

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2020 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, Caroline Dufour, Maxime Denis, Benjamin Forest, Abigail Gerhold, Daryl Haggard, Barbara Hales, Greg Marczynski, Johanna Neslehova, Ana Nyzhnyk, Jeanne Paquette, Kathy Roulet, Tamara Western, Clark Verbrugge, Natalie Waters; Rohan Bhutkar, Shereen Elaidi, Julia Forestell, Gabriela Moisescu-Pareja, Sneha Shinde; Faye Hughes, Josie D'Amico.

GUEST: Professor Anna Hargreaves; Mr. Victor Chisholm

REGRETS: Professors Huy Bui, Maxime Denis, Gillian O'Driscoll,

DOCUMENTS: AC-19-123, AC-20-1 to AC-20-7

Vice-Dean Stephens introduced Associate Dean (Student Affairs) Anthony Mittermaier and welcomed members to the first Academic Committee of the 2020-2021. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Prof. Haggard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Paquette, that the Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

2. Minutes of 28 April 2020

AC-19-123

Prof. Gerhold **moved**, seconded by Prof. Foress, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

4. Courses on Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List (DMURL) AC-20-1

Mr. Victor Chisholm said that the DMURL is reviewed on an annual basis to check whether courses should be added or deleted to ensure that the list of courses in Document #AC-20-1 is complete and that there are no changes. Mr. Chisholm highlighted the requirements for placement on the DMURL for B.A. & Sc. and B.Sc., and asked members whether they had any changes to the DMURL courses listed in Document AC-20-1.

Since October 2018, the following courses have been added to the DMURL list:

- **FSCI 396** – Research Project in Science Teaching and Learning 1 (3cr) – Was added 2019/06
- **FSCI 397** – Research Project in Science Teaching and Learning 2 (3cr) – Was added 2020/06

To add now:

- **FSCI 398 D1/D2** – Research Project in Science Teaching and Learning 3* (6cr)
* title correction in the DMURL document (AC-20-1)
- **MIMM 503** – Honours Research Project in Immunology 1 (3cr)

- **MIMM 504** – Honours Research Project in Immunology 2 (6cr)
- **MIMM 505** – Honours Research Project in Molecular Microbiology 1 (3cr)
- **MIMM 506** – Honours Research Project in Molecular Microbiology 2 (6cr)

A member suggested that the following course be added to the DMURL:

- **PHAR 397** – Pharmacology Research Project 2 (3cr)

Vice-Dean Stephens thanked Mr. Chisholm for his excellent work on the DMURL.

Prof. Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Forest, that the changes be approved with the above modification.

The motion carried

5. **Geography**
 GEOG 417 Urban Geography **AC-20-2**
 Changes in prerequisite, restrictions
 3 credits

Prof. Forest said that the changes were to add a prerequisite course that had been omitted when GEOG 417 was originally proposed, and to correct the list of prerequisites that was inadvertently referred to as restrictions.

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

The motion carried

6. **Mathematics & Statistics**
 MATH 125 Mathematical Techniques for Economics **AC-20-3**
 Changes in restrictions
 3 credits

Prof. Neslehova said that an additional restriction to MATH 125 was required due to a substantial overlap of material covered in Calculus 1 and 2 at McGill or in an equivalent course at CEGEP.

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

The motion carried

- MATH 222 Calculus 3 **AC-20-4**
 Changes in restrictions
 3 credits

Prof. Neslehova explained that a restriction has been added to MATH 222 to exclude students from taking both MATH 222 and MATH 262 (latter for Engineering students) for credits because of significant overlap in course content. A similar restriction currently exists for MATH 262. In addition, MATH 227 was removed from the restrictions since the course has not existed for a very long time.

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

The motion carried

- Program Revisions:
 - Major Statistics & Computer Science **AC-20-5**

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Associate Dean Mittermaier, that the existing Science Assessment Policy will apply to the winter 2021 semester, as well as potential remote learning in subsequent semesters be approved.

The motion carried.

Proposed Amendments to the Science Assessment Policy to be Voted on at the Academic Committee Meeting scheduled for 17 November 2020

(i) Attendance Grades

Associate Dean Hundemer explained that at the Faculty of Science meeting on 8 September 2020, a question arose about grades for attendance and that it would be unfair given that students are taking courses in different time zones. Currently, grades for attendance may be allowed if its weight is 10% or less, and preferably 5% or less. The recommendation for winter 2021 and beyond will be to decrease it to 5% or less and that students who cannot view the lectures live are not disadvantaged. Associate Dean Hundemer pointed out that instructors may choose another option instead of attendance only. Several members also suggested that this be made explicit the policy.

(ii) "Forward Only" Quiz Option

The "forward only" quiz option is a feature in myCourses Quizzes. The option prevents students from going back and forth through the exam, which means that students are neither able to review nor change the answers prior to submitting their exam. Associate Dean Hundemer said that the reasons instructors choose this option are (i) to prevent cheating in remote exams and (ii) for a small number of courses when the assessment is linked to specific learning outcomes and has been applied on a regular basis throughout the course.

Associate Dean Hundemer explained that TLS's Assessment Strategies warns instructors that the "forward only" quiz option goes against the University Student Assessment Policy and the Charter of Students' Rights. The policy has been under revision for several years, but it was not the university's priority to review it at this time. However, Associate Provost (Teaching and Academic Programs) Christopher Buddle was amenable for faculties to design their own regulations.

Associate Dean Hundemer further explained that using the "forward only" quiz option to deter cheating was not a legitimate reason to use the option, but if it was used for pedagogical reasons (as mentioned above), it could be an option for a few courses in the Faculty of Science. Some of the questions to be considered are:

- (i) Should the "forward only" quiz option be permitted for the occasional courses that make sense to use it, and if so, should it be approved by the Associate Dean (Academic) or by a small committee chaired by the Associate Dean (Academic)?
- (ii) Should there be a regulation for using the "forward only" quiz option, and if so, should there be a strong warning?
- (iii) Should there not be any regulation against the usage of the option?

Associate Dean Hundemer asked members for their comments, especially from the student members.

After a lengthy discussion, both student and academic members agreed that the "forward only" quiz option would be unfair to students because students would lose the ability to go back and forth through the exam questions and answers, and it would violate the students' rights for a fair assessment. During the exams, students often think about the questions while working on other questions and having the option of going back is extremely valuable. Students would not have the opportunity to correct any mistakes, and in addition, the

“forward only” option would create a great deal of anxiety during an already stressful period. Members may direct any comments, questions, feedback, or concerns to Associate Dean (Academic). Associate Dean Hundemer said discussions with Associate Provost Buddle would continue to ensure that the Faculty’s Assessment Policy aligns with the University Assessment Policy.

10. **Other Business**

There being no further business, Prof. Forest **moved**, seconded by Prof. Nyzhnyk, that the meeting be adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

The motion carried.