

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on May 8, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. in Arts Council Room, Arts 160.

PRESENT: Associate Dean Laurie Hendren (Acting Chair), Director Nicole Allard, Professors Paul Clarke, Frédéric Guichard, Galen Halverson, Axel Hundemer, Bettina Kemme, Daniel Kirshbaum, Craig Mandato, Greg Marczynski, Gillian O'Driscoll, Kenneth Ragan, David Ronis (in place of Linda Reven), Julie St-Pierre, René Sieber (in place of Jon Unruh), Ann Wechsler; Alan Blayney; Malek Yalaoui and Josie D'Amico.

REGRETS: Dean Martin Grant, Kathy Roulet; Louis Houle; Jan-Marc Lieskovsky, Timothy Tsang, Hardik Vala, Neil Verma, Debbie Wang, Billi Wun

DOCUMENTS: AC-11-50 to AC-11-58

Associate Dean Hendren called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Prof. Mandato **moved**, seconded by Prof. Wechsler, that the Agenda be adopted.

The motion carried.

(2) MINUTES OF MARCH 6, 2012 AC-11-50

Prof. Mandato **moved**, seconded by Prof. Guichard, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

(3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

(4) REPORT ON MINOR COURSE CHANGES (for information only) AC-11-51

Associate Dean Hendren described the minor course changes. She pointed out that CHEM 577 still needed final approval by the Department of Chemistry.

(5) BIOLOGY

BIOL 473	Vertebrate Palaeo Field Course Changes in number [from 573], prerequisites, restrictions 3 credits	AC-11-52
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905.1 Prof. Guichard introduced the changes to the course, and said that the number change was due to the course not being taught at the graduate level. The prerequisite changes were being made to open up the course to a wider pool of students. The prerequisites had been further modified to read

"Any one of BIOL 304, BIOL 352, EPSC 210, EPSC 212, EPSC 455, or permission of instructor."

Prof. Guichard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Wechsler, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

BIOL 551	Principles of Cellular Control Changes in title, description, prerequisites, restrictions 3 credits	AC-11-53
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905.2 Prof. Guichard explained that the 100-level course prerequisites (which are the more rigorous versions of freshman courses) were to ensure that students had appropriate quantitative background, since students taking BIOL 551 would likely be taking the quantitative biology option.

905.3 Director Allard said that in the method of evaluation, "attendance during presentations (10%)" should be replaced by "participation in discussions (10%)."

Prof. Guichard **moved**, seconded by Prof. Mandato, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

(6) MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS

New Course:

MATH 180	The Art of Mathematics 3 credits	AC-11-54
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906.1 Prof. Hundemer introduced the new general interest course, MATH 180.

906.2 Associate Dean Hendren suggested that the Department of Mathematics & Statistics contact the Faculty of Education to inform them of the course and to recommend it for Education students intending to teach elementary school.

Prof. Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ronis, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

New Course:

MATH 537	Honours Math Models in Biology 4 credits	AC-11-55
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906.3 Prof. Hundemer said that MATH 537 was intended as an Honours version of MATH 437, which is standard practice in the Department of Mathematics & Statistics.

Prof. Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Prof. Guichard, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

New Course:

MATH 540	Life Actuarial Mathematics 4 credits	AC-11-56
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New Course:

MATH 541

Nonlife Actuarial Models

AC-11-57

4 credits

906.4 Prof. Hundemer said that the Department of Mathematics & Statistics was the only mathematics department in Montreal that did not have a course in actuarial mathematics. He said that the two courses were intended for two different exams that future actuaries must take. As well, many other students would be interested in the courses. Instituting actuarial courses had been proposed in a recent program review of the Department of Mathematics & Statistics.

906.5 Associate Dean Hendren pointed out that although resources were being requested for the courses, the Academic Committee should focus only on the academic merits of the courses.

Prof. Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Prof. Guichard, that the courses be adopted.

The motion carried.

(7) SUPER B.SC.

AC-11-58

907.1 Associate Dean Hendren said that she was interested in ways in which Science students could enhance their B.Sc. A number of mechanisms were already in place as outlined in Section 2 of Document AC-11-58. She asked members if they could think of any other existing ways to enhance the B.Sc. degree.

907.2 Some members suggested extending exchange programs. While this involved much administrative work, it may be possible to streamline the process.

(i) Enriched Freshman Program

907.3 Associate Dean Hendren briefly went over the enriched courses listed in Section 3.1 of Document AC-11-58. She said that she would like to have as many enriched freshman courses as possible, so that students would have the option of taking some of these, in order to have a special freshman experience.

907.4 A complementary option was to provide U1 courses that students could take in their freshman year, provided they have space in their schedule. A member pointed out that some basic U1 courses were already overfull. This problem would have to be addressed. It would also have to be ensured that freshman students have the appropriate background for the U1 courses.

907.5 Associate Dean Hendren said that units without enriched freshman courses could start thinking about ways of implementing them, and those with enriched freshman courses could consider whether and how they might want to modify their current offerings.

907.6 In reply to a member, Associate Dean Hendren said the enrolment for the enriched courses should be between 60 and 100 students. More than 100 would result in the loss of special character for the courses; less than 60 would be difficult to justify.

(ii) B.Sc. (Global)

- 907.7** Associate Dean Hendren said that the B.Sc. (Global) option would allow students to enhance their B.Sc. The B.Sc. (Global) would be completed within the regular credit requirements, and would contain both required elements and complementary elements. An initial suggestion would be to have language credits and research credits for the required elements, and complementary elements along the lines of field studies, internships and globally oriented courses, perhaps especially from other faculties.
- 907.8** It was pointed out that within the Faculty of Science, courses from the MSE and the Department of Geography often had a global focus. Associate Dean Hendren suggested that these could be used as globally oriented courses for students who were not in those programs.
- 907.9** A member suggested that exchange semesters would tie in well with the language requirement. However, Associate Dean Hendren said that exchange semesters were expensive, and that while they could be a complementary element, she would not like to see them as a required element because this could mean imposing a financial burden on some students.
- 907.10** Director Allard said that the list of global courses should be extensive, to allow for courses being full, in conflict with a student's schedule, etc.
- 907.11** It was suggested that a general reading course would be a useful addition.
- 907.12** In response to a member who suggested a new integrative course, Associate Dean Hendren said that there had been great problems with the integrative course in the B.A. & Sc., and that it would be very difficult to institute an integrative course for the B.Sc. (Global).
- 907.13** A member questioned whether research courses were really global, and another member questioned whether the proposed program itself could be considered global.
- 907.14** Associate Dean Hendren said that the current discussion was a good starting point, and that the idea would be further developed.

(8) OTHER BUSINESS

- 908.1** Associate Dean Hendren thanked members for their diligent work during the year, and wished everyone a good summer.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.