

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2023 at 3:00 p.m. by Zoom Videoconferencing.

**DOCUMENTS: AC-22-167,170, 204 to 215**

Associate Dean Axel Hundemer called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. and welcomed members to the fifth meeting of the Academic Committee.

**1. Adoption of Agenda**

- Item #9, Physics proposal (three course revisions, seven program revisions), to be postponed to the next Academic Committee meeting.
- New item added under Business Arising from the Minutes (3b): Important reminders from Associate Dean (Academic) concerning course and program procedures.

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

**The motion carried.**

**2. Minutes of 10 January 2023**

**AC-22-191**

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

**The motion carried.**

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

(a) There was no business arising from the Minutes.

(b) Important Reminders Concerning Course and Program Procedures

- If any potential revisions to proposals are approved at the current meeting, the changes should be submitted as soon as possible because the following Faculty of Science meeting is scheduled on 14 February 2023.
- Course and program proposals must be submitted **seven working days before each meeting**. This allows proposals to be preliminarily reviewed and resolve potential problems before the Academic Committee meetings. Proposals submitted after the deadlines will be considered at the subsequent meeting.

· **New from SCTP:**

- o Changes to joint programs, please ensure that the **Chairs of both units sign** the program revision form; otherwise, SCTP will reject the proposal and return it to the Faculty office.
- o For future program revisions, a program description should be included in Box 6 of the Program Revision Form if there is currently no program description.

**4. Psychology  
New Course**

PSYC 385	Psychology Research Project 1 3 credits	<u>AC-22-204</u>
<b>New Course</b>		
PSYC 484D1/D2	Psychology Research Project 6 credits	<u>AC-22-205</u>
<b>New Course</b>		
PSYC 485	Psychology Research Project 2 3 credits	<u>AC-22-206</u>
<b>New Course</b>		
PSYC 486	Senior Honours Research 1 3 credits	<u>AC-22-207</u>
<b>New Course</b>		
PSYC 487	Senior Honours Research 2 3 credits	<u>AC-22-208</u>
<b>New Course</b>		
PSYC 488D1/D2	Senior Honours Research 6 credits	<u>AC-22-209</u>

Prof. Bartz described the above new Psychology courses. She said the plan was to reduce the credit weight for the independent research courses, precisely three credits for one-term courses and six credits for two-term courses. To avoid confusion amongst students, the research courses are given new numbers, and the old research courses will be retired after all students have graduated. The rationale is to align the courses with the credit weight typically given for the Faculty's undergraduate "396" research courses, a one-term three-credit course. The aim was also to distinguish between independent research courses and other research courses with a seminar component. Many supervisors are reluctant to take students on for a six-credit one-term research course because there are no projects that would allow students enough hours to complete the work that would be required in such courses.

Prof. Bartz **moved**, seconded by Prof. Dufour, that the above courses be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**B.Sc. Program Changes:**

- Honours in Psychology

AC-22-210

**B.A. & Sc. Program Changes:**

- Joint Honours Component in Psychology

AC-22-213

Prof. Bartz said several minor modifications had been made to the above Psychology programs. Program descriptions have been added to the programs, and some housekeeping changes/clarifications have been made. Other changes included: retiring a senior Honours seminar course and replacing it with a research methods course (approved above). Also added was a new course requirement to augment the statistical rigor of training in the Honours and Joint Honours programs. In addition, the Complementary Honours course requirements were slightly modified, allowing students to take 400-level courses as part of their Complementary Honours courses.

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

**The motion carried.**

**B.Sc. Program Changes:**

- Major in Psychology

AC-22-211

- Liberal – Core Science Component in Psychology

AC-22-212

**B.A. & Sc. Program Changes:**

- Major Concentration in Psychology
- Minor Concentration in Psychology

AC-22-214  
AC-22-215

Prof. Bartz said some of the programs' text had been clarified. The program descriptions and the newly approved courses above have been included in the programs. In the B.A. & Sc. Major Concentration in Psychology, a statement has been added to alert students that the program may not be sufficiently specialized for certain graduate programs and that students should consider other options.

Prof. Bartz **moved**, seconded by Dufour, that the changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**5. Computer Science**

COMP 551                      Applied Machine Learning  
Changes: prerequisites, restrictions  
4 credits

AC-22-192

Prof. Guo explained that a prerequisite was added to COMP 551 because the instructor found that students needed more background to succeed in the course. Another prerequisite (ECSE 305) was removed since the course is no longer offered. A restriction (PSYC 560) was being added in reciprocity to the restriction in a newly approved course (PSYC 650) during the Fall semester.

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

**The motion carried.**

*Secretary's Note:* A consultation report from the Department of Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences was received.

**New Course**

COMP 513                      Advanced Computer Systems  
4 credits

AC-22-167

Prof. Guo said COMP 513 has previously been taught as a topics course and was now being presented for adoption as a regular course.

Prof. Guo **moved**, seconded by Prof. Dent, that the course be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**New Course**

COMP 685                      Machine Learning Applied to Climate Change  
4 credits

AC-22-170

Prof. Guo said that COMP 685 was a higher-level seminar course on machine learning to be taught by a new professor.

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

**The motion carried.**

**B.Eng. Program Changes:**

- Minor Program in Computer Science

AC-22-193

Associate Dean Hundemer gave some background information about the number of credits allowed in any Minor programs in the Faculty of Science. According to an eCalendar section, Minor programs must contain at least 18 new credits. However, for 24-credit Minors, an overlap of six credits is allowed, although other parts of the eCalendar contradict that regulation. For example, the Minor in Mathematics allows a larger course overlap if the student's primary program is substantially credit-heavy. At some point, the higher overlap was approved by SCTP, and it is conceivable that SCTP will approve a 10-credit overlap proposed for Engineering students in the Minor Program in Computer Science. Associate Dean Hundemer suggested that the revisions could be postponed to a future Academic Committee meeting after discussions with the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE). Prof. Guo replied that she favored considering the program revisions at the current meeting and would discuss the 10-credit overlap for Engineering students with ECE.

Prof. Guo described the changes in the Minor in Computer Science. She said that ECE would be offering equivalent courses to COMP courses required for the program. Other changes are housekeeping in nature and deleting a retired course.

*Secretary's Note:* After further discussion with ECE, it was agreed that only six credits may overlap with the primary program for Engineering students.

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

**The motion carried.**

## 6. Geography

GEOG 314	Geospatial Analysis Prerequisite Web control 3 credits	<u><a href="#">AC-22-194</a></u>
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Prof. Forest explained that currently, many students are enrolling in GEOG 314 without taking the prerequisite course, GEOG 201. This was causing administrative issues, hence, a prerequisite control on Minerva will block registration for GEOG 314 if the prerequisite still needs to be completed.

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

**The motion carried.**

GEOG 325	New Master-Planned Cities Changes: prerequisites, restrictions 3 credits	<u><a href="#">AC-22-195</a></u>
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Prof. Forest said that students were also registering for GEOG 325 before taking the prerequisite course, GEOG 217, and therefore, a Web prerequisite control has been added. In addition, the instructor determined that this prerequisite provided the necessary background for the course, and GEOG 210 was no longer needed.

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

**The motion carried.**

7. **Earth & Planetary Sciences/Geography**

**New Course**

EPSC 522/GEOG 522 Advanced Environmental Hydrology  
3 credits

AC-22-196/197

Prof. Forest introduced EPSC 522 and GEOG 522, an upper-level course in hydrology training. The course will be taught by a new instructor jointly appointed in the Departments of Earth & Planetary Sciences, and Geography. GEOG 522 used to exist but was retired over five years ago.

Prof. Forest **moved**, seconded by Prof. Paquette, that the courses be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

8. **Mathematics & Statistics**

Program Name Change:

- B.Sc. Honours in Statistics

AC-22-198

For Information Only:

- B.A. Honours in Statistics

AC-22-199

Prof. Kelome explained the reasons for renaming the existing B.A. and B.Sc. Honours Programs in Probability and Statistics **to Honours Program in Statistics**. The new program title better reflects the program's content and spirit and emphasizes that it is the Honours version of the current B.Sc. Major in Statistics and B.A. Major Concentration in Statistics Programs. The revised title will make it more transparent for students pursuing careers in industry or government. The existing B.A. and B.Sc. Honours Programs in Probability and Statistics will be retired.

Prof. Kelome **moved**, seconded by Prof. Forest, that the program name changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**The following proposals were postponed to a future Academic Committee meeting.**

9. **Physics:**

PHYS 359 (Changes: title, description, corequisites, restrictions, Supplementary Calendar Info)

**AC-22-180 Circulated**

PHYS 469 (Changes: title, description, corequisites restrictions, Supplementary Calendar Info)

**AC-22-182 Circulated**

PHYS 439 (retirement)

**AC-22-181 Circulated**

Program Changes:

Honours in Physics

**AC-22-183 To be Circ.**

Honours in Mathematics and Physics

**AC-22-185 To be Circ.**

Honours in Physics – Biological Physics

**AC-22-200 To be Circ.**

Honours in Physics and Chemistry

**AC-22-202 To be Circ.**

Honours in Physics and Computer Science

**AC-22-203 To be Circ.**

Major in Physics

**AC-22-184 To be Circ.**

Major in Physics – Biological Physics

**AC-22-201 To be Circ.**

10. **Report of S.U.S. V.-P. (Academic)**

Asma Khamis, V.-P. Academic, presented the following report:

1. SUS Academia Week
  - a. February 6-10, 2023
  - b. Scientific writing workshop, cultivating a leadership mindset, NSERC/SURA information session, industry vs academia panel, Dr. Gold and Dr. Ragsdale's talk, mental health and stress management, and research mixer with OSE.
2. SUS Academic Events Committee
  - a. Social media initiatives including career and course information.
  - b. Lunch-in with professors and grad students.
3. Academic Concerns
  - Resolved academic concerns related to final grade submission.
4. Contact information
  - a. Email: [academic@susmcgill.ca](mailto:academic@susmcgill.ca)

## 11. Other Business

There being no further business, Prof. Forest **moved**, seconded by Prof. Kelome, that the meeting be adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

**The motion carried.**