

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2021 at 3:00 p.m. via the Zoom Conference Application.

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

**REGRETS:** Yufeng Peng

**DOCUMENTS:** AC-20-97 to AC-21-17

Vice-Dean Stephens called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**1. Adoption of Agenda**

Prof. Forest **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gerhold, that the Agenda be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**2. Faculty of Science**

**New Course:**

FSCI 500

Science Communication and Outreach  
3 credits

**AC-21-1**

Associate Dean Hundemer gave an overview of FSCI 500. The course was basically designed to provide both undergraduate and graduate students with a particular skill that was not normally covered in any other "regular" courses in the Faculty. Many students are involved in outreach and science communication activities and share their knowledge with non-experts. The course will cover both the theory and the practice of science communication and outreach. The course's objectives were to familiarize students with the audience's specific needs, pay attention to these particular needs and critiques. The course was very much a practice-oriented course, with some theory and student assessments done through a sequence of assignments. The administrative aspect of the course has not yet been defined, but the discussion will be taking place soon. Associate Dean Hundemer said that departments were welcome to add FSCI 500 to their programs' list of Complementary courses. Dr. Diane Dechief, one of two instructors of FSCI 500, gave some background information and answered members' questions.

Associate Dean Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Ms. Mircescu, that the course be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**Secretary's Note:** The reading list for FSCI 500 has been received.

**3. Biology**

**Course Revisions:**

BIOL 111

Principles: Organismal Biology  
Changes: Supplementary Calendar Information  
3 credits

**AC-21-3**

BIOL 101	Organismal Biology Laboratory Changes: Prerequisites, Supplementary Calendar Information 1 credit	<b>AC-21-4</b>
BIOL 112	Cell and Molecular Biology Changes: Supplementary Calendar Information 3 credits	<b>AC-21-5</b>
BIOL 102	Cell and Molecular Biology Methods Changes: Prerequisites, Supplementary Calendar Information 1 credit	<b>AC-21-6</b>

Prof. Gerhold said that the above course revisions were housekeeping in nature and to bring them in line with the current eCalendar.

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

**The motion carried.**

#### 4. **Psychology**

##### **Course Revisions:**

PSYC 439 (from -536)	Correlational Techniques Changes: Course renumbering, Description, Prerequisites, Restrictions 3 credits	<b>AC-21-7</b>
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Prof. Bartz explained that the Department would like to offer more courses in the quantitative research area at the 500-level for undergraduate and graduate students. The 500-level courses require knowledge of correlation techniques, and graduate students acquire this technique in a 600-level course, whereas undergraduate students would only acquire this knowledge in the current PSYC 536. However, many undergraduates only register for PSYC 536 in U3, which means that students cannot take other 500-level statistics courses. Therefore, by renumbering PSYC 536 to PSYC 439, undergraduates would take PSYC 439 in U2 and then take the more advanced classes at the 500-level in U3.

In reply to a member, Prof. Bartz said that the prerequisite, MATH 133, was not required because linear algebra was not crucial to mastering the course material in PSYC 436.

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

**The motion carried.**

##### **New Course:**

PSYC 750	Graduate Applied Bayesian Statistics 3 credits	<b>AC-21-8</b>
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Prof. Bartz said that the new course represented the formalization of a currently existing generic topics course. In reply to a member, Prof. Bartz agreed that PSYC 651 should be a prerequisite for PSYC 750. Another member pointed out that consultation with the Departments of Mathematics & Statistics, and Epidemiology, Biostatistics, & Occupational Health should occur before the next Faculty of Science meeting on 12 October 2021.

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

**The motion carried.**

**Secretary's Note:** The consultation reports from the Department of Mathematics & Statistics, and the Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health, were received.

5. **Bieler School of Environment**

**New Course:**

ENVR 494	Joint Honours Research 3 credits	<b>AC-21-9</b>
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Ms. Roulet introduced a new course, ENVR 494, to be added to the revised B.A. Joint Honours in Environment Component to be approved by the Faculty of Arts. Since the Faculty of Science administers all environment courses, only the course will require approval by the Academic Committee. ENVR 494 is a three-credit research honours course that would be taken if students were taking a joint honours component in conjunction with another unit that required three credits of honours research.

In reply to a member, Ms. Roulet said that students must consult with an advisor in each department to discuss their course selection and their interdisciplinary research.

Associate Dean Hundemer recommended that all departments offering research courses to include in Minerva either the name of a departmental advisor or the undergraduate program director/equivalent in order that instructors could be reminded of submitting their grades.

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

**The motion carried.**

B.A. Program Changes (For Information Only):

- Joint Honours in Environment Component	<b>AC-21-10</b>
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6. **Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences**

ATOC 530	Paleoclimate Dynamics Course Retirement 3 credits	<b>AC-21-11</b>
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Prof. Dufour said that ATOC 530 had not been offered for many years and the Department has no plans in offering it in the near future.

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

**The motion carried.**

<b>Program Changes:</b>	- Honours in Atmospheric Science	<b>AC-21-12</b>
	- Major in Atmospheric Science	<b>AC-21-13</b>
	- Liberal Program – Core Science Component in Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences	<b>AC-21-14</b>
	- Major in Atmospheric Science & Physics	<b>AC-21-15</b>
	- Minor in Atmospheric Science	<b>AC-21-16</b>
	- Diploma in Meteorology	<b>AC-21-17</b>

Prof. Dufour said that ATOC 570, a research methods course, was added to the Complementary courses lists in the above programs.

**Correction:** Due to copying and pasting errors in the program revision forms, ATOC 530 had been previously removed from the above programs.

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

7. **Other Business**

Their being no further business, Prof. Forest **moved**, seconded by Prof. Denis, that the meeting be adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

**The motion carried.**