

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. in Arts Council Room, Arts 160.

**PRESENT:** Associate Dean Axel Hundemer (Acting Chair), Director Nicole Allard (Acting Vice-Chair), Professors Huy Bui, Gail Chmura, Chantal Grignon (in place of Barbara Hales), Michael Hendricks, Michael Langer, Greg Marczynski, Timothy Merlis, Anthony Mittermaier, Johanna Neslehova, Ana Nyzhnyk, Jeanne Paquette, Kenneth Ragan, Kathy Roulet, Debra Titone (in place of Gillian O'Driscoll); Simona Bene Watts, Riley Bowker, Nathaniel Leitao, Alexandra McCallum, Candace Yang; Lina Alvarez, Josie D'Amico.

**REGRETS:** Dean Bruce Lennox, Natalie Waters, Lia Huo, Michael Wolman.

**GUESTS:** Prof. Jonathan Britt (Psychology)

**DOCUMENTS: AC-16-76, AC-17-1 to AC-17-18**

In the absence of Dean Lennox, Interim Associate Dean Hundemer (replacing Tamara Western) welcomed new and continuing members to the first Academic Committee meeting of the year. He called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., and asked members to introduce themselves.

**(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Items #5, #6, #8, were considered before Item #4, COGS 444 (A-17-1).

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

**The motion carried.**

**(2) MINUTES OF 25 APRIL, 2017**

Director Allard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hendricks, that the Minutes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**(3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

- 103.1 Minutes 805.3 to 805.6, ANAT 381 (Change in prerequisites [AC-16-71])**  
Prof. Bui said that at the Academic Committee meeting of 25 April, 2017, there was some concern that, by removing one of two prerequisite courses (BIOL 202) for ANAT 381, students would not have a sufficient background in genetics. After discussion with the instructor, Prof. Bui said that the instructor agreed not to remove BIOL 202 as a prerequisite course for ANAT 381.

**(4) COGNITIVE SCIENCE**

COGS 444, 444D1/D2, 444N1/N2  
Honours Research  
Change in description  
6 credits

**AC-17-1**

**104.1** Director Allard said the course description change was mainly due to the restructuring of the B.A. & Sc. Interfaculty & Honours Programs in Cognitive Science (approved at the Academic Committee meeting held on 24 November, 2015). The programs no longer require two streams and two supervisors; and thus, the change in description was in response to this, and in line with current practice.

Director Allard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Langer, that the changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**(5) PHARMACOLOGY**

Program Changes:

- Major in Pharmacology **AC-17-2**
- Honours in Pharmacology **AC-17-3**

**105.1** On behalf of Prof. Hales, Ms. Chantal Grignon, Undergraduate Advisor in the Department of Pharmacology & Therapeutics, described the above program changes. She said a newly approved course, COMP 204, designed for students in the life sciences, was added to the Major and Honours Programs in Pharmacology. To provide students with greater choices in U3, additional courses were included in the list of Complementary Upper-Level Courses. Also, CHEM 382 was removed from the list since it is no longer offered.

**105.2** Director Allard pointed out that the statement in both program outlines “3 credits, one of (must be taken in Year 1)” cannot be enforced, and it should be rewritten. She suggested the following:

“3 credits, one of (**highly recommended** in Year 1)”

Prof. Chmura **moved**, seconded by Director Allard, that the above program changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**(6) GEOGRAPHY**

B.Sc. Program Changes:

- Major in Geography **AC-17-4**
- Honours in Geography **AC-17-5**
- Liberal Core Science Component in Geography **AC-17-6**
- Minor in Geography **AC-17-7**

**106.1** Prof. Chmura said the Major Program in Geography had been revised in Winter 2017, however, GEOG 530 (Global Land and Water Resources) was mistakenly left out of the list of Geography Approved Courses. The Honours Program in Geography was being modified to bring it in line with the revised Major. The Liberal Program in Geography was also being modified to reflect the changes in the Major. Two new Complementary set of courses were added to broaden the program foci. The proposed changes in the Minor in Geography will allow more flexibility and simultaneously allow a wider selection of courses to better complement the student's major program. The number of Required courses were reduced and the list of Complementary courses was increased.

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

**The motion carried.**

**(7) MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS**

MATH 700	PhD Comprehensive Exam Part A Change in title Credits: 0	<b>AC-17-8</b>
MATH 701	PhD Comprehensive Exam Part B Change in title Credits: 0	<b>AC-17-9</b>

**107.1** Prof. Neslehova said the Department of Mathematics & Statistics is formalizing the proposed course title changes to reflect the type of examinations.

Prof. Chmura **moved**, seconded by Prof. Mittermaier, that the changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**The Ph.D. in Psychology; Behavioural Neuroscience Option will be Tabled to the Next Academic Committee Meeting.**

**(8) PSYCHOLOGY**

Ph.D. in Psychology; Behavioural Neuroscience Option	<b>AC-17-10</b>
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**108.1** Prof. Debra Titone, Graduate Program Director, Department of Psychology, introduced the above new graduate program option in Behavioural Neuroscience (BNS). She said that due to the Department's long-standing strengths in the discipline of BNS, and the demand from psychology students, the Department would like to expand and formalize the program with a BNS Option. The new Option would provide students advanced training in the area of BNS.

**108.2** Prof. Jonathan Britt, Department of Psychology, said that students will be required to take two courses, and the courses will be taught by different faculty members in the Department of Psychology. Prof. Titone added that although it was not explicitly specified in the program proposal form, two new required courses will be created specifically for the BNS Option. She said that the program proposal will be revised to reflect the new course requirements. She welcomed any suggestions from the Academic Committee to improve and strengthen the proposal.

**108.3** Associate Dean Hundemer said that the proposal was not up for approval at the current meeting since the program proposal needed to be revised and brought back to the next Academic Committee meeting, together with the two new BNS course proposals. He asked members for comments and suggestions.

**108.4** In reply to a member, Prof. Titone said that the courses were intended for psychology students and not for students in the Integrated Program in Neuroscience. The two new courses will focus on behavioural psychology.

**108.5** Associate Dean (Graduate Education) Laura Nilson said that some programs include activities that were not typically a course, but rather, a seminar series

(and sometimes called a pro-seminar) or a workshop. She said that to formalize the courses, courses must have course numbers, and the courses may be weighted at 0 credit or 1. It was important to emphasize the value-added BNS Option relative to the standard psychology program. Associate Dean Nilson pointed out that for any new programs/options, the admission requirements must be included in the New Program Proposal form (Box 4.0, Rationale). Also, in the Rationale, a statement indicating that the Department has reviewed all their existing programs that may have low enrolment.

<b>(9)</b>	<b><u>CHEMISTRY</u></b>		
	CHEM 115	Acc Gen Chem: Giants in Sci Course retirement 4 credits	<b>AC-17-11</b>
	CHEM 183	World of Chem: Drugs Removal of restriction 3 credits	<b>AC-17-12</b>
	CHEM 267	Intro Chemical Analysis Change in prerequisites 3 credits	<b>AC-17-13</b>
	CHEM 367	Instrumental Analysis 1 Change in prerequisites 3 credits	<b>AC-17-14</b>
	CHEM 396	Undergraduate Research Project Change in restriction 3 credits	<b>AC-17-15</b>
	CHEM 400	Independent Study in Chemistry Change in restriction 1 credit	<b>AC-17-16</b>
	CHEM 493, 493D1/D2	Advanced Physical Chem Lab Changes: description, prerequisites 2 credits	<b>AC-17-17</b>

**109.1** Prof. Mittermaier described the above course changes. He said that CHEM 115 was being retired since it has never been offered. The rest of the changes in the above courses are mainly housekeeping in nature due to the renumbering of course prerequisites, restrictions, and description.

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

**The motion carried.**

**(10) SUPPLEMENTAL EXAMINATIONS **AC-17-18****

**110.1** Associate Dean Hundemer said he would like to have a preliminary discussion concerning supplemental examinations. He said that statistics show that students writing supplemental examinations perform poorly, and that he wanted to draw members' attention to this issue.

**110.2** Associate Dean Hundemer presented statistics from Fall 2011 to Winter 2016 on the results of supplemental examinations. There were approximately 2,000 supplemental examinations written over this period. The failure rate was very close to 30% and a GPA of 1.97, which is borderline Unsatisfactory Standing (2.00 GPA for Satisfactory Standing). The statistics show that after the original course grade of "F", the failure rate was close to 40%, with a GPA of 1.72, and after the original grade of "D", the failure rate was 21%, with a GPA of 2.17.

- 110.3** Associate Dean Hundemer said that students do not perform better in higher level courses. In 100-level courses, the failure rate was almost 29.8%, with a GPA of 1.99. In 200-level courses, the failure rate was 31%, with a GPA of 1.91. For the 300-level courses, the failure rate was 27.2%, with a GPA of 2.02. The statistics show that freshman students do better. He said it seemed somewhat unfair to expect students to do well on supplemental examinations, after having failed the course. Are we setting students up for failure?
- 110.4** The supplemental examination grade does not replace the final exam grade and does not change the final grade in the course. The original grade for the course will remain permanently on the transcript. If a student fails the supplemental examination, both failure grades will appear on the transcript and both grades will count towards the GPA. Students can register to write supplemental examinations, but are not penalized if they do not show up for the examinations. Only about 48% of students actually write supplemental examinations.
- 110.5** Associate Dean Hundemer said the question was how to deal with supplemental examinations given the statistics. He pointed out that some faculties such as Agricultural & Environmental Sciences, Engineering, Management, and Music, do not offer supplemental examinations. The Faculties that offer supplemental examinations are Arts, Education and Science. He would like members' comments and suggestions on how to improve students' success rate. Associate Dean Hundemer said that some of the options to consider may be:
- Option 1:** No longer offer supplemental examinations
- Option 2:** Students with "F" grades in a course should not be allowed to write supplemental examinations, whereas students with "D" grades could be allowed to write supplemental examinations.
- Option 3:** Restrict supplemental examinations for students with a GPA of 2.5 and above. Currently, students are granted permission to write supplemental examinations with a GPA of 2.00. This option would not be a reasonable option for U1 students.
- Option 4:** Restrict students to no more than two or three supplemental examinations during their academic studies.
- 110.6** Director Allard said that students have to be in Satisfactory Standing (or 2.00 GPA) in order to register for supplemental examinations. Students are allowed to register for a maximum of two supplemental examinations per term. She pointed out that the supplemental examination grade does not replace the original grade in the course on the transcript. Currently, students are allowed to repeat a failed course once, and retake the supplemental examination. If students fail the examination, they could potentially have four failing grades on their record. This would have a big impact on the students' academic record. Director Allard said supplemental examinations are a good idea for strong students. She emphasized that students are advised about the risk of writing supplemental examinations.
- 110.7** Another member said that in his experience, when a student studied very hard the student received a grade of "C," which enabled the student to graduate. For graduating students, it would be unfair to not offer students a second chance. Associate Dean Hundemer said that 3% of applicants achieve a grade of "A".

- 110.8** Director Allard said that she would like to examine students' performance when they repeat a course versus when they write the supplemental examination. Do students get a better grade when they retake the course? Director Allard said that she would have the report available at a future meeting.
- 110.9** In reply to a member, Director Allard said that information on the pros and cons of writing supplemental examinations and statistics for supplemental examination results, will be posted on the web. Also, this information will be circulated to all science instructors and advisors.
- 110.10** There was some discussion on the timing of supplemental examinations. Currently, students writing supplemental exams for Fall courses write the exam two days after the April final examination period, and students writing supplemental examinations for Winter term courses write the exam at the end of August. Would students do better if supplemental examinations were held about one month after the December final examination period? It will be interesting to see the results of the supplemental examinations to be held for the first time during the Winter 2018 study break.
- 110.11** Associate Dean Hundemer asked members to bring the concerns and suggestions of the Academic Committee back to their departments. He also asked student members for their comments and feedback from them and their departmental student associations. He said this item will be discussed again at a future Academic Committee meeting, after departments have had time to discuss it with their undergraduate curriculum committees.

**(11) COURSE & PROGRAM CONSULTATIONS**

- 111.1** On behalf of Dean Lennox, Associate Dean Hundemer reminded members to consult with other units if adding or removing courses offered by another unit to or from their programs. More importantly, if consultation reports (email consultation is also acceptable) are requested by other units, it was extremely important that members discuss the proposal with other members in their unit, including their departmental undergraduate/graduate curriculum committees to allow a thorough review.

**(12) SUS ACTIVITIES**

There was no report from the SUS.

**(13) OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no other business, Director Allard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Titone, that the meeting be adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

**The motion carried.**