

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 March, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. in the Ruttan Room #322, Otto Maass Chemistry Building.

PRESENT: Dean Bruce Lennox (Chair), Associate Dean Tamara Western (Vice-Chair), Director Nicole Allard, Professors Amy Blum (in place of Anthony Mittermaier), Huy Bui, Andrew Cumming, Thomas Duchaine, Michael Hendricks, Barbara Hales, Axel Hundemer, Michael Langer, Timothy Merlis, Jeanne Paquette, Jelena Ristic (in place of Caroline Palmer); Kathy Roulet; Thérèse Koch; Josie D'Amico

REGRETS: Professors Michel Lapointe, Greg Marczynski, Ana Nyzhnyk; Ms. Natalie Waters; Mr. Daniel da Costa, Ms. Jasmine Leung, Ms. Elisabeth Sulmont, Ms. Jacqueline Chan, Mr. Gary Tom, Ms. Christina Kim.

GUESTS: Mr. Victor Chisholm, Mr. Emery Dittmer.

DOCUMENTS: AC-16-5,5A,5B, AC-16-57, AC-16-59 to AC-16-66

1) Adoption of Agenda

- Item #7, Joint Honours in Physics & Computer Science, to be considered after Item #4, Psychology.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Blum, that the amended Agenda be approved.

The motion carried.

2) Minutes of 21 February 2017

AC-16-59

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Langer, that the Minutes be approved.

The motion carried.

3) Courses on Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List (DMURL)

AC-16-60

703.1 Mr. Victor Chisholm, Undergraduate Research Officer in the Faculty of Science, said that one of the reasons for attending the Academic Committee meeting was to review, on an annual basis, the list of courses on the DMURL in Document AC-16-60. He asked members to check whether any other courses should be added or deleted, and whether any courses have changed from non-research courses to research courses.

703.2 Mr. Chisholm said that two six-credit courses were added on the DMURL:

- COMP 402D1/D2, Honours Project in Computer Science & Biology
- ATOC/EPSC/GEOG 473 (pending final approval) Arctic Field Research

703.3 In reply to Prof. Hundemer, Mr. Chisholm said that the list of students on the DMURL had increased over the years. In recent years, there have been approximately 55 B.Sc.

students and approximately 20 B.A. & Sc. students annually who have graduated with the DMURL designation. He pointed out that, as of October 2013 graduation, the DMURL designation was approved for students in the B.A. & Sc. degree.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Director Allard, that the changes on the DMURL be approved.

The motion carried.

Associate Dean Western thanked Mr. Chisholm for his excellent work.

Secretary's Notes: After the meeting, and in consultation with Dean Lennox, ESYS 500, Earth System Applications (3 credits) was added to the DMURL.

4) Business Arising from the Minutes

Minor Program Not Approved for Science Students:

(i) Minor in Nanotechnology

AC-16-5, AC-16-5A, AC-16-5B

704.1 Associate Dean Western said that since members had had a chance to discuss and review the mappings for Chemistry and Physics students for the Minor in Nanotechnology, she asked the representatives from Chemistry and Physics for their opinions.

704.2 Prof. Blum said that Chemistry students would be able to complete the Minor with careful advising, but it would be unlikely that many Chemistry students would register for it. Chemistry students already have access to these courses.

704.3 Prof. Cummings said that there were issues with a couple of Physics courses: (i) PHYS 319 was listed to be taken in U1, instead of U2, and (ii) PHYS 558, an Honours course, not open to Majors students without permission of the instructor. Physics students could complete the Minor, but with careful planning and advising starting in U1.

704.4 Associate Dean Western said the Minor was feasible for Chemistry and Physics students, but only with careful planning and advising in U1. In Fall 2016, the Academic Committee agreed that it would be misleading to offer a Minor that would be difficult to complete successfully. She said that Science students must complete 18 **new** credits in a Minor and cannot overlap with their degree program, whereas Engineering students are permitted to overlap 12 credits with their degree program. Associate Dean Western asked members whether the Minor should be closed to Science students, or whether a strong advising note should be added warning students to consult an advisor in U1. She asked for members' comments.

704.5 Director Allard said that making the Minor available to Science students is misleading because it would be extremely difficult to complete it. In addition, the Minor would be available to Chemistry and Physics students only, as opposed to all Science students. With Engineering's permission, Director Allard pointed out that the courses could be made available to Science students as Complementary or Elective courses. These courses could be included on the list of approved courses in other faculties.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Director Allard, that the Faculty of Engineering close the Minor in Nanotechnology to Science students.

The motion carried.

Secretary's Notes: Associate Dean Western informed the Associate Dean (Academic Programs), Faculty of Engineering, that the Academic Committee voted to uphold its decision from Fall 2016, that the Minor in Nanotechnology **be closed** to Science students.

(ii) Faculty of Science Proposed Shared Course Evaluation Questions AC-16-57 (Rev)

704.6 Associate Dean Western said that at the Academic Committee meeting of 21 February, 2017, the Sub-committee on Course Evaluation Questions recommended a set of uniform course evaluation questions to be used by departments in the Faculty of Science to simplify questions for students and for comparison of professors for tenure, promotions and teaching awards. These questions would be in addition to the four University-mandated core questions. Departments could include additional department-specific questions, and instructors could add three more course-specific questions. She said she would be happy to share the questions with the Chairs of the five biomedical departments teaching B.Sc. students, thereby offering **all** Science students uniform questions. She said the revised course evaluation questions in Document AC-16-57(Rev) represented feedback from the Academic Committee, departments, students, TLS, and via email. Associate Dean Western invited comments on the revised questions.

704.7 The main issue raised was that there were a lot of questions for team-taught courses, especially in some of the biomedical departments, and that too many questions may discourage student participation.

704.8 **Question #3**, under Instructor Questions, Document AC-16-57(Rev), it was agreed that the question should read:

"I felt that the instructor created an atmosphere of **mutual** respect in the classroom"

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Hundemer, that the Faculty of Science Proposed Share Course Evaluation Questions (Document AC-16-57 [Rev]) be adopted with the above minor revision.

The motion carried.

704.9 The above proposal (Document AC-16-57 [Rev]) will be considered at the next Faculty of Science meeting scheduled for 18 April, 2017.

5) Psychology

Course Consolidation: PSYC 337 and PSYC 338

Course to be retained:

PSYC 337 Intro Abnormal Psychology 1 **AC-16-61**
3 credits
Changes: schedule type, title, description, restriction

Course to be retired:

PSYC338 Intro Abnormal Psychology 2 **AC-16-61**
3 credits

705.1 Prof. Ristic explained that two courses (PSYC 337 and PSYC 338) were being combined into a single course (PSYC 337). Due to a new professor teaching PSYC 337, the changes reflect the current course content and title. Also, a restriction was being added with regard to the previous number (PSYC 338).

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ristic, that the above changes be approved.

The motion carried.

PSYC 483	Sem. in Exp. Psychopathology Change in prerequisite 3 credits	AC-16-62
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PSYC 491D1/D2	Adv Study: Behaviour. Disorders Change in prerequisite 3 credits	AC-16-63
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705.2 The change in prerequisites for PSYC 483 and PSYC 491 were due to the retirement of PSYC 338 (above).

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ristic, that the above changes be approved.

The motion carried.

New Course:

PSYC 513	Human Decision-Making 3 credits	AC-16-64
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705.3 Prof. Ristic said that PSYC 513 was being proposed due to a new hire in the Department of Psychology. PSYC 513 would fill a demand for Psychology and Cognitive Science students, as well as some Management programs. At the present time, PSYC 513 will not be added to the Major & Honours Programs in Neuroscience, however, it will be added to the following B.A., B.A. & Sc, and B.Sc. degree programs.

(1) PSYC 513 to be added to List A:

B.A. & Sc. Programs:

- Major Concentration Psychology (36 credits)

B.Sc. Programs:

- Liberal Program - Core Science Component Psychology (45 credits)

- Major Psychology (54 credits)

- Honours Psychology (60 credits)

B.A. Programs:

- Major Concentration Psychology (36 credits)

- Honours Psychology (60 credits)

- Minor Concentration Behavioural Science

(2) PSYC 513 to be added to List of Complementary Courses, under Psychology

B.A. & Sc. Programs:

- Interfaculty Program Cognitive Science (54 credits)

- Honours Cognitive Science (60 credits)

705.4 Among the comments made/issues raised, include:

- that two prerequisite courses (PSYC 212 or PSYC 213) were at the 200-level, and since 500-level courses are intended for U3 students, the prerequisites should be at the 300-level or above

- that the prerequisites were Required courses for students in the Psychology and Cognitive Science programs, and by including a 300-level prerequisite, students in Cognitive Science would be excluded
- that with 200-level prerequisite courses, U1 students could register for PSYC 513, and thus would be taking PSYC 513 together with Masters students
- that PSYC 513 be restricted to U3 students, or by permission of instructor, and thereby allowing some flexibility
- that the Program Director and Advisor for the Cognitive Science programs be consulted for feedback regarding Cognitive Science students

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Ristic, that the above course be adopted, **pending consultation with the Cognitive Science Program Director and Advisor, Prof. Joelle Pineau, and Mr. Ryan Bouma.**

The motion carried.

Secretary's Note: After consultation with the (i) Department of Psychology, (ii) instructor of PSYC 513, and (iii) Cognitive Science Program Director and Advisor, it was agreed that the prerequisites would now read: "PSYC 212 or PSYC 213 **and U3 standing; or permission of instructor.**"

6) Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences/Physics

- Joint Major in Atmospheric Science & Physics

AC-16-65

706.1 Prof. Merlis said the program has been modified to allow more flexibility by moving some Required courses to the list of Complementary courses. PHYS 241, a hidden prerequisite course for PHYS 339, has been added as a Required course. Also, a recently approved double-prefix course (ATOC/PHYS 404) was added to the list of Complementary courses.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Merlis, that the changes be approved.

The motion carried.

7) Physics/Computer Science

New Program:

- Joint Honours in Physics & Computer Science

AC-16-66

707.1 Prof. Cumming introduced and described the proposed Joint Honours Program in Physics & Computer Science. He said the Academic Committee had already approved a number of ad hoc programs in the Fall 2016, and since there was enough student demand for the proposed program, the Department of Physics and the School of Computer Science have agreed to formalize the program.

707.2 Director Allard pointed out that the Faculty's maximum number of credits for B.Sc. programs was 81 credits, and that MATH 222 (Calculus 3) was a hidden prerequisite, and should be included as part of the program.

707.3 After some discussion concerning MATH 222, it was agreed that MATH 222 would be added to the list of Required courses, with a note exempting students who have already taken Calculus 3. For students who have taken Calculus 3 previously, they would have to take an additional four credits (for a total of 18) of Complementary courses. For students without Calculus 3, these students would be expected to complete 15 credits of Complementary courses.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Prof. Cumming, that the above new program be adopted with the above changes.

The motion carried.

Secretary's Note: After further discussion, the Joint Honours Program in Physics & Computer Science (AC-16-66) will be brought back to a future Academic Committee meeting.

8) SUS Activities

There was no Report.

9) Other Business

709.1 Associate Dean Western reminded members that the last meeting of the Academic Committee was scheduled for 25 April, 2017. She said seeing as some proposals were brought to the Academic Committee at the last minute, Associate Dean Western suggested that units start working on program proposals in late spring and summer, and it is recommended that units submit draft proposals to her for review and comments. Each year, the first edition of the eCalendar is published in mid-March, and in order to meet the various approval deadlines, proposals should be considered at the October Academic Committee meeting of the previous year. Associate Dean Western emphasized that this was especially important for new programs.

709.2 I. For new/revised courses and minor/moderate program changes, proposals are approved by:
1) Offering unit
2) Academic Committee
3) Faculty of Science
4) Enrolment Services

709.3 II. For new programs and major revisions to programs, proposals are approved by:.
1) Offering unit
2) Academic Committee
3) Faculty of Science
4) SCTP
5) APC
6) Senate

709.4 For biomedical departments, proposals must first be approved by the Faculty of Medicine Curriculum Committee.

709.5 Associate Dean Western pointed out that with the number of approval levels, it was extremely important for departments to start planning early to avoid delays in the approval process. She said that if there were proposals in the pipeline, she would be pleased to look them over before submission for approval.

There being no further business, Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Director Allard that the meeting be adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

The motion carried.

Next meeting: 25 April 2017