

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2021 at 2:30 p.m. via the Zoom Conference Application.

PRESENT: Vice-Dean David Stephens, Associate Dean (Academic) Axel Hundemer, Peter Barry (Chief Academic Advisor); Professors Amy Blum, Huy Bui, Maxime Denis, Benjamin Forest, Barbara Hales, Daniel Kirshbaum (replacing Caroline Dufour), Kim Metera (replacing Daryl Haggard), Ana Nyzhnyk, Jeanne Paquette, Kathy Roulet, Clark Verbrugge, Natalie Waters; Claire Braaten, Melissa Dunn, Samantha Gorle, Alexandra Mircescu, Yufeng Peng, Emaan Qazi; Faye Hughes, Josie D'Amico.

REGRETS: Professors Jennifer Bartz, Greg Marczynski, Johanna Neslehova.

GUESTS: Dean R. Bruce Lennox, Dr. Agitha Thanabalasuriar; Mr. Ryan Bouma

DOCUMENTS: AC-21-30 to AC-21-58

Vice-Dean Stephens called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Item # 11, MIMM 510/PHAR 510 (new), will be considered after Item #3. Also, Dean Lennox will be attending the current meeting to give some background on Item # 4, FSCI 198 (new course).

Prof. Forest **moved**, seconded by Ms. Waters, that the amended Agenda be approved.

The motion carried.

2. Minutes of 19 October 2021

AC-21-30

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

The motion carried.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

4. Faculty of Science

New Course:

FSCI 198

The Climate Crisis and Actions
3 credits

AC-21-31

Vice-Dean Stephens gave a brief background about the approval process of the new course, FSCI 198. At the current meeting, Dean Lennox will provide some background on the concept of FSCI 198, followed by a discussion. FSCI 198 will be brought back for discussion and approval at the Academic Committee meeting on 11 January 2022 with the necessary consultation reports.

Dean Lennox said that the need for the course was identified in parallel with McGill's considerable efforts in sustainability. As stated in McGill's Strategic Academic Plan 2017-2022, no university can lead globally in the 21st century without putting sustainability at the Center of its operations, research, and teaching.

He said that following discussions with various committees and stakeholders, there was recognition that there was a need for a 100-level course with no prerequisites to students in any program at McGill, using the World of Chemistry courses as a benchmark for FSCI 198. The Faculty of Science will serve as the steward for developing such a broad-reaching course. The course will be given remotely with principal lecturers and guest lecturers, and it would not be a typical lecture course based on the assessment of the lectures. Instead, the lectures would be for knowledge transfer and for bringing students into a state where they would evaluate what was described in the sustainability and climate change problems. Some examples are how data is used, the basis of models and modeling, how these are communicated in the public space, and how these affect political policy and public understanding. The goal of the course is that it would be a gateway for the different programs available in the B.Sc. degree. Dean Lennox answered several members' questions. Any comments or questions may be directed to josie.damico@mcgill.ca or Associate Dean (Academic) axel.hundemer@mcgill.ca.

5. B.A. & Sc. & B.Sc. Program Changes in Cognitive Science

- Honours in Cognitive Science

AC-21-32

- Interfaculty Program in Cognitive Science

AC-21-33

Mr. Ryan Bouma, Interdisciplinary Program Advisor for Cognitive Science, said that the lists of Complementary courses were being updated to reflect new courses offered by various units (Biology, Computer Science, Neuroscience, Psychology) to offer more choices.

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

The motion carried.

B.Sc. Minor in Cognitive Science

AC-21-34

Mr. Ryan explained that several Computer Science Complementary courses had been removed because there were too many prerequisites, and thus completing the Minor was challenging. Similar to the Honours and Interfaculty Programs, students may take any 300-level and above courses in Linguistics. Also, the list of Philosophy Complementary courses has been expanded to offer students more choices.

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

The motion carried.

6. B.A. & Sc. Program Changes in Sustainability, Science and Society

- Honours in Sustainability, Science and Society

AC-21-35

- Interfaculty Program in Sustainability, Science and Society

AC-21-36

Prof. Forest said that the Honours and Interfaculty Programs in Sustainability, Science and Society (SSS) had not been updated since its creation in 2010. The proposed revisions include adding courses suggested by students and faculty members; removing courses no longer offered or not regularly taught; moving Required and Complementary courses allowing more flexibility in completing the programs, and adding a recently approved course (GEOG 401) as a Required course.

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

The motion carried.

7. Bieler School of Environment

- B.Sc. Major Environment, Ecological Determinants of Health–Cellular **AC-21-37**
- B.Sc. Major Environment, Ecological Determinants of Health–Population **AC-21-38**

For Information Only:

- B.Science (Agricultural & Environmental Sciences) (B.Sc.(Ag.Env.Sc.)
Major Environment, Ecological Determinants of Health - Cellular
- B.Science (Agricultural & Environmental Sciences) (B.Science (Ag.Env.Sc.))
Major Environment, Ecological Determinants of Health - Population

Ms. Roulet said the changes to the B.Sc. Major in Environment, Ecological Determinants of Health Domain; Cellular and Population Streams, involved mainly housekeeping changes; addition and removal of courses, with one Required course (GEOG 403) being changed to Complementary, since the course is infrequently taught.

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

The motion carried.

8. Computer Science

New Course:

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| COMP 555 | Software Privacy | AC-21-39 |
| | 4 credits | |

Prof. Verbrugge introduced a new Complementary course in software privacy that will complement existing course offerings in software engineering. COMP 555 will be added to the B.Sc. Major and Honours in Software Engineering, Ph.D. in Computer Science, and the M.Sc. in Computer Science (Thesis and non-thesis) programs.

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

The motion carried.

9. Chemistry

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| CHEM 213 | Introductory Physical Chemistry 1: Thermodynamics | AC-21-40 |
| | Changes in prerequisites, restrictions | |
| | 3 credits | |

Prof. Blum explained that while it was preferable that students take PHYS 142 (calculus based course) as the prerequisite for CHEM 213, students have been permitted to take PHYS 102 (non-calculus course); therefore, PHYS 102 was included as one of the prerequisites representing the formalization of current practice. The restriction, CHEM 223, was being removed since the course was last offered in 2017.

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

The motion carried.

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| CHEM 253 | Introductory Physical Chemistry Laboratory | AC-21-41 |
| | Changes: title, corequisites, restrictions, supplemental
Calendar information | |
| | 1 credit | |

Prof. Blum said that CHEM 253, a one-credit laboratory course, was required for students in the B.A. & Sc. Major Concentration in Chemistry. However, prior to revisions to the B.Eng. and B.Sc. Minor Program in Chemistry, CHEM 253 was also a required course for

these programs. The proposed restriction would permit only B.A. & Sc. students to take CHEM 253. Also, the corequisites and eCalendar information were being revised to reflect the current status and the course title.

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

The motion carried.

CHEM 302	Introductory Organic Chemistry 3 Changes in prerequisites 3 credits	AC-21-42
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After explaining that the course material in the prerequisite course, BIOL 112, was not required, Prof. Blum **moved**, seconded by Prof. Denis, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

CHEM 503	Drug Discovery Changes in restrictions 3 credits	AC-21-43
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Prof. Blum said that CHEM 503 was restricted to U3 students and graduate students, and with the permission of the instructor. The course instructor would like to remove these restrictions to simplify course registration.

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

The motion carried.

- Honours in Chemistry		AC-21-44
- Major in Chemistry		AC-21-45
Program Option Retirements:		
- Honours in Chemistry – Atmosphere & Environment		AC-21-46
- Honours in Chemistry – Materials		AC-21-47
- Honours in Chemistry – Measurement		AC-21-48
- Major in Chemistry – Atmosphere & Environment		AC-21-49
- Major in Chemistry – Materials		AC-21-50
- Major in Chemistry – Measurement		AC-21-51

Prof. Blum described the modifications to the Honours and Major Programs in Chemistry. She said the Department of Chemistry also offers many program options with very low enrollment. Instead of simply retiring the program options, the proposed revisions introduce streams and combine the options into the main Honours and Major Programs in Chemistry. This would be less confusing for students and simpler to administer. The program options would be retired.

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

The motion carried.

10. Psychology

Program Option Retirement:

- Ph.D. in Psychology – Psychosocial Oncology		AC-21-52
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The Psychosocial Oncology Option was being retired since it has not been offered in several years.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Ms. Mircescu, that the retirement be approved.

The motion carried.

11. Microbiology & Immunology, Pharmacology & Therapeutics

New Cross-listed Courses:

MIMM 510/PHAR 510	New Advances in Antimicrobial Drugs	AC-21-53
	3 credits	

Prof. Ajitha Thanabalasuriar, the course instructor of MIMM 510/PHAR 510, introduced and described the proposed course. The course will be addressing new advances in antimicrobial drugs from both sides, i.e., the immunology and the pharmacological side.

Prof. Hales **moved**, seconded by Prof. Forest, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

12. Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences

- Honours in Atmospheric Science	AC-21-54
- Major in Atmospheric Science	AC-21-55
- Liberal Program: Core Science Component in Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences	AC-21-56
- Joint Major in Atmospheric Science & Physics	AC-21-57
- Diploma in Meteorology	AC-21-58

Prof. Kirshbaum said the only revision to the above programs was to include ATOC 548 as a Complementary course in the Liberal Program, Joint Major in Atmospheric Science and Physics, and the Diploma in Meteorology. Also, ATOC 548 was added under the Weather Analysis and Forecasting Stream in the Honours and Major Programs in Atmospheric Science.

Prof. Kirshbaum **moved**, seconded by Ms. Mircescu, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

13. Other Business

Vice-Dean Stephens thanked members of the Academic Committee and wished everyone a happy holiday.

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

The motion carried.