

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on October 20, 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 F. Bedford and G.C. Bennett, A. Clerk, B. Hales, A. Hundemer, R. Krahe, P. Panangaden, G. O'Driscoll, D. Ronis, K. Roulet, D. Straub (in place of F. Fabry), J. Unruh, A. Wechsler, B. Wing; L. Houle; A. Ashraf, A. Bezborra, A. Dafeo, E. Lee, J. Kanji, V. Khan; J. D'Amico and L. Stanischewski.

**REGRETS:** Professors B. Cousineau, B. Nagar; M. Smaoui; Associate Dean Hendershot

**DOCUMENTS:** AC-09-25 to AC-09-30

Dean Grant called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

**(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Prof. Bennett **moved**, seconded by Mr. Houle, that the Agenda be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**(2) MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2009**

**AC-09-25**

Prof. Clerk **moved**, seconded by Prof. Panangaden, 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-09-26**

**204.1** Associate Dean Hendren said that the Pharmacology changes were mostly housekeeping and for the sake of clarity. She then described the changes in prerequisites for ENVR 400. A long discussion ensued about prerequisites for ENVR 400. Since members did not have the course revision form for ENVR 400, the course was tabled to the next Academic Committee meeting.

**(5) BACHELOR OF ARTS AND SCIENCE**

***New Course:***

BASC 396

Undergraduate Research Project  
3 credits

**AC-09-27**

**205.1** Associate Dean Hendren said that BASC 396 had been approved last year by the Academic Committee and by the B.A. & Sc. PAC, but it had not been approved by the Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee. She said the proposal had been rewritten to clarify that BASC 396 was an integrative project between Arts and Science, and that it would be restricted to B.A. & Sc. students.

Associate Dean Hendren **moved**, seconded by Ms. Roulet, that the course be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**(6) GEOGRAPHY**

***New Course:***

GEOG 515

Contemporary Dilemmas of Devlp  
3 credits

**AC-09-28**

- 206.1** Prof. Unruh introduced GEOG 515 and said it would be a capstone course examining international development. He said that GEOG 515 would be aimed primarily at graduate students but could also be taken by U3 students with the permission of the instructor. He added that 500-level courses in Geography were normally offered to graduate students. A short discussion followed concerning whether GEOG 515 should be offered at the 600-level.

Prof. Unruh **moved**, seconded by Prof. Straub, that the course be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**(7) PHARMACOLOGY & THERAPEUTICS**

***Program Changes:***

- Major in Pharmacology
- Honours in Pharmacology

**AC-09-29**

**AC-09-30**

- 207.1** Prof. Hales explained that the change in the programs consisted of the addition of one course to the list of Complementary Courses.

- 207.2** Associate Dean Hendren reminded members that when courses are added to programs, the prerequisite courses should be listed in the programs.

Prof. Hales **moved**, seconded by Prof. Wechsler, that the above program changes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**(8) WHAT DEFINES A COURSE LEVEL? DIFFERENCES BETWEEN COURSE LEVELS AND HOW MORE ADVANCED COURSES BUILD ON EARLIER COURSES.**

- 208.1** Associate Dean Hendren said that at the last Academic Committee meeting the issue of what constituted a course level had been touched on, and that she thought it was an important topic to discuss.

- 208.2** Associate Dean Hendren said she considered that 200-level courses were intended for students coming from CEGEP and for students who had completed their Freshman year. She said that 300-level courses normally require a 200-level prerequisite course(s) or some appropriate background, and that 400-level courses normally require a 300-level prerequisite(s) or appropriate background.

- 208.3** In the discussion that followed, it was suggested that a good policy was to be explicit regarding the courses students should be taking in U1 and U2, while in U3 the emphasis should be on flexibility. Advising was an important factor in this.

- 208.4** It was important for units to have 500-level courses, whether or not they have 400-level courses, since graduate students sometimes need to broaden their background, but are not allowed to take 400-level courses.
- 208.5** 500-level courses should be distinct from and more advanced than 400-level courses.
- 208.6** Dean Grant recommended that Associate Dean Hendren write up a short set of guidelines concerning course levels, and circulate them to the Academic Committee, then to chairs/directors to allow units to discuss them.

**(9) OTHER BUSINESS**

- 209.1** In reply to a member concerning the status of the B.Sc./M.Sc. (Thesis) track, Associate Dean Hendren replied that no decision had been made yet by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies concerning the application process, but that a meeting was scheduled for the following week.

There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.