# FACULTY OF SCIENCE ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on March 24, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. in Room 738, Leacock Building.

PRESENT: Dean Grant (Chair), Associate Dean Hendren (Vice-Chair), Nicole Allard (Director,

Advising Services); Professors M. Baines, L. Berrang Ford (in place of J. Unruh), P. Carvajal (in place of A. Baker), A. Clerk, F. Fabry, A. Hundemer, R. Krahe, B. Nagar, P. Panangaden, D. Ronis, K. Roulet, A. Wechsler, B. Wing; A. Ashraf, W. Carroll, V. Khan;

J. D'Amico and Lisa Stanischewski.

REGRETS: Professor G.C. Bennett; N. Antonov, J. Hwang, M. Smaoui, K. Sun; L. Houle; Associate

Dean Hendershot

DOCUMENTS: AC-08-98 to AC-08-106

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

#### (1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

To be considered under Other Business, Item #11:

- Metrics in Programs and Courses

Prof. Fabry moved, seconded by Prof. Krahe, that the amended Agenda be approved.

The motion carried.

### (2) MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 17, 2009

AC-08-98

Prof. Fabry **moved**, seconded by Prof. Clerk, 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)

AC-08-99

704.1 Associate Dean Hendren briefly described the changes in the Report on Minor Course Changes.

#### (5) GEOGRAPHY

**New Course:** 

GEOG 503 Advanced Topics in Health Geog AC-08-100

3 credits

**705.1** Prof. Lea Berrang Ford, one of the instructors in the course, briefly described the course, and answered members' questions.

**705.2** Prof. Wing **moved**, seconded by Prof. Wechsler, that the course be adopted, pending consultations from the Department of Psychology and the Institute of Health and Social Policy.

The motion carried.

#### (6) MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS

MATH 470 Honours Research Project AC-08-101

Changes: title, description, prerequisites

3 credits

**706.1** Prof. Hundemer described the changes to MATH 470, and answered members' questions.

Prof. Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Prof. Panangaden, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

#### **B.Sc. Program Changes:**

Honours in Applied Mathematics
 Honours in Mathematics
 Honours in Probability and Statistics

AC-08-102
AC-08-103
AC-08-104

**706.2** Prof. Hundemer said that with the above changes to MATH 470, the course would now become a required course for the following three programs. This would bring the Mathematics & Statistics Honours programs in line with other Honours programs.

Prof. Hundemer **moved**, seconded by Prof. Panangaden, that the above program changes be approved.

The motion carried.

#### (7) PSYCHOLOGY

PSYC 199 FYS: Mind-Body Medicine AC-08-105

Changes: teaching unit, administering faculty, restriction

3 credits

707.1 Ms. Paola Carvajal, Chief Academic Advisor, introduced the course. Associate Dean Hendren added that the course had originally been offered by Social Studies of Medicine, and was now being taken over by the Department of Psychology.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Wechsler, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

#### (8) BARBADOS INTERDISCIPLINARY TROPICAL STUDIES (BITS)

B.Sc. Field Study Minor

AC-08-106

Associate Dean Hendren introduced the above item. She said that BITS was being offered by the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, and had recently been approved by SCTP. The current proposal was to approve BITS for Science students, and to approve BITS for the B.Sc. Field Study Minor.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Prof. Wing, that the program be approved for Science students and that BITS be available for the B.Sc. Field Study Minor.

The motion carried.

#### (9) UPDATE ON INTEGRATED B.Sc./M.Sc.

- Associate Dean Hendren said she was waiting for the Departments of Mathematics & Statistics, and Physics, and the School of Computer Science to submit proposals for the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc. Proposals should be submitted in time for the April 21, 2009 Academic Committee meeting. A work group consisting of Associate Dean Hendren, Professors Margaret Kalacska and David Ronis, and Victor Chisholm, had produced a simplified Web-based application form, which was currently awaiting GPSO approval as the means of conditional acceptance into the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc.
- 709.2 Dean Grant said that resources would be available for units instituting the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc. He said that it would be beneficial to the Faculty to be able to inform the Provost that all units in the Faculty had instituted their own versions of the Integrated B.Sc./M.Sc., unlike units in any other faculty in the university.

#### (10) McGILL SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT

B.A. Program Changes (For information only)

- Minor Concentration in Environment
- Major in Environment; Environment and Development Domain
- 710.1 Ms. Roulet said that the recent renumbering of Science General Interest Courses to UNIT 18X was causing problems for the B.A. Minor Concentration in Environment. A number of students in the Minor took Science General Interest Courses, and the Faculty of Arts Screening Committee was opposed to these being at the 100-level.
- 710.2 Dean Grant said that he and Associate Dean Hendren would be pleased to meet with representatives from the Faculty of Arts to discuss the issue.

## (11) OTHER BUSINESS

- Metrics for Courses and Programs
- Associate Dean Hendren said that when U0 or U1 students were choosing their courses and programs, the pros and cons of the various options were not always evident. She said she would like to come up with ways of quantifying courses and programs to aid students in their choices. She asked members for their thoughts on possible ways to quantify courses and programs.
- **711.2** Among the ideas relating to quantification were:
  - The number of upper-level courses in a program
  - That simply listing the number of upper level courses in a program does not take account of the fact that U3 students can take upper level courses in other units
  - The number of courses offered every year, every second year, etc. by a unit
  - The class size at the 200-level, 300-level, etc. in a program
  - The size of laboratory classes
  - That a distinction should be made between courses that are specific to a program and those (large) courses that serve a number of programs

- Whether classes are taught by one or two professors, or whether they are 'team-taught'
- That since many lectures are recorded, sometimes only a third or so of the students attend lectures, which means that registration is not a reliable indicator of class size
- The types of courses (lecture, seminar, laboratory, field course, etc.) available in a program
- The number of students in a program
- The difficulty of programs
- The number of students in Honours versus Majors
- That some units limit the number of students in their Honours program
- That in some units fewer students are now doing Honours
- The time frame during which students can transfer to Honours
- The percentage of students in a program who do research courses
- The percentage of courses in a program that have a 100% final exam
- The methods of evaluating students with respect to grades for the courses in a program
- The opportunities for professor/student mentoring
- The opportunities for breadth in a program
- The outcome of a program, i.e., the practical usefulness of a program with respect to career opportunities
- The results of 'exit surveys'
- The flexibility of a program
- The issue of whether quantification would be available in the Calendar or in some other format
- The number of courses offered in the Summer
- The number of field courses
- The number of internships available
- The potential for exchange programs
- That much of the quantification could be given to students by advisors
- That current U3 students should be asked what they would like to have known about programs when they were in U0/U1
- 711.3 Dean Grant suggested that there be a meeting between unit advisors and Dawson Hall advisors to decide on the best quantification areas for programs.

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