

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on February 17, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. in Arts Council Room, Arts 160.

PRESENT: Dean Grant (Chair), Associate Dean Hendren (Vice-Chair), Nicole Allard (Director, Advising Services); Professors G.C. Bennett, A. Clerk, B. Cousineau (replacing M. Baines), F. Fabry, G. Fussmann (replacing R. Krahe), A. Hundemer, M. Kalacska (replacing J. Unruh), D. Ronis, K. Roulet, A. Wechsler; L. Houle; N. Antonov, W. Carroll, J. Hwang, K. Sun, S. Yim (replacing A. Ashraf); J. D'Amico, L. Stanischewski.

REGRETS: Professors A. Baker, B. Nagar, P. Panangaden, B. Wing; Associate Dean Hendershot; V. Khan, M. Smaoui.

DOCUMENTS: AC-08-93 to AC-08-97

Dean Grant called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- Two additional items (AC-08-96 and AC-08-97) to be considered under Other Business, Item #8, of the Agenda.

Prof. Ronis **moved**, seconded by Prof. Wechsler, that the amended Agenda be approved.

The motion carried.

(2) MINUTES OF JANUARY 27, 2009

AC-08-93

Prof. Bennett **moved**, seconded by Prof. Clerk, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

(3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- Minute 509.1, BASC 396, Undergraduate Research Project (AC-08-87)

603.1 Associate Dean Hendren said that while the B.A. & Sc. PAC had approved BASC 396 and while the Academic Committee had also approved it, the Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee had felt it needed more details on the mechanism of the course. Accordingly, Associate Dean Hendren said she would write out a more detailed description of how the course would be conducted and a more detailed rationale, and provide the modified course proposal to the Faculty of Arts. The modified proposal would also be brought to the Faculty of Science at its next meeting.

(4) DUAL-DEGREE PROGRAM: B.A./B.Sc.

AC-08-94

604.1 Ms. Chantalle Brace and Mr. Alexander Metz (B.A. & Sc. representatives) outlined the main points in Document AC-08-94, and concluded with the recommendation that McGill institute a Concurrent B.A./B.Sc. Degree program.

604.2 Ms. Brace and Mr. Metz answered members' questions.

604.3 Dean Grant said that he was concerned with the introduction of a four- or five-year program, and also with the idea of students seeming to obtain a second degree merely for the sake of spending an extra year at McGill. As well, there was the possibility of confusing the B.A./B.Sc. with the individual B.A. and B.Sc. degrees. Dean Grant raised the possibility of an Honours version of the B.A. & Sc., in order to provide more depth in students' studies.

604.4 Dean Grant thanked Ms. Brace and Mr. Metz for their presentation.

(5) UPDATE: CONCURRENT B.Sc. AND B.Ed.

605.1 Associate Dean Hendren said she was on a task force with members of the Faculty of Education, looking into current and potential programs for educating science teachers. She said the Concurrent B.Sc. and B.Ed., which is 135 credits, takes students four years plus one semester to complete. In the last semester, students take 15 credits, all of which are electives. Students do 54 credits of Science, which can be 54 credits of Math, or a Major Concentration (36 credits) in Biology, Chemistry or Physics, coupled with a Minor Concentration (18 credits) in another of the three subjects. This means that not all units in Science and no biomedical units are represented.

605.2 Associate Dean Hendren said that relatively few students take the Concurrent B.Sc. and B.Ed. program.

605.3 Associate Dean Hendren said the task force was considering restructuring the Concurrent B.Sc. and B.Ed. to a total of 120 credits, of which 60 would be Education and 60 Science. The Science requirement could be satisfied by any of the Core Science Components (45-48 credits) in the B.Sc. Liberal program, along with additional related credits.

605.4 Associate Dean Hendren said there were really two issues to discuss. The first was whether 120 credits was sufficient for a concurrent degree, from the perspective of the Faculty of Science. The second issue was whether members approved of using the Core Science Components in the Concurrent B.Sc. and B.Ed. degree.

605.5 A member was concerned that the introduction of Core Science Components as science education for teachers would result in teachers not having a firm foundation in the basic areas of science. However, Dean Grant said that the central issue was whether the Academic Committee would endorse the general concept of 60 science credits for a Concurrent B.Sc. degree.

605.6 After some discussion, Dean Grant called for a straw vote on whether the Academic Committee would endorse the concept of 60 science credits for a Concurrent B.Sc. degree.

605.7 The majority of members voted in favour.

(6) INTEGRATED B.Sc./M.Sc.

AC-08-95

606.1 Associate Dean Hendren said that she had asked members either to provide an example of how Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc. students could complete their 45-credit program using the current M.Sc. program, or alternatively to provide a revision to the M.Sc. program which would allow Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc. students to complete their 45-credit M.Sc. program with no more than four courses.

606.2 With her laptop, Associate Dean Hendren was able to project potential programs onto a screen so that the programs and possible changes to them could be easily viewed. In this manner, several proposed pathways were examined and discussed.

606.3 Some general items remained to be clarified:

- What are the exact requirements for an M.Sc., including total credits? These would need to be checked with GPSO.
- Would it be acceptable to GPSO if Science had its own application form for the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc.? Associate Dean Hendren, Prof. Ronis (Chemistry) and Prof. Kalacska (Geography), and Victor Chisholm (Undergraduate Research Officer) would create an application form.
- While the administration had yet to commit to providing money for the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc., Dean Grant said that he would guarantee \$4100 per student to Science units (this would have to be spent during the first summer term).
- Could students be given conditional acceptance to the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc.?

(7) PROCEDURES AND POINTERS FOR CREATING AND MODIFYING COURSES & PROGRAMS

607.1 Associate Dean Hendren told members that the above webpage was now live on the Faculty of Science's website, and she showed members the page and briefly described it. If members thought of any additional information to be added, they should contact Josie D'Amico or Lisa Stanischewski.

<http://www.mcgill.ca/science/administration/help-minerva-course-proposal-revision/>

607.2 Associate Dean Hendren thanked Josie D'Amico and Lisa Stanischewski for their work on the webpage.

(8) OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Faculty of Science Policy on Transfer Credits for Distance Education Courses

AC-08-96

608.1 Ms. Allard briefly described the current policy and the proposed policy. She pointed out that in the proposed policy, "Student Affairs Office of the Faculty of Arts" should be replaced by "Science Office of Undergraduate Student Advising."

608.2 Ms. Allard answered several questions.

Ms. Allard **moved**, seconded by Dr. Hundemer, that the proposed policy in the modified Document AC-08-96 be approved.

The motion carried.

(ii) Course Over-registration

AC-08-97

608.3 Ms. Allard went over the registration figures in Document AC-08-97, and went over the two proposals. She said she preferred Proposal #1.

608.4 After a lengthy discussion during which Ms. Allard answered a number of questions, Ms. Allard **moved**, second by Prof. Fabry, that Proposal #1 in Document AC-08-97 be adopted.

The motion carried.

- 608.5** Ms. Allard said that the same proposal would be brought to the Faculty of Arts for consideration.

(iii) Program Descriptions

- 608.6** Prof. Fabry brought up the issue of there not being sufficient descriptions of programs and their intended purpose in the Calendar. It was pointed out that the use of "Major" and "Major Concentration" was also confusing. Ms. Allard said that she could provide improved descriptions in the Advisor's Handbook and in the Calendar.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.