391, a bioinformatics course where students would be using different software, are two courses that are lacking in the Department's undergraduate curriculum. These courses had been previously offered as MIMM 396 course and were very successful. Prof. Jasmin Chahal attended the meeting to answer members' questions.

Prof. Marczynski **moved**, seconded by Prof. Haggard, that the above two courses be adopted.

The motion carried.

6) EARTH & PLANETARY SCIENCES**New Course:**

EPSC 525

Microbiology of Earth System
3 credits**AC-20-70**

Prof. Galbraith introduced a new Complementary course, EPSC 525, for the Major in Geology, Honours in Planetary Sciences, Major, and Honours in Earth System Science programs. EPSC 525 is an interdisciplinary course looking at microbes as organisms within the environment and their interactions with biology chemical cycles across a range of timescales and contexts. Additionally, the course had already been offered as a slot course.

Prof. Galbraith **moved**, seconded by Prof. Dufour, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

New Course:

EPSC 540

Crustal Rheology
3 credits**AC-20-71**

Prof. Galbraith introduced a new course (EPSC 540) in crustal rheology for graduate students and senior undergraduate students. The course has previously been taught as a topics course, and was now being presented for adoption as a regular course.

Prof. Galbraith **moved**, seconded by Ms. Waters, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

Course Retirement:

EPSC 580

Aqueous Geochemistry
3 credits**AC-20-72**

Due to the retirement of the course instructor, EPSC 580 was being retired.

Prof. Galbraith **moved**, seconded by Ms. Waters, that the course retirement be approved.

The motion carried.

7) ATMOSPHERIC & OCEANIC SCIENCES/EARTH & PLANETARY SCIENCES/GEOGRAPHY

Program Revisions:

- Major in Earth System Science
- Honours in Earth System Science

AC-20-73
AC-20-74

Prof. Galbraith described the revisions to the Major and Honours Programs in Earth System Science. The changes were mainly housekeeping in nature: a number of Complementary courses have been added; courses that have been retired or not offered for several years have been removed, and several added, providing timetable flexibility.

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

The motion carried.

8) COMPUTER SCIENCE

New Course:

COMP 611 Mathematical Tools for Computer Science
3 credits

AC-20-75

Prof. Verbrugge said that COMP 611 will be a course on mathematical thinking in the context of computer science. This course will fill in some of the gaps for students coming from varied backgrounds into the graduate programs, and it had been given as a 700-level topics course proving to be very popular. The instructor, Prof. David Rolnick, attended the meeting and answered members' questions.

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

The motion carried.

9) OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, Prof. Denis **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gerhold, that the meeting be adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

The motion carried.