

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, September 29, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. in Arts Council Room, Arts 160.

PRESENT: Dean Grant (Chair), Associate Dean Hendren (Vice-Chair), Nicole Allard (Director of Advising Services); Professors G.C. Bennett, A. Clerk, B. Cousineau, F. Fabry, B. Hales, A. Hundemer, R. Krahe, B. Nagar, P. Panangaden, G. O'Driscoll, D. Ronis, K. Roulet, J. Unruh, A. Wechsler, B. Wing; L. Houle; A. Ashraf, A. Bezbora, A. Dafoe, E. Lee, J. Kanji, V. Khan; J. D'Amico and L. Stanischewski.

REGRETS: M. Smaoui, Associate Dean Hendershot

DOCUMENTS: AC-08-115, AC-09-1 to AC-09-24

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

(1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- Ad hoc Joint Honours Program in Computer Science and Physics (AC-09-24), Item #11, to be postponed. In its place, Guidelines for ad hoc Programs will be proposed.

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

The motion carried.

(2) MINUTES OF APRIL 21, 2009

AC-08-115

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

The motion carried.

(3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

(4) COURSES ON DEAN'S MULTIDISCIPLINARY UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH LIST (DMURL): REVIEW/DISCUSSION

AC-09-1

104.1 Victor Chisholm, Undergraduate Research Officer, highlighted the requirements for a student to be listed on the DMURL, and briefly described the history of the list of research courses approved for the DMURL. He said that now was a good time to re-present the list to the Academic Committee, in order for members to recommend any changes, point out any errors or omissions, etc. He asked members to review their unit's research courses and get in touch with him over the next several weeks. He answered members' questions.

104.2 It was recommended that PHAR 599 be added to the list of research courses approved for the DMURL. Associate Dean Hendren suggested that the Department of Pharmacology & Therapeutics offer a -396 research course for the DMURL.

104.3 Dean Grant thanked Mr. Chisholm for revisiting the DMURL with the Academic Committee.

(5) **REPORT ON MINOR COURSE CHANGES** **AC-09-2**
(for information)

105.1 Associate Dean Hendren briefly went through the Report on Minor Course Changes.

105.2 It was pointed out that under Item #3 in Document AC-09-2, BIOL 112 should read "Addition of restriction."

(6) **BIOCHEMISTRY**

New Course:

- BIOC 570 Biochemistry of Lipoproteins **AC-09-3**
3 credits

106.1 Prof. Scott Kiss, instructor for BIOC 570 and associate member of the Department of Biochemistry, introduced the course. He said that there was no other course covering lipids and liproteins in the Department of Biochemistry.

106.2 Associate Dean Hendren welcomed the addition of another 500-level course in Biochemistry, and suggested that the Department consider adding BIOC 570 to the list of Complementary Courses for the Major and Honours programs in Biochemistry.

Prof. Wechsler **moved**, seconded by Prof. Nagar, that the course be adopted.

The motion carried.

(7) **PHYSICS**

New Course Postponed to a Future Meeting:

PHYS 622 Advanced Data Analysis **AC-09-4**
3 credits

107.1 PHYS 622 was postponed to a future meeting, pending consultation from the Department of Mathematics & Statistics.

(8) **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

New Course:

COMP 691 Thesis Research 1 **AC-09-5**
2 credits

New Course:

COMP 693 Research Project 1 **AC-09-6**
3 credits

New Course:

COMP 696 Thesis Research 2 **AC-09-7**
3 credits

New Course:

COMP 697 Thesis Research 3 **AC-09-8**
4 credits

M.Sc. Program Changes:

- M.Sc. in Computer Science (Thesis) **AC-09-9**

- M.Sc. in Computer Science (Thesis); Computational Science & Engineering Option **AC-09-10**

- M.Sc. in Computer Science (Thesis); Bioinformatics Option/Conc. **AC-09-11**
- M.Sc. in Computer Science (Project/Non-Thesis) **AC-09-12**

108.1 Prof. Panangaden introduced the above new courses, and briefly explained that the new courses and the changes to the M.Sc. programs were the result of the introduction of the B.Sc./M.Sc. (Thesis) track.

Prof. Panangaden **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ronis, that the above new courses be adopted, and that the changes in the M.Sc. programs be approved.

The motion carried.

(9) BIOLOGY

The following course changes were not approved:

BIOL 475	Human Biochemical Genetics 3 credits Change in course number from BIOL 575	AC-09-13
BIOL 476	Topics on the Human Genome 3 credits Change in course number from BIOL 568	AC-09-14

109.1 Prof. Krahe said that these two courses had been moved to the 500-level a few years previously, but were now being moved back to the 400-level because undergraduate Biology students were intimidated about taking 500-level courses. He added that a forthcoming proposal concerning Human Genetics could incorporate the course changes.

109.2 A member said that since the course content was not being changed, and since graduate students would now be excluded from the course, the enrolment would not increase, but would go down. Furthermore, with the introduction of the B.Sc./M.Sc. (Thesis) track, 500-level courses could be useful for students.

109.3 Some members pointed out the merit of 500-level courses, that a 500-level course could be taken by graduate students, especially graduate students without suitable undergraduate background, and that undergraduate students were normally pleased to have a 500-level course appear on their record. Several other members disputed the idea of students being intimidated by 500-level courses.

109.4 Dean Grant said that before approving the changes, Academic Committee members should be assured that there would be no substantial overlap between the newly renumbered 400-level courses and graduate 600-level courses.

Prof. Krahe **moved**, seconded by Prof. Wing, that the course changes be approved.

109.5 A vote was held:

For	4
Against	12
Abstentions	3

The motion was defeated.

(10) Geography GEOG 631	Meth of Geographical Research 3 credits Change in credit weight [from 6]	AC-09-15
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New Course:

GEOG 696	Accelerated Thesis Preparation 3 credits	AC-09-16
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M.Sc. Program Changes:

- M.Sc. in Geography (Thesis)		AC-09-17
- M.Sc. in Geography (Thesis); Environment Option/Concentration		AC-09-18
- M.Sc. in Geography (Thesis); Neotropical Environmental Option/Conc.		AC-09-19

Ph.D. Program Changes:

- Ph.D. in Geography		AC-09-20
- Ph.D. in Geography; Environment Option/Concentration		AC-09-21
- Ph.D. in Geography; Gender and Women's Studies Option/Conc.		AC-09-22
- Ph.D. in Geography; Neotropical Environment Option/Concentration		AC-09-23

110.1 Prof. Unruh explained that in accordance with MELS, all masters programs must not be more than 45 credits. Therefore the M.Sc. Programs in Geography were being reduced from 48 credits to 45, by reducing the credit weight of GEOG 631 from 6 credits to 3. A new course, GEOG 696, was being introduced for students entering the B.Sc./M.Sc. (Thesis) track.

Prof. Unruh **moved**, seconded by Prof. Fabry, that the above new course, and changes to GEOG 631, as well as the changes to the M.Sc. and Ph.D. programs be approved.

The motion carried.

M.A. Programs For Information:

- M.A. in Geography (Thesis)
- M.A. in Geography (Thesis); Environment Option/Concentration
- M.A. in Geography (Thesis); Neotropical Environment Option/Conc.
- M.A. in Geography (Thesis); Development Studies Option/Conc.
- M.A. in Geography (Thesis); Gender and Women's Studies Option/Conc.
- M.A. in Geography (Thesis); Social Statistics Option/Concentration

(11) GUIDELINES FOR AD HOC PROGRAMS

111.1 Associate Dean Hendren gave some background information. She said that ad hoc programs are initiated by the student, and that usually they are joint programs. Normally, the student discusses the proposal with advisors in the two departments involved, and once approved by the departments, an advisor is assigned from each department, and the student submits the proposal to the Director of Advising Services, Nicole Allard. Ad hoc programs must then be approved by the Academic Committee and by the Faculty of Science.

111.2 Associate Dean Hendren said she would like to implement some guidelines for ad hoc programs. She suggested the following:

- (1) that students should propose ad hoc programs near the beginning of their undergraduate degree
- (2) that the Director of Advising Services would check to see if an existing program could accommodate the student, and if so, propose that the student follow the existing program
- (3) that the number of credits for a joint honours program should not exceed 81, and for a majors program should not exceed 75 (with the aim of 72)

111.3 Associate Dean Hendren added that the Academic Program Review Committee had suggested that joint programs not be more than 81 credits, and joint major programs not

more than 75. She said she had seen students' academic performance go down when taking tightly constrained programs such as previously proposed 90-credit ad hoc programs, and that some flexibility in programs would allow for possible scheduling problems. Associate Dean Hendren also emphasized that the idea of a joint program should not be simply the total of all courses in the two individual programs, but the combination is important.

111.4 The above guidelines will be posted on the Web.

(12) POLICY REGARDING SECOND DEGREES & OVERLAPS WITH FIRST DEGREES

112.1 Associate Dean Hendren said that she would like to put a policy in place for students wishing to do a second degree in an area where the student had already completed very similar programs. Advisors had told her that this occurs and some problems were identified in admissions to Science this year. She said that on the Faculty of Medicine's Website for admission to medical school, it is stated that if a student doesn't get admitted after a first degree, the student must do at least two years of a second undergraduate degree (60 credits) before their new CGPA would be considered by Medicine.

112.2 Associate Dean Hendren said that she would like to create a table for students wishing to do a second major, specifying which second-degree combinations would be inadmissible.

112.3 Dean Grant added that there would be no academic value if a student completes a second degree program in an area similar to the first degree.

(13) OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.