

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on 25 September, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. in Arts Council Room, Arts #160.

PRESENT: Associate Dean Axel Hundemer (Academic), Director Nicole Allard (Advising Services), Associate Dean (Education) Tamara Western; Professors Huy Bui, Maxime Denis, Gail Chmura, Andrew Cumming, Michael Hendricks, Greg Marczynski, Timothy Merlis, Jeanne Paquette, Kathy Roulet, Samuel Seawall (in place of Amy Blum), Clark Verbrugge; Natalie Waters; Riley Bowker, Reem Mandil, Kate Noseworthy, Michael Ogundeji, Elya Quesnel, Simon Rahman; Lina Alvarez, Josie D'Amico.

REGRETS: Dean Bruce Lennox, Professors Barbara Hales, Johanna Neslehova, Ana Nyzhnyk, Gillian O'Driscoll.

DOCUMENTS: AC-17-117, AC-18-1 to AC-18-7

On behalf of Dean Lennox, Associate Dean Hundemer welcomed members to the first Academic Committee meeting of the 2018-2019 academic year, and called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. He asked members to introduce themselves.

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

The motion carried.

(2) MINUTES OF 24 APRIL 2018

AC-17-117

Prof. Paquette **moved**, seconded by Ms. Waters, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

(3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes..

(4) Internship & Field Studies Office

- New Internship Length Requirement

AC-18-1

Currently, to be recognized by the Faculty of Science for an internship, a student must be hired as full-time and for a minimum of 14 weeks (FSCI 200 or FSCI 300, Industrial Practicum 1 & 2), or for a minimum of 8 months for the Internship Year in Science. The proposal is to reduce the number of weeks to 12 (from 14) for Science students, which would bring it in line with industry practices.

Director Allard **moved**, seconded by Associate Dean (Education) Western, that the length requirement for the internship be changed to 12 weeks.

The motion carried.

(5) PSYCHOLOGY

PSYC 541

Multilevel Modelling
Change in prerequisite
3 credits

AC-18-2

An additional prerequisite course (PSYC 536, Correlational Techniques) was included to better prepare undergraduate students for PSYC 541.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Director Allard, that the change be approved.

The motion carried.

(6) COMPUTER SCIENCE

Course & M.Sc. Option Retirements

COMP 669/COMP 669D1/D2	CSE Seminar 1 credit	AC-18-3
–	M.Sc. in Computer Science (Thesis); Computational Science & Engineering Option (CSE)	AC-18-4

COMP 669 was open to students in the M.Sc. in Computer Science; Computational Science & Engineering Option (CSE). However, since COMP 669 has not been offered for a number of years, both COMP 669 and the M.Sc. in Computer Science; Computational Science & Engineering Option are being retired.

Prof. Verbrugge **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hendricks, that the above course and program retirements be approved.

The motion carried.

Associate Dean (Education) Western commented that, due to the proliferation of courses and programs, the University was in favour of retiring courses and programs with low or zero enrolment. Associate Dean Hundemer echoed Associate Dean Western's comments and added that it was good practice for units to review their course and program offerings every couple of years.

(7) CHEMISTRY

CHEM 429	Chem of Energy, Storage & Util Changes: number [from CHEM 319], prerequisites, restrictions 3 credits	AC-18-5
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CHEM 429 (previously CHEM 319) will be taught by a new instructor. The renumbering of CHEM 429 will reflect the new material covered in the course that will be suitable primarily to U3 undergraduate students. The additional prerequisites will attract a broader audience, including students from different disciplines.

Prof. Sewall **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hendricks, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

The following course was postponed to a future Academic Committee Meeting:

CHEM 702	Assessment 2 Change in title 0 credits	AC-18-6
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After some discussion about the proposed course title change for CHEM 702, Assesment 2, in that a more specific title would be better suited, e.g., Progress Assessment 2, it was decided to postpone the approval of CHEM 702, while simultaneously reviewing the course title for CHEM 688.

(8) **S/U GRADES**

AC-18-7

Director Allard reported that, although there was no formal proposal at the last meeting of the Enrolment and Student Advisory Committee (ESAC), the student members were interested in creating a proposal to allow students to opt out of the S/U option after the grade is granted. For elective courses only, Director Allard explained that students could choose the S/U grading for up to 10% of their total degree credits completed at McGill (maximum of 9 credits for a 90-credit program, and 12 credits for a 120-credit program). The way it works is that students choose the S/U option on Minerva during the Add/Drop period. Courses with final grades of “S” or “U” are not included in GPA calculations and do not count towards their major or minor requirements. Students may not opt out of the S/U grade after the Add/Drop deadline. Director Allard asked members for their opinions on allowing students to opt out of S/U grade after the grade was granted.

Some of the points raised were:

- That allowing students to opt out of the S/U option after the grade is granted could benefit students since some students do extremely well in elective courses.
- That only one course should be allowed to be converted back to a letter grade.
- That his main objection to opting out of the S/U grading is that it devalues the whole concept of the S/U option. The other concern is that to future employers, etc., a “S” grade may be looked at as a low grade.
- That there should be a time limit for opting out of S/U grade, i.e., no later than six weeks after the grade is granted, or two weeks prior to final examinations.
- That S/U grades are unacceptable for accreditation.

Director Allard thanked members for their feedback, and said that once a proposal is made available, she would bring it back to a future Academic Committee meeting.

(9) **SUS ACTIVITIES**

The President of the Science Undergraduate Society (SUS), Ms. Reem Mandil, gave the following report, and answered members' questions.

1. Academic Events

1.1. Graduate and Professional Schools Fair

1.1.1. Tuesday, November 6th 2018 at New Residence Hall

1.1.2. Dozens of schools showcase their grad programs to students

1.2. Academic Events Committee

1.2.1. Plans academic related events throughout the year such as writing workshops, how to get involved in research, wine and cheeses, etc.

1.3. Academia Week - February 2019

1.3.1. A week-long event of academic programming featuring workshops, speakers, lab tours, research funding information, auctions, etc.

1.4. Redbooks

1.4.1. An online source of compiled information and resources regarding graduate schools

2. SUS Funds

2.1. Ambassador Fund

2.1.1. Financial aid to participate in academic conferences

2.2. Working on returning the Scholarship Fund

3. SUS Services

3.1. McGill Science Undergraduate Research Journal (MSURJ)

3.1.1. Peer-reviewed journal devoted to undergraduate work from any university

3.1.2. Volume XIII out now

3.2. Peer Tutoring Services

3.2.1. Pairing of students with those previously successful in a course

3.2.2. Predominantly U0 courses

(10) OTHER BUSINESS

Associate Dean Hundemer asked members to consult him prior to submission if units are proposing a new program. Also, in order for a new program to be reflected in the first edition of the 2019-2020 eCalendar, the program proposal should be considered at the next AC meeting scheduled for 30 October 2018.

There being no further business, Director Allard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hendricks, that the meeting be adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

The motion carried.